

## **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**

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The Peace Institute was founded in 1994 to continue the peacemaking legacy of a young leader whose life was cut short when he was caught in the middle of a gang related shooting a few blocks away from his home. It has served a multi-level agenda operating as a partner to the Mayor of Boston, to the academic community and to other grass-roots organizations. Its mission is to create and support an environment where families can live in peace and unity. The Institute has: 1) developed strategies and programs that teach and instill values of peace and enrich the lives of young people, 2) assisted and train survivors of violence, 3) informed and educated the public about the consequences of violence on the individual, family and community; and organized the community for an ongoing peace promotional effort. Our work is based upon Seven Core Principles which have a solid foundation built upon peace. These seven principles include: **Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness.** Our Approach is to mobilize and collaborate with the community at large.

**Current size of service population:** In 2004 the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute served over 10,000 with our outreach services, school curricula, community events and training. We have a strong commitment to work with children, families (both victims and offenders) and various communities.

**Services provided: The Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)** program is dedicated to providing families of murdered victims with ongoing compassion, support, information, resources, education and advocacy. Our outreach services are comprised of three distinct components, each focusing on a particular phase of intervention. **Phase One:** Initial Intervention (Outreach right after a murder has taken place) **Phase Two:** Intermediate Intervention (Preparing for the funeral & other related concerns) **Phase Three:** Ongoing Intervention (Training, long-term advocacy and guidance). **Teacher's Peace Conference** is an event that is held to benefit the teachers who plan to incorporate the Peace Curriculum into their classrooms. **Survivors of Homicide Victims Training Academy:** The program is designed to provide survivors/crime victims with the accurate knowledge and information to navigate the complexities of the Criminal Justice System. The Peace Institute will host ongoing **Survivor-to-Survivor Support Circles:** Survivors may come and go as they determine their own needs in their healing process. **Healing and Reconciliation Circles:** Also impacted are the young people and families who are incarcerated and/or deported as a consequence of their actions. Victims, offenders and their families will come together. **Across the Generations Circles** will bring together willing young men who have participated in the violence and their mothers. **Community Peace Circles:** will bring together all interested parties to discuss some of the issues and concerns of dealing with violence and its aftermath. The circles will bring survivors, families of offenders and community providers including Law Enforcement and DA representation. **Know Your Rights:** In partnership with the American Friends Service Committee and the Committee for Public Counsel Services the Peace Institute offers a 4-part workshop on the process of criminal adjudications.

**Contact Person:** Janet Connors, Survivors Support Coordinator, HYVPC Liaison

**Major Events: the Mother's Walk for Peace** is a yearly 3.6-mile pledge walk that takes place in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston. (May-on Mothers Day) **Teacher's Peace Conference** (October) **Peace Zone Community Celebration** (April) **Ride for Peace:** The Tuskegee Airmen Motorcycle Club and the other clubs are committed to ensuring that the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute will be allowed the opportunity to continue reaching out to the many families of homicide victims that reside in the Boston area. The ride will also bring visibility to the cause as well as unite members of the community.

**Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness** - November 20th to December 20th? In collaboration with **SHOC-**Survivors of Homicide Organized for Change. This yearly observance of Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month provides a platform where, as a nation, we can learn how to better assist families who have been brutally impacted by violence and to support the efforts of survivors to inform our violence prevention, peacemaking and social justice movement.