

## 2021 ONE Lexington End Of Year Report

One Lexington is a violence reduction initiative out of the Mayor's Office that leverages government resources; and partners with community residents and grassroots organizations in creating a safer Lexington.

There have been **36 homicides by guns to date** (December 21, 2021, including **22 homicides before new programming started in July and 14 homicides after we started**) this calendar year. Four (12%) victims were 17 years old or under, and nine (27%) were adults 18-25 years of age, which are the demographics ONE Lexington focuses its efforts on. 61% of homicide victims were adults over 25 years of age. 86% of homicide victims have been African American, 8% White, & 6% Hispanic.

### [Prevention, Intervention, Enforcement and Reentry Model \(PIER\)](#)

#### [Prevention Efforts:](#)

***It Takes a Village*** programs focus on eliminating contributors to violence. Our approach is youth engagement, increasing community partnerships, and community messaging.

***It Takes A Village*** programs safe passage home for middle-school students living in high-risk neighborhoods; build critical life-skills for young people ages 12-17; provide weekly food baskets for families in low-income neighborhoods; and assist in victim advocacy and support, including relocation efforts for families at risk of retaliatory occurrences. Five of its nine current programs are listed in greater details in the following pages.

1. Just after a month of Devine Carama accepting the position to lead ONE Lexington, we launched our "***It Takes a Village***" **Summer Youth Program**", a weekly youth summer mentoring program designed to provide educational and workforce preparation opportunities coupled with recreational activities for 30 Lexington youth ages 12 - 17. Several community partners collaborated to engage under-served Lexington youth in emotional & social skill building workshops where participants could also bond with each other in a safe space. Showing them that life can be more than their current

circumstance is a key component towards young people investing in their own futures.

2. We simultaneously began **N.E.W.** (Neighborhood Engagement Walks) Initiative. Men from the community delivered food and other community resources to different Lexington neighborhoods. This group also assisted in getting students to and from school safely and networking with area schools on campus events with potential to become volatile neighborhood situations.

-Statistics for Neighborhood Engagement Walks (**N.E.W.**) - July 6<sup>th</sup> thru December 21<sup>st</sup>

- 29 Neighborhood Engagement Walks
  - 1524 youth served in East End, West End, Winburn, Centre Parkway, and Cardinal Valley: and afterschool (Lexington Traditional Magnet School)
  - Average of 40 youth per walk
  - Four Community Collaborators: **Black Soil, Community Action Council, Fayette County Public School, YMCA,**
  - Six Community Volunteers
3. In August, we transitioned the **"It Takes a Village" model into weekly in-school mentoring programs** at Winburn Middle School, MLK Academy of Excellence, Frederick Douglass High School, and William Wells Brown Elementary. The Outreach and Mentoring Program provides social and emotional support in a continued effort to build positive peer relationships.
  4. In collaboration with Oneness Clothing Boutique, we launched our **"We Are ONE" Anti-Violence Essay & Poem Program** for FCPS school students in September at LTMS. Students, in conjunction with their English classes, had the opportunity to win top notch streetwear and tennis shoes by completing an anti-violence essay/poem/rap. Students also got the opportunity to **read their poem/rap on air with Jay Alexander on 170.9 The Beat.** The goal is to get young people discussing the issues that are affecting them and using platforms to amplify those voices in hopes of inspiring positive change in their community. 75 students from LTMS engaged this program and we hope to duplicate it at other schools.

## -Statistics for Youth Outreach & Mentoring Program - July 6<sup>th</sup> thru December 13<sup>th</sup>

- 38 group mentoring sessions
- 515 Mentee interactions
- # Visits: Winburn-9, MLK Academy of Excellence-7, Williams Wells Brown ES-4, Frederick Douglass HS-6
- Average of 14 youth per session
- Sessions: Computer Coding, UK College Tour, Money Management, Coping and Wellness Mechanisms (Trap Yoga; Physical Fitness), Self-Expression, Conflict Resolution, Unity & Team Building, History of Kentucky State Government, Conflict Resolution, Leadership & Legacy, We Are One Writing Day, Importance of Education, Power of Words, Art of Beat Making, Long-Term Goals, Who Am I?, Youth Violence Project Body Bag, Girls, Hip Hop Culture, Life In Prison, etc.
- 13-Community Collaborators: Awesome Inc., Believing in Forever, Corey Dunn/Davita Gatewood, Cover Spring Park, Dale Morgan, Damion Riley, Gerald Young, JK-47, Life Adventure Center, M.A.D.E., Resolve Fitness, The Cornerstone at UK, and University of Kentucky

### **5. Community Awareness and Involvement efforts:**

- Say Yes Lex ([www.sayyeslex.com](http://www.sayyeslex.com) platform to promote mentoring)--- Miranda Scully
- Peace Walks (Sheriff Witt)
- SWAG (Tonya Lindsey)
- Black Men United PSA (aired on WKYT, LEX-18 & ABC36)
- Devine Carama recorded & released “*We Are ONE Lexington*” song which is available for youth on all streaming platforms.
- ONE Lexington facilitated the “*Random Acts of Kindness*” Challenge on Tik Tok for FCPS students.
- ONE Lexington went from ZERO social media presence **to over 2,000 followers across all social media platforms** including Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.

### **6. Recreation and Discretionary Time**

- Castlewood Center
- Charles Young Center
- Dunbar Center
- Kenwick Center
- William Wells Brown Center
- Woodhill Center
- Parks outside programs

### **Intervention Efforts:**

1. We strategically coupled our community engagement efforts with some collaborative violence intervention efforts to support victims of gun violence. After studying violence intervention strategies across the country, we adopted a weekly ***Violence Intervention Group*** meeting made up of agencies and organizations that deal with different elements of community violence. Prosecutors, Police Department, Sheriff's Department, Fayette County Public Schools, victim's advocacy agencies and more network to identify and provide wrap-around supports for victims and families.
2. With the support of FCPS, we have built a ***Youth Mediation Collective***. If schools or parents contact ONE Lexington to send someone out to mediate a fight in school between two students or a neighborhood beef among youth, we **have 10-12 diverse mediators** (*who been formally trained in youth mediation and/or have experience in community youth engagement and resolving conflict*) to deploy. ONE Lexington provides a flat rate stipend to the organization or individual deployed to mediate. This program is currently being handle by Larry & Devine until more funding is available.
3. ONE Lexington partners with street outreach workers who speak directly to offenders and victims of gun violence in hopes of mediating conflicts and stopping potential retaliatory violence.
4. ***Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (Safety Net)***. We work directly with UK Trauma Unit on connecting with gunshot victims and their families to see what wrap around resources we can offer (mentoring, relocation, employment, etc.) We connected with several victims and their families this year through this program and helped with everything from

relocation to connecting them with resources like mental health specialists and youth mentoring services.

5. Other Intervention partnership efforts:

a. Mentoring

- i. OMAC Program
- ii. MADE
- iii. Urban Impact
- iv. Black Achievers
- v. Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- vi. Alpha League (Christian Adair)
- vii.

b. Mental Health, Traumatic Stress & Substance Use Supports & Treatment

- i. FCPS Student Support Services
- ii. New Vista

**Enforcement Efforts:**

Support and enhance partner efforts to grow police/youth relations and reduce gun violence:

- Police Activities League (PAL)
- Neighborhood Resource Officers
- LPD DARE Programs
- FCPS Handle with Care
- Project Safe Neighborhoods

**Reentry Efforts:**

- Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center ONE Lexington partner programs (on hold since COVID)
- Fayette County Probation and Parole ONE Lexington partner programs (on hold since COVID)
- Lexington Rescue Mission programs offered in and out of the jail

**Community Outreach, Engagement and Empowerment Efforts:**

Expanded communication is a very important part of ONE Lexington's mission moving forward. Each week we send out a weekly newsletter to community stakeholders as well as an update to the Lexington faith community.

In October we challenged 100 BLACK MEN in Lexington to show up for a public service announcement about standing in solidarity against youth gun violence. I was humbled to see so many brothers come out and fellowship in the name of uplifting our young people. Over 100 men from different eras, religious backgrounds, and walks of life joined us in the name of UNITY on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. After so many men connected and yearned to be a part of the solution, in November we turned their desire to collectively serve their community into an ACTION STEP. ONE Lexington hosted a Black Men United **"Youth Engagement Opportunity Fair"**. Each man in attendance received a copy of a newsletter and listing of organizations with opportunities for involvement in victims' advocacy, youth engagement, re-entry, mentoring, intervention, conflict resolution, fatherhood support, etc.

In the next couple of months, One Lexington & Galls, LLC will present the **"Be the Change"** College Scholarship Competition. Galls believes that Real Inclusion Starts with Empowerment and is proud to partner with ONE Lexington to provide an opportunity for a rising Bryan Station High School senior of color, who is committed to attending a Kentucky college or university in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice or related field (police studies, social justice studies, pre-law, forensic science, emergency medical care, fire protection, homeland security and more) to be awarded a \$20,000 scholarship! Galls believes in the potential of this program to spark continued growth among their customers and the communities they serve and live.

Please Note: Safety Net will be transitioning to Lexington Rescue Mission (LRM). Moving forward our victim advocacy will be under the **"It Takes a Village"** umbrella and we will refer people to LRM for Safety Net services.

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**ONE Lexington Expenditures July – December 2021**

**Summer Youth Program -: \$20,237.38**

- Speakers - \$1,750
- Activities - \$6,107.80
- Food - \$1,869.08
- Back-to-School Scholarships - \$8,850
- Kentucky Kingdom Trip - \$1,660.50

**Community Support: \$9,993.19**

- Student Rewards - 2,946.38
- Community & Youth Support - \$3,167.91
- Safety Net - 2,365.65
- N.E.W. (Neighborhood Engagement Walks) - \$925.87
- Black Men United - \$87.38
- It Takes a Village In-School Mentoring - \$500

**Marketing & Promotion: \$2,339.50**

- Photo & Video - \$1,839.50
- Sound & Studio - \$500

**Total Spending for 2021 - \$32,570.07**

**Please Note:** ONE Lexington has no annual budget. \$31,000 was allocated this year from Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government General Funds surplus to fund *It Takes a Village*. Expenditures and to date have exceeded this allocation by \$1,000. Until planned ARPA funding is made available, One Lexington is in critical need of funds to sustain current efforts and future initiatives, including a grant program for other violence intervention/prevention organizations, stipends for street outreach workers, victims support, and more. Also, we do not keep exact records of youth mediations and street outreach work but will do so in 2022.