

# The Story

*In 1998, 3,792 American children and teens (19 and under) died by gunfire in murders, suicides and unintentional shootings, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. That's more than 10 young people a day. In that year my son David, happened to be one of them. When we see or read about statistics, we think in terms of numbers, and though 3,792 is a large number, the number one was a large number for me that year. My one son became my one dead son. However in that year, one doubled and became two for a portion of me died that March. I realized that 3,792 has doubled or even tripled as well as the parents and siblings parents of all those children were also affected.*

*Our society has also been affected. Did we lose the one who had the secret of curing cancer? Did we lose a Senator or even a President? Did we lose a humanitarian who would travel the world for human issues? We'll never know. For those hopes and dreams are forever gone from us.*

*In 2004, I saw an exhibit containing shoes of the military men and woman who had lost their lives in Iraq. There were also a set of ordinary shoes that represented the Iraqi people. I was deeply affected by it.*

*David was my son. Unfortunately there are many David's who have made their eternal exit through the hands of misguided and troubled youth. For this reason I was moved to establish David's Shoes. I made the decision to collect 3,792 pairs of shoes to create an exhibit to demonstrate how serious the problem of teen violence was. I felt that if I collected shoes that represented youth whose lives had been taken by violence,*

*maybe young people would have a response similar to the one I had when I viewed the military exhibit.*

*I wanted to tell my story to young people to remind them just how precious they were. To teach them they must choose life and in choosing life it means making decisions about their lives rather than living on impulse.*

*I also wanted to get their help in creating the exhibit by having them donate old shoes in honor of a friend or family member who had lost their life through teen violence because they deserved to be remembered.*

*Since then, I have taken the exhibit to various schools, youth centers, churches, and any organization dedicated to uplifting the lives of children and teens. The exhibit is a path and participants are invited to walk the path, in hopes that they may experience the reality of death.*

*I am an educator. I've worked in public education for thirty -four (34) years. Being a professional did not immunize me from this dreadful epidemic. I have been greatly affected by the ravenous violence of which I see very little is being done. Since this problem originated among the youth of our nation, I also believe the solution lies within them as well. It is my desire that as each young person participates, they will make the decision to honor life.*

*Love,  
Elaine Lane*



*Helping Children and Teens Honor Life*

*Brochure created by MJI Designs*

*David's Shoes*  
A 501(c)3 Non-profit Corporation



*Helping Children and  
Teens Honor Life*

**Elaine Lane**

**Founder**

**Phone: 973-374-0132**

**Email: [indavidsshoes@gmail.com](mailto:indavidsshoes@gmail.com)**

**Website: [davidsshoes.org](http://davidsshoes.org)**

## Who We Are!

*David's Shoes is an organization whose goal is to reach out to children and teens to encourage them to honor life by making decisions rather than living on impulse. We visit schools, churches, civic organizations and any student-oriented environment where we can speak to youth about teen violence and to provoke them to*



*reflect on the choices they make and how those choices impact them and the lives of their family, friends and community.*

*Thus far, we have been able to have our message heard by thousands of students in the northeast.*

*As a part of our Honor Life Presentations program, students are encouraged to donate old shoes to honor loved ones who have died as a result of teen violence. It is our goal to collect 3,792 pairs of shoes, which*



*represents the number of children under the age of 19 that were killed the year David Lane was murdered. These shoes are used in an exhibit which continues to be shared at all of our programs and eventually all over the country to remind all of us to honor who we really are.*

## What We Do!

- **Book Scholarship Program** - \$500 Book Scholarship given to 3-4 college bound young men each year for the 4 years they are enrolled in school.



- **Boys-to-Men Breakfast** - Hosted for males in grades 5-8 to teach them to honor life and to provide them with inspirational guest speakers.



- **Mentoring Program** - Each scholarship recipient is matched with a mentor to provide additional support in navigating college life and transitioning to professional life.

- **Community Engagement Program** - Opportunities to engage the greater community in reaching our goal to teach teens and youth to honor life.

- ◇ David's Shoes Honor Life Art Contest
- ◇ Exhibits at Anti-Violence Week Events
- ◇ Exhibits at Crime Victims Week Events

- **Honor Life High School Ambassadors (NEW)** - A group of students who pledge to share with other students about honoring life and who represent David's Shoes at a variety of events.



## What You Can Do!

*You are not helpless against gun violence.*

*If you know of a student carrying a weapon in school or hear of a student intending to bring a weapon to school - Don't ignore it! If you hear of someone threatening violence with a weapon or know about someone's plan to hurt anyone at school - don't assume it's a joke! No threat is a joke!*

**Call 1-866-SPEAK-UP**

**Use your voice!**

*Speak up! You could save a life. Find an adult you can trust and talk to them about your concerns. Spot the warning signs and take action. If your friend seems down and out - be attentive and get help for him or her.*

**Respect yourself and others!**

*Don't underestimate the power you have over your friends. If you don't speak up, your silence looks like you agree - and you might not. You don't need to preach, but you can teach others the real deal about violence.*



**REMEMBER** - report any problems to a trusted adult. Use your voice - you could save a life!