



SURVIVORS EMPOWERED

We Are Your Soft Place To Land After Your Life
Has Been Forever Changed By Gun Violence



Dear friends,

We hope this holiday season finds you safe. These last months have underlined yet again how much work there is to be done so that we can all have a measure of peace.

As the new year begins, we will be embarking upon a literal journey, and we need your moral and financial [support](#).



July 20, 2022, marks a decade since our daughter and eleven other souls were murdered with an assault weapon in Aurora, Colorado. It will be a ten-year “**tragiversary**.” Since 2012, the number of gun violence victims and devastated families has grown horrifically, with last year bringing an unprecedented number of people killed with guns in the United States.

We built Survivors Empowered to help provide support for survivors and to be a catalyst in the fight to end gun violence. We are observing this passage with a year-long tribute to our daughter Jessi and all others taken or left behind. We hope you will be with us in spirit - and perhaps on the road.

Please click and donate to our Honor with Action fund

We named our tour **Honor with Action**, a phrase from our good friends at Newtown Action Alliance that they are eager for us to use as we partner with them and others. We hope that, as we crisscross the continent, we will be bringing information and fostering fellowship that helps people raise their voices and create change.

The twenty-state trip we are taking will be both demanding and rewarding. We have planned an ambitious schedule, with stops to over thirty cities. We will be doing events at every stop to create awareness and educate the public on the issue of gun violence. Our goal is to connect people, survivors, and grassroots organizations across the country.



In July we plan to be in Colorado, to mark the Aurora, Colorado massacre with a showing of [Screen 9](#), the hit play inspired by our book, “Tragedy in Aurora,” that draws from the actual words of both those killed, and their survivors.

Can you [help us](#) roll out our tour? Here are some of the things that we need:

- Fuel: One hundred dollars can buy us forty gallons of diesel fuel. While towing our “Fifth Wheel” our truck gets ten miles per gallon which will get us 400 miles closer to our next stop.
- Tires: We need four new tires on our truck before we start our trip. We will be racking up over 6,000 miles.
- And very concretely, money to help us bring our talented friends from the UK to the United States so that they can perform **Screen 9** in front of an American—in fact, a Coloradan—audience in July of 2022.

If you’ve been following our news this last year, you know how jam-packed our schedule is. We’ve made a particular point to reach the popular press through interviews and commentary, because we can’t stand by as gun violence accelerates and gun violence prevention measures stall. Check out our opinions in the [Denver Post](#), [San Antonio Express News](#), and [USA Today](#), in June and again [last month](#), with broadcast appearances on [CNN](#) and [WNYC](#). We’ve partnered with other groups, and we’ve taken our experiences and beliefs to the White House itself. We meet at least weekly—virtually—with other gun violence advocates, and we are always looking for opportunities for new alliances. Just last week, we zoomed with parents from Oxford, Michigan. We have also beefed up our own resources, and have a new Executive Director, Penny Okamoto, who is helping us not just continue our efforts - she’s part of our ambitious plan for sustained and increased impact.

**We aren't stopping until the carnage stops,
and we want to be [shoulder to shoulder](#) together.**

This fall, we surveyed our newsletter recipients to see what your priorities are. *(If you haven't yet, sign up for our newsletter on our website, [here](#).)* We are gratified to know that what we're doing is what you're wanting. You want us to continue our rapid response to mass shootings with our presence (actual or virtual), gather and disseminate information about gun violence, participate in advocacy efforts, provide emotional support through vehicles such as mindfulness meditation, and act as connectors. You want to serve, too, and you want our help in finding ways to do so. We're committed to each of these aims and will not let them drop while we're on our journey.

(We are very happy to report our next [Mindfulness Meditation](#) training specifically for survivors begins in February!)

When it comes to policy, we heard you:

"Federal legislation mandating robust background checks" was a unanimous survey choice, with legislation to increase gun safety through trigger locks, safe storage mandates, etc., a close second at more than 94 percent, and creation of an Office of Gun Violence in the Biden Administration; repeal of PLCAA (the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act); and federal legislation against ghost guns all supported by more than 75%.

Our multimedia tour will bring information to you, and will feature film, theater, and visual art. It will also be a rolling meeting place and, we plan, a magnet for public attention.

**In solidarity and wishing
you Happy Holidays,
Sandy and Lonnie**



**Please [help us](#) achieve these goals,
and journey along with us!**

P.S. - If you want to reach us with your ideas, please do! Our ears are very open. You can still contribute to our poll, [here](#), and you can always write to us at info@survivorsempowered.com. If you have not already done so or wish to update your information, please fill out our [contact form](#).

[Click to donate to our Honor with Action fund](#)