

# *Mass Tragedy Events* The Victim Advocacy Response

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“Our prime purpose in life is to help others. And if you can’t help them, at least don’t hurt them.”

Dalai Lama



Office for Victims Programs

**Content Warning:** Today's presentation contains images of victims of mass tragedy which may be triggering for some. The images are not graphic but are intended to remember those who have been lost as a result of a mass tragedy.



Office for Victims Programs



Courtesy Denver7 News

*Corey DePooter, Kelly Fleming, Matthew Kechter, Steven Curnow  
Danial Rohrbough, Isaiah Shoels, Rachel Scott, Lauren Townsend, Dave Sanders  
John Tomlin, Kyle Velasquez, Cassie Bernall, Daniel Mauser*



## Columbine High School - April 20, 1999





*Emily Keyes*

Courtesy of the Denver Post



## Platte Canyon H.S. - September 27, 2006



Courtesy of the Denver Post

*Stephanie and Rachel Works (New Life)*



Courtesy of the Denver Post

*Tiffany Johnson and Philip Crouse (Youth with a Mission)*



New Life Church & Youth with a Mission -  
December 9, 2007

# Remembering the Victims



J. Blunk



A. Boik



J. Childress



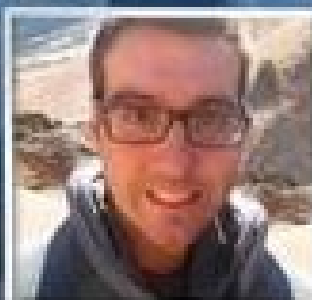
G. Cowden



J. Ghawi



J. Larimer



M. McQuinn



M. Medek



V. Moser-Sullivan



A. Sullivan



A. Teves



R. Wingo

*Jonathan Blunk, A.J. Boik, Jesse Childress, Gordon Cowden, Jessica Ghawi, John Larimer  
Matt McQuinn, Micayla Medek, Veronica Moser-Sullivan, Alex Sullivan, Alex Teves, Rebecca Wingo*

Courtesy of NBC News



## Aurora Theatre Shooting - July 20, 2012





*Claire Davis*

Courtesy Denver Post



Arapahoe High School - December 13, 2013





*Jennifer Markovsky, Ke'Arre Stewart, Garrett Swasey*

Courtesy KDVR.com



Planned Parenthood - November 27, 2015





*Kendrick Costillo*

Courtesy Douglas County Sheriff's Office



STEM School - May 7, 2019





*Tralona Bartkowiak, Kevin Mahoney, Denny Stong, Jody Waters, Teri Leiker  
Officer Eric Talley, Suzanne Fountain, Ricki Olds, Lynn Murray, Neven Stanisic*

Courtesy Family and friends - Denver Post



## Table Mesa King Soopers - March 22, 2021





*Joana Cruz, Jose Gutierrez, Jose Ibarra  
Sandra Ibarra-Perez, Maya Ibarra De Perez, Melvin Perez*

Courtesy of CBS4 Denver (KCNC); Colorado Springs Police



## Mother's Day Colorado Springs - May 9, 2021





*Alicia Cardenas* Courtesy of Alfredo Cardenas



*Sarah Steck*

Courtesy of Denver Post



*Alyssa Gunn-Maldonado*

Courtesy of Facebook



*Danny Scofield*

Courtesy of April Potter

*Michael Swinyard  
(not pictured)*



Sol Tribe + Belmar - December 27, 2021



*Ashley Paugh, Kelly Loving  
Raymond Green Vance, Daniel Aston, Derrick Rump*

Courtesy of Friends and Family - Gazette.com



## Club Q - November 19, 2022





## Office for Victims Programs

# Mass Tragedy Support Timeline

Incident Occurs - OVP  
Manager is in contact  
with OVC and COVA



OVP Manager meets  
with the CO Healing  
Fund Executive Board



OVP meets with  
various community  
partners several times



Ongoing support by  
OVP for resiliency  
center and AEAP  
grant (3+ years)



OVP Staff contacts local VW  
Directors for LE and DA and  
Victim Compensation



OVP updates OVC on  
AEAP grant and TA needs



AEAP grant is  
submitted to OVC



## Victim Services Support



## *Resources for Victims and Victim Advocates*

- ❖ Federal Funding from the Office for Victims of Crime
- ❖ 3 year grant from the date of incident
- ❖ Focus is on services for direct victims of the incident
  - Resiliency centers
  - Support to DA's Office for a trial
  - Support to local law enforcement for victim related needs
  - Support to the business/school where the incident occurred



Anti-Terrorism Emergency Assistance Program

## *Resources for Victims and Victim Advocates*

- ❖ Aurora Theatre: \$2,938,890
- ❖ STEM School: \$2,878,767
- ❖ Boulder King Soopers: \$2,359,337
- ❖ Club Q - To be determined



Anti-Terrorism Emergency Assistance Program



## *Resources for Victims and Victim Advocates*

- ❖ Provide an additional federal grant to the local victim compensation program
- ❖ Provide TA to the local administrator
- ❖ Provide support/staffing to the local administrator



### Victim Compensation

## *Resources for Victims and Victim Advocates*

- ❖ Designed by OVP in partnership with advocates in CO working on mass tragedy response
- ❖ Web: [sites.google.com/state.co.us/colorado-mass-violence-toolkit](https://sites.google.com/state.co.us/colorado-mass-violence-toolkit)



### Mass Tragedy Tool Kit for Advocates



## *Resources for Victims and Victim Advocates*

- ❖ Serves as a safe place for on-line donations in response to a mass tragedy
- ❖ OVP staff serve in an advisory capacity
- ❖ Web: [coloradohealingfund.org](https://coloradohealingfund.org)



Colorado Healing Fund

## *Partnerships and Planning*

- ❖ Provided grant funding to COVA for a Mass Tragedy Academy this past fall
- ❖ Partnering with COVA to assist communities in pre-planning
- ❖ Compiling lessons learned after each mass tragedy event



Next Steps for OVP



“We can all endure disaster and tragedy, and triumph over them - if we have to. We may not think we can, but we have surprisingly stronger inner resources that will see us through if we only make use of them. We are stronger than we think.”  
- Dale Carnegie



Office for Victims Programs

# Any Questions?

THANK YOU!

Please contact me at:

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303-916-3018



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