

Press Release Youth Violence Prevention Symposium

The Youth Violence Symposium “ *Uprooting Violence: Stepping Up for Our Community* ” grew from an expressed need from the Shawnee Neighborhood Association for a symposium dealing with the effects of violence on youth and their community, inclusive of parenting education . *Its targeted audience includes adults , high and middle school student in zip codes 40210, 2011, and 4012 where more than 50% of homicides in Jefferson County occurred in 2017 , a third of those unsolved as of 2/2018 .* The symposium was organized though the Office of Diversity and Inclusion Health Sciences Center, and various community organizations including community churches. It will address education about the effects of violence precipitating mental illness, drug abuse, and poor school performance. Strategies for developing childhood resiliency, educational success, and firearm safety are provided by university and community experts. The Symposium will take place Saturday June 9, 2018 from 9:30 am to 3:30pm at the Old Walnut Street Conference Center Louisville Central Community Center 1300 West Muhammed Ali Blvd. Admission is free. Advance reservation is requested though <http://bit.ly/LouYouthViolence18> , phone (502) 852-7159 or jamood01@louisville.edu

1. A “Living Tree of Life” will be in the atrium of the Louisville Central Community Center. Symposium participants will be asked to respond to a written prompt about their feelings of the violence in our community. Their written responses will be hung on the “Living Tree”.
2. Jaylin Monet Steward Stewart exhibit “Portraits of Homicide Victims in Louisville” currently on display at The Kentucky Center for African-American Heritage will

be shown in the conference center atrium the day of the symposium. The artist will be teaching an art activity to youth during the symposium.