The Ana Grace Project
Promoting love, community and connection for every child and family

www.anagraceproject.org
Don’t let them suck your fun circuits dry.
— ANA

These were Ana’s words to her mom - only weeks before her death on 12/14/12. They are our inspiration!
Founded in 2013 in memory of Ana Grace Márquez-Greene, The Ana Grace Project was born as a response to the tragedy that took her life in Sandy Hook, CT on 12/14/12. “Love Wins” is the slogan adopted by her family immediately after the tragedy. It has been a rallying cry. The Ana Grace Project is dedicated to promoting love, community and connection for every child and family through three lead initiatives: partner schools, professional development and music & arts.

PARTNER SCHOOLS

The Ana Grace Project partner schools initiative is an exciting collaboration which brings together curriculum and clinical pieces to benefit the entire school community. Additionally, The Ana Grace Project partners with businesses and organizations in the non and for profit sectors, colleges/universities and national trauma teams in order to provide once in a lifetime opportunities for its student scholars, staff and administrators.

Our partner schools initiative has a curriculum and clinical component. The Ana Grace project is flexible and designed to enhance any existing social and emotional learning program. We work with principals and teachers to customize a learning program for their school that can be meaningful and love changing. Teachers who incorporate the Love Wins curriculum into their classrooms work with their students to mutually design how “love will win” during their academic year together. While students co-develop the guidelines, expectations and culture - the teacher weaves these learnings into their daily lessons and routines.

To date, our partner schools have received tens of thousands of dollars in direct financial contributions.

“Love wins. It also save lives.”

- Nelba Márquez-Greene, Founder & Executive Director of The Ana Grace Project
"LOVE WINS"
SCHOOL BASED CLINICAL SERVICES

The clinical component of our partner schools initiative is the LOVE WINS School Based Clinical Services (SBCS) through a fruitful and generous partnership with the Klingberg Family Centers Outpatient Clinic/Central Connecticut State University Family Therapy Institute.

MISSION:
To offer community, families and individuals hope for healing by bringing our expertise to school based settings.

OUR WORK IS:
- Rooted in love and compassion
- Trauma and attachment informed
- Culturally responsive
- Relationally focused
- Driven by need
- Systems oriented
- Collaborative

WE BELIEVE:
We believe that healthy schools are central to the health of communities and families and therefore serve as excellent and meaningful hubs for mental health and support service delivery. Healthy schools start with a healthy, supported staff and administration. Healthy individuals, healthy families, healthy communities and healthy connections make a safer, more compassionate and productive world. In order for a child to perform successfully in school the child must experience safety, a sense of control, positive relationships and empathy.

Our message is that love, community and connection can be powerful antidotes to trauma and the stigma associated with mental illness. Healing relationships, making connections and developing empathy drastically reduce episodes of violence and aggression both in school and in the community. We believe that love wins. It also saves lives.
WHAT WE DO:

- Assessment, individual, family and group therapy, psychiatry services
- Consultation and team building with administration and staff
- Attend school meetings on clients e.g. Planning and Placement Team Meetings, 504 meetings at the discretion of the clinician and parent
- Assist families with referrals and follow through on referrals to community services as needed
- Provide clinical interns
- Provide a senior clinician responsible for the coordination of wraparound services as well as providing many of the services directly
- Provide licensed clinical supervisor that senior clinician and clinical interns report to
- Provide all computers and administrative supplies for Klingberg Family Centers staff
- Provide program and assessment materials
- Provide access to a confidential voice mail box
- Provide access to Klingberg Family Centers on-call services

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The outpouring of support after the tragedy at Sandy Hook afforded Newtown, Connecticut much needed training, counseling and financial resources.

The Ana Grace Project is aware that there are children around the country who suffer traumatic loss, toxic stress, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and do not receive such supports and opportunities.

It is the mission of The Ana Grace Project and its commitment to social justice that led to the professional development initiative. Its purpose is to provide training opportunities to communities that may not otherwise have them.

Through collaboration with organizations like The Child Trauma Academy, Klingberg Family Centers and Clifford Beers Clinic - we have been able to teach and train thousands of participants through academic mental health conferences, safety conferences and trauma training locally, nationally and in Canada.

We work with teachers, mental health professionals, law enforcement, faith leaders, community providers, business leaders and more- inviting them in to our “Love Wins” community. Our teaching and training modules vary and are customized for each audience.

We promote sharing and building capacity - the ultimate goal being communities with increased connections and decreased levels of violence.
“Little Voices”
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You can purchase “Beautiful Life”
on iTunes or mackavenue.com

SPOKEN WORD
Little voices calling
Little voices laughing
Little voices singing
All those precious little voices
Brightening our day
Stealing our hearts
Shaping our lives
In the blink of an eye, they’re gone.
Now there’s just silence
Where those little voices used to be
Now it’s up to you
It’s up to me
Will you make the choice and be a voice?
Will you do all you can
To love, to forgive, to include
To help?
So that the millions of little voices
who are still here
To brighten our days
Steal our hearts
And shape our lives
Can grow tall and strong
To learn from us how to forgive
And love
To learn from us how to help
And to include
And eventually, one day,
Become the big, confident voices
That will change our world
And make it better than it is today
CHILDREN’S CHOIR SINGS
Calling and
Laughing, singing
Playing, praying
Remember me
Remember me
Remember me
Remember me
Will you walk humbly, show mercy and love your neighbor?
Will you LOVE your neighbor?
Not fear the neighbor who looks different than you
Or hurt the neighbor who thinks differently than you do
But will you LOVE your neighbor?
Will you love yourself?
Will you teach a child today?
Will you be your brother’s keeper?
Will you make someone smile?

MUSIC & ARTS
Through the music and arts initiative of The Ana Grace Project, we support The Ana Grace Márquez-Greene endowed memorial music scholarship for incoming freshman at Western Connecticut State University. We are thankful to WCSU leadership and staff for this opportunity further arts education. For more information, visit: www.wcsu.edu

The Ana Grace Project also supports The CREC Ana Grace Elementary Academy of The Arts Elementary School. At The Ana Grace School, every child sings, dances, and plays an instrument. A magnet school operated by Capital Region Education council, we are thrilled to support this very special school that was renamed after our daughter. For more information on this school, visit: www.crec.edu

A portion of the sale of “Beautiful Life” supports The Ana Grace Project and The Artists Collective of Hartford, CT.
About Our Founder:

Nelba Márquez-Greene is a clinical fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and has worked in private practice, community mental health and academic settings in the U.S. and Canada. Prior to founding The Ana Grace Project, Nelba served as the Coordinator for Klingberg Family Therapy Center’s outpatient child and adolescent psychiatric clinic and was an adjunct faculty member at Central Connecticut State University. “Love wins” is the family slogan they adopted after Ana’s senseless murder. This movement is one of increasing rational connections-and is improving and saving lives. Nelba maintains an online community of over 100,000 followers and an Ana Grace Project community where people from all over the world learn, share, grow and witness love through grief. She has bravely shared bits of her life both before and after the tragedy. Behind this is the belief that not only does Love Win-it will also save lives. The Ana Grace Project has adopted classrooms in New Britain that focus on social and emotional learning. It has hosted mental health conferences and professional learning opportunities all over the country.

Nelba holds a Bachelor of Music from the Hartt School and a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Joseph College. Nelba was the founding member of the CTAMFT Diversity Committee and has served on the CTAMFT Board of Directors. For her efforts, she has received the 2004 Minority Fellowship Award by the AAMFT, the 2004 Distinguished Professional Service Award and the 2013 Service to Families Award by the CTAMFT. Nelba has testified and advocated at the state and federal levels on many different mental health initiatives, hosted Tedx talks and is a sought after speaker nationally.

Speaking inquiries should contact: scott@wolfmanproductions.com or info@anagraceproject.org

From Our Founder

If only a fraction of the light and joy that Ana Grace had is reflected in the work of The Ana Grace Project, then we will have succeeded. Ana Grace was a well loved child. So is our son. But many children are not. If the young man who murdered my daughter had access to better emotional support, hope and information-we wouldn’t even be here. And that is our goal. To keep letting others know that our programs must support the Ana Graces, the Adam Lanzas and every child in between if we truly want to prevent violence.

So this is the work we do. Every day. Violence prevention. This is our way of honoring our daughter’s life and God and setting a good example for our son. In the meantime, we are changing the lives of thousands yearly with our programs. Is it easy? No. . . But it is so desperately necessary in our world.

Love wins. It also saves lives.

Nelba L. Márquez-Greene, LMFT Founder & Executive Director of The Ana Grace Project
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All donations to AGP are tax deductible.