A Word about COVID and Your Grief

By: Stephanie Insalaco, MA, MHC-LP
Bereavement Counselor at Calvary Hospital, New York, NY

In light of our world’s current public health crisis, as mental health professionals want to acknowledge just how challenging these times are for everyone. Our planet has been disrupted by grief that none of us expected. In a recent article by David Kessler, he explains that all of this discomfort we are feeling is grief. He is right. We are grieving the loss of certainty, routine, predictability, safety and physical interaction. Some individuals are grieving the loss of their job and income and some, the loss of a loved one, sometimes more than one loved one. Our daily lives and schedules have been turned upside down by COVID-19. Couples are forced to cancel and reschedule their weddings, parents are scrambling to find formula for their babies, children are stuck in front of screens to learn, and working adults everywhere are adapting to working from home. If you find yourself more tired than ever, more forgetful, irritated, angry, and/or hopeless, Calvary Hospital’s Bereavement Department wants you to know this: it’s okay to not be okay right now.

A pandemic such as this one will undoubtedly shift our priorities. It’s important that we pay attention to our needs and how they may change from day to day. Some of you may be familiar with Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs theory. Abraham Maslow was a humanistic American psychologist whose theory suggests that human needs can only be achieved one level at a time. For example, one must satisfy their physiological needs before moving towards other needs such as relationships, love, belonging, and education. During a public health crisis, priorities shift. It may be difficult to focus on one’s education when you’ve just been furloughed and are unsure of how you will pay rent. It’s crucial to be gentle with yourself during this time. It may feel like you’re in survival mode and therefore, burning out faster. Have compassion for yourself and others as needs change, priorities shift, and as we adapt to our new routines.

For individuals who are grieving, COVID-19 may have thrown a wrench into their process. Many individuals feel as though their grief has been paused because they are too focused on the virus right now. Some of our group members express how unfair it is that they cannot give full attention to their deceased loved one. Some individuals express guilt that they are not thinking about their significant someone as often as they did before the virus. This is a very normal reaction to the world’s current climate; but while it is normal, it may open up the possibility of delayed grief. Delayed grief is a grief that individuals don’t fully experience until some time after the loss. While there can be a myriad of factors that go into why this occurs, when we talk about delayed grief during COVID-19, it is clear. The world is collectively focused on staying healthy, avoiding contamination, and dealing with the anxiety of it all. Therefore, we may not feel like we have time, brain power, or permission to grieve properly. We know it’s hard to juggle everything right now and it is okay if you find yourself putting your grief on hold right now.

Whether you were grieving the death of a loved one before the pandemic began, or are feeling the grief that accompanies the way the world is now, understand that it helps to focus on things we can control. We can limit how much news we watch. We can be mindful of our breath and practice deep breathing. We can meditate, journal, create art, and exercise. Finding things that you enjoy and are easy and safe for you are important to help balance your mindset. Remember, a pandemic should not be seen as an opportunity to start a new hobby, learn a new skill, or to better your skills if you simply cannot find the motivation within you. Getting through each day is an accomplishment on its own. We are living through a time that will, without a doubt, have lasting effects on not only our grief, but our mental health and clarity. With the breadth of our collective knowledge and skills, we intend to be there every step of the way to aid in this journey of our community and its members. Take good care of yourself and stay safe.
Domestic Violence Has Been Increasing During the COVID-19 Lockdown
Article by: Mary Elledge, Chapter Leader of Greater Portland Area Chapter

For many of us, it has been traumatic enough to deal just with COVID-19. We are now living in a “new-normal.” We are facing isolation, fear of becoming ill, loss of income, a change in the way we use to live, shortage of certain foods and basic supplies, shortage of money and for some, the loss of the job we had before. Schools closed so our children are being at home and we are concerned about their education and the changes in their lives. It takes a couple working together with the support of family and friends and the government to help ease the fears and stress from the horrors of a pandemic.

Nevertheless, many women are facing and some men as well a rise in domestic violence. Avoiding public spaces and working remotely can help to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, when survivors of domestic abuse are forced to stay in the home or made to be in close proximity to their abuser, the abuser has more control of the victim. We know that power is what feeds domestic abuse. I cannot help but worry about what some families may be facing. It would be easier to only worry about the pandemic. Nonetheless, that is part of our jobs. We are our “brother’s keepers.” Domestic abuse has risen 25 percent since COVID-19. If we try to educate others, we might help save the pain, abuse, and possible deaths from domestic abuse. For those who lost loved ones because of domestic abuse, I know how fiercely homicide survivors feel when someone murders someone because of domestic abuse. They have shared stories with me how they went out of their way to try to warn or even protect friends, neighbors, or family members caught up in this “trip from hell.” It is their way to honor their loved ones who were abused or tragically murdered by someone who professed to love and care for them. Without permission, I will never use names from people who share their stories. Some of these cases happened years ago. Confidentiality is important for Parents Of Murdered Children’s members.

One such story was from a woman whose neighbor as well as friend was being abused by her husband. She had tried to help her neighbor and offered support. The woman was worried about taking her dog. She did not want to leave the dog and was afraid her husband would have stopped her. Finally, the worst scenario happened. The husband of her neighbor murdered his wife. It was a horrific crime. Before the husband was arrested, the woman I was talking to went over and beat the abuser up. I do not recommend this in any way! She could have been harmed! It was interesting how he was afraid to hit someone who could fight back! As I said, please do not take matters in your own hands. This could have been a problem for the case. It is best to let the police or detectives do their jobs. Not only could this woman been hurt, he could have killed her as well. Though this happened over twenty-five years ago, domestic abuse is still happening. Additionally, the defense can find ways to elicit sympathy for the murderer in homicide cases and it is best to leave the job to our justice system. We need to educate the public and officials whenever we can and let them know that more funding needs to help eliminate domestic abuse, the worst of all homicides. The victim is totally betrayed.

Children are such a tragic part of domestic abuse. How many little children could we save if we had spent more time on research, education, and more help with law enforcement? We have numerous cases of multiple murders of children in families that are members of our chapter. About twenty-five percent of our member’s loved ones murdered are victims of domestic abuse.

What can we do if we know of domestic abuse happening? Call 1-888-799-7233. When you call, your chat is safe, private, and secure. It is Available 24/7/365. The following was taken from their article on line:

“Reaching out for help can be intimidating, especially if you have never spoken to anyone about the abuse before. Sometimes it is hard to describe how you are feeling out loud. If you are ready to seek help but do not feel comfortable talking with an advocate on the phone, or if it is not safe for you to call, now there is another option. The Hotline’s live chat service (IM-style) is a safe, private way to connect with a Hotline advocate. You get the same one-on-one, real-time, confidential information from a trained advocate as if you contact the Hotline by phone.

“It feels so good to be able to discuss with someone what I am going through and have them show me all that I am really worth instead of attacking and judging me,” is part of the language used by women who have been abused.

Continued on Page 3
Our chat service is a confidential, one-on-one chat session with a Hotline advocate; NOT a public chat room; an internal messaging system used specifically for chatters to The Hotline—it is not a general chat messenger such as MSN Messenger, AIM, Yahoo, Gchat or IChat; available by clicking on the “Chat” button found on each page of our website—you do not have to download anything to use it; every day we speak with survivors, friends, co-workers, those who identify as abusive and others affected by domestic violence and abuse. Anyone seeking help or questioning something going on in his or her relationship is welcome to chat; the information from this list is from the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

The National Domestic Violence hotline
PO Box 90249
Austin, Texas 78709
Office Line: 512-453-8117

I would like to add that I also talked to people working on the Chat Line. They were outstanding. They make you feel comfortable and are in no hurry to get you off the line. Please keep their number with you so if anyone brings up domestic abuse you can give them the number. Adults and children living in this type of situation deserve help from all of the agencies working in this field and most important who would know better than co-victims of homicide about a loved one being murdered. Please keep this number handy to give out, 1-800-799-7233. Children especially need support from everyone connected with them.

I do not want to minimize the effect of either domestic abuse or living during the COVID-19 period. It is a vulnerable time. We all need to be aware that this vile virus can cause stress and changes in anyone’s behavior. If there is already domestic abuse in a family, partners and children are vulnerable. We need to pay attention to what a child is saying. We need to make sure of the following: Listen carefully to what they are saying; Give them the tools to talk; Let them know they have done the right thing by telling you; Tell them it is not their fault; Say you will take them seriously; Don’t comfort the alleged abuser; Explain what you will do next; Report what the child has told you as soon as possible; The hotline callers will be able to assist you and answers any questions you might need; They are trained and experienced; With domestic abuse already in our culture, it only magnifies COVID-19; It will take all of us to make a difference. (The above was taken from “Spotting the Signs of Abuse.” From the National Domestic Violence Hotline.)

Some examples of how COVID-19 can affect intimate partner violence survivors: Abusive partners may withhold necessary items, such as hand sanitizer or disinfectants; Abusive partners may withhold insurance cards, threaten to cancel insurance, or prevent survivors from seeking medical attention if they need it; Programs that serve survivors may be slightly impacted—shelters may be full or may even stop intakes altogether. Survivors may also fear entering shelter because of being in close quarters with groups of people; Survivors who are older or have chronic heart or lung conditions may be increased risk in public places where they would typically get support, like shelters, counseling centers, or in courthouses; Travel restrictions may affect a survivors escape or safety plan—it may not be safe for them to use public transportation or to fly; An abusive partner may feel more justified and escalate their isolation tactics. (The above information was taken from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)

COVID-19 and Domestic Abuse are both evil. Together they make an atrocious team. If they had their way, they would destroy everything in their way. All of us can make a difference. There are things that we can do to fight back. We at Parents Of Murdered Children are fighters. As a society, we can all do what we do best to stop each of these. Others are risking their lives for us. Domestic abuse is as deadly as COVID-19. Having both of them together is treacherous.

Please remember 1-800-799-7233. Your call or support for others can save a life or lives.
A Message from the Board Room

With POMC National Board of Trustees
President
Howard S. Klerk, Jr.

Hi,

At the stroke of midnight in each time zone millions of people around the world welcomed the new year, 2020. Within a few weeks word started to leak out about a virus infecting a city in China. In a short period of time we had a full-blown pandemic going on.

Because of the airlines canceling flights, restaurants closing, and hotels limiting their occupancy to a few people at a time; we had to cancel the Spring POMC National Board of Trustees meeting. We were quite upset about that; we never had to cancel a board meeting before. I guess everyone has heard the expression “cheer up things could get worse”, so we cheered up and sure enough things got worse. It was with heavy hearts that we had to cancel the POMC National Conference for 2020. In all of our existence we had never had to cancel a National Conference for any reason: then by law we had to close the National Office.

I wish to thank our National Staff and the members of the National Board and the Conference Committee for the many ideas they submitted and how we were able to get through this pandemic because of everyone’s efforts. I also wish to thank all of the members of POMC for your patience and understanding throughout these trying times. I wish to assure everyone that we will work hard to make a comeback; and with everyone’s help, hope and prayers we will come back better than ever.

The Conference Committee has come up with an idea for a Virtual Conference on 25 July, 2020. The Virtual Conference will be approximately 6 hours long, will consist of an opening ceremony, a couple of workshops, a memorial video and a closing ceremony. Please contact our National office for details and to register.

All the best now and always,

Howard S. Klerk Jr.
President POMC NBOT

Mention in Dear Abby Article

DEAR ABBY: My son was murdered four years ago by a supposed friend. Despite a 10-year sentence the murderer was released from prison this month. The perpetrator and my son had some mutual friends. When I go onto the convicted manslaughterer's Facebook page he has many people congratulating and welcoming him home. The murderer has not once apologized or shown remorse. He was on home incarceration for six months before he was sentenced for manslaughter and, during that time, he impregnated his girlfriend instead of thinking about the devastation he's caused my family. My son will NEVER have a family. Instead of announcing to his Facebook friends and family that he's on his way home and that he is home, I feel he should keep his mouth shut and live a quiet life. I cannot believe that murderers and rapists receive respect and congratulations once they reenter society. Do people not recognize the devastation that has been caused to surviving family members or the victim? Or do they no longer care until something like this affects them and their families?

HURT AGAIN IN KENTUCKY

DEAR HURT AGAIN: Please accept my sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. Nothing can take away the pain of losing a child, let alone at the hand of another person. The family and friends of the person who killed your son appear to have lost sight of the reason for his incarceration. But viewed from another perspective, they are happy to have their loved one back with them which is why they are posting welcome messages.

A resource that might help you is the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc. You can find it by going to pomc.com. I hope you will give it a try. My heart goes out to you.

* As seen in DEAR ABBY by Abigail Van Buren a.k.a. Jeanne Phillips and founded by her mother Pauline Phillips. © 2020 ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.
Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy during this crazy and challenging Covid-19 times. We are thinking of all of you that are struggling with isolation, loneliness, loss of your job or anything else that has turned your life upside down during this time. It’s hard enough that you have to deal with the tragedy of your loved ones and now the Covid-19 has brought harder times into your lives.

Unfortunately, because of the Corona Virus we had to cancel our 4th Grief Retreat Weekend in April and it was a difficult thing because we had 10 people coming from four different states who were extremely disappointed. We hope that we can reschedule this as soon as we know when the future will be stable. Even more devastating for POMC was that we had to cancel the 34th National Conference that was scheduled on July 23-26, in Atlanta, Georgia. So many people look forward to the Conference and as of March we already had about 30 new attendees that have never attended our National Conferences before. We have rescheduled to be in Atlanta, Georgia again in 2023, which is the next open year that we have available. So hopefully the survivors that are close to Atlanta will be able to come in 3 years.

Because of the cancellation of the National Conference, the Conference Committee has decided to put together our first ever Virtual Conference which will be on Saturday, July 25, 2020. The schedule will be about 6 hours on that day. The cost for this Virtual Conference will be $25.00 and it will end with a memorial video that you can send in your loved one’s photo to be in the memorial video. We will have more information on our website and Facebook and if you have any questions, please call us. (The memorial video is only for registrants of the Virtual Conference).

The National Staff has been working remotely since the end of March and will be back in the office in June. Hopefully we will begin to resume our normal work schedule, so if anyone needs to call or email they will be able to reach us in the office. The Governor of Ohio had a mandate “stay at home order” and we had to obey the mandate. It was definitely different and a challenge for all five staff members who had never had to work from home, but we adapted the best that we could.

We also had several Chapters across the United States start a support group meeting through Zoom and we had some positive feedback from that. The Support Group Meetings had to be cancelled for several months and this was a new way to get support from each other. Some Chapters who didn’t want to try the Zoom meetings called all the survivors that normally attended their meetings and gave them the support that they needed, so they didn’t feel the isolation of not having any contact with anyone.

After months of dealing with the coronavirus we are now dealing with national unrest due to the effects of violence. At POMC, our vision statement is to provide support and assistance to all survivors of homicide victims while working to create a world free of murder. We want you all to know that our thoughts are with you at this time as we mourn our loved ones together throughout the nation. It is only working together that we can make a difference and heal as a nation.

In closing, let’s try to stay positive and hope that the country will soon be getting back to a normal place and the virus will start to go away. But until that happens please stay safe and take care of others who need help during this devastating time.

Love,
Bev
POMC is very sad to announce the loss of some of our beloved members and acknowledge their contributions throughout the years

Dora Withrow (Parks) (05/25/1942-10/06/2019) served loyally as our contact person for anyone in Kentucky for the last 13 years. Her loved one, Darrell, was murdered at the age of 17 on 12/12/1983. https://obituaries.dailyindependent.com/obituary/dora-withrow-1077504374

Dora A. Ingles Withrow, 77, of Grayson, Ky., went home to be with her lord and savior Jesus Christ. She was a beloved Christian, and attended the 2nd Freewill Baptist Church of Hitchins. She is the daughter of the late Lona and Dorothy Ingles. She is proceeded in death in addition to her parents by husband and friend Paris Withrow, Sr.; a son, Paris "Dan" Withrow; and a brother, Bill Ingles. Dora was a member of the P.O.M.C. She loved gospel music and reading, spending time with her family. She will be missed by a host of family and friends.

Mary Gulledge (05/15/1933-04/20/2020) - Mom dedicated 23 years of her life to POMC. Not long after my brother Kyle was murdered, we were asked to join the KC Chapter as Board members. Through out the years she wrote and kept track of 2 grants, was treasurer, Newsletter producer, helped with the financial part of the Annual Report for the National Office and spoke at prisons and high schools. She was a phone friend to family and friends of homicide survivors. She was very active in helping families deal with homicide. She helped with vigils and fundraisers. She helped at conferences when needed. For several years she also served on the Board for Victims Net until they were no longer. Anything she was asked to do she did. What I remember most about my mom is she was the most loving, kind person I know. After Kyle was murdered she said, "We will get through this." I use those words now with missing her. My mom was my rock, my best friend. We did everything together. Conferences was our special time and we would sit up late at night talking about everything. She always worried about me. If I was ok or if I had money to make it, etc. Even during her illness she always worried about me. She loved her little Lacey and all the others before her. My mom was very independent. Even to the end, she wanted to do it if she could. She loved all her grandkids and was looking forward to her Great Granddaughter getting married, but she didn't make it that far. The wedding was to take place in June. She always made sure her hair was in place and makeup on before going anywhere. She always wanted to look nice. She attended 2 of the parole hearings. We have 1 left, maybe this year that she will not be at. I will be attending myself for both of us. I am and will miss my mother so much, but "we will get through it."

Brooks Douglass (09/28/1963-05/09/2020) had diverse careers in business, politics, the military, and film-making. At only 27, he was elected the youngest State Senator to serve in Oklahoma, where he served for 12 years. Brooks had dedicated much of his adult life to raising awareness and passing legislation to protect and serve crime victims and their families. After retiring from the senate, Brooks focused on a long-held passion for writing, acting and creating. He co-authored and produced Heaven’s Rain, (later renamed The Amendment) a powerful faith-based film honoring his parents, Richard and Marilyn Douglass, who were tragically killed in 1979. In 2011, Brooks was selected for the Ronald Wilson Reagan Innovations in Public Policy Award by the U.S. Department of Justice for his work in crime victims rights. In April, 2012, he testified before Congress in support of HJR 106, a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution supporting victims rights (VRA). In 2013, Brooks was the keynote speaker and award winner of The Lisa Hullinger Memorial Award at our National Conference. Brooks passed away peacefully at home at the age of 56 after battling cancer for 6 years. For more information about Brooks’ life work, messages from his family or to view his memorial video please see: http://brooks Douglass.net/

Sharon M. (Childs) Conroy, 66 of Lansdowne, PA, passed away on May 31, 2020. Sharon was born in Phila, PA. She was the daughter of the late Raymond and Marie (McFadden) Childs. Sharon worked as the bank manager for Sun East Federal Credit Union. She was the treasurer for the Delaware County Chapter of Parents Of Murdered Children. Sharon was the devoted mother of the late Sean Patrick Conroy, loving sister of Kathleen Childs and the late Thomas Childs, Sister-in-Law of Ginger Childs. Due to the current restrictions Services and burial private. Contributions can be made to Delaware County POMC, PO Box 102, Norwood, PA 19074.
Exploring Aspects of Health and Well-Being in Siblings of Young Homicide Victims
Written by: Susan Tasker and Kenneth Wright, 2020

Summary of Findings

Anecdotal reports and a handful of research papers suggest that the siblings of homicide victims experience lasting effects on their health and well-being. However, small sample sizes and other weaknesses in methodology have so far made it difficult to establish this connection. Our study sought to advance the understanding of homicide’s effects on siblings of the victims by answering the question: Are siblings of homicide victims distinguishable from a comparison group on measurable aspects of general health and well-being? We surveyed 67 siblings of homicide victims and 80 individuals who had not gone through such an event. Similar occupation types and levels of income, education, general health perception, and self-worth were found. However, the homicide group reported significantly higher levels of subjective distress and school/work absences in the previous three months due to feeling unwell, and significantly less social support and life satisfaction. Participants were Canadian or American. The average age of participants in the homicide group at the time of their sibling’s death was 20.4 years (with an age range of 6–40). The average age at the time of the survey was 34.9 (range 9–63). The group’s gender distribution was 76.1% female and 23.9% male. The comparison group was selected to ensure equivalent age and gender distributions except that participants had to be at least 13. We found no significant differences between the groups for income, education level, or occupation. In the homicide group, 33% reported “employment difficulties,” versus 13% in the comparison group. Twenty percent in the homicide group were unemployed or chose not to work, versus none in the comparison group, and 14.9% in the homicide group were homemakers, versus 1.4% in the comparison group. Absenteeism from school or work was also higher in the homicide group. However, the meaning of our findings is unclear. For example, differences in employment rates and homemaker status may indicate a choice to place greater value on family and relationships. Future studies are needed to separate out the impact of homicide on the educations and occupations of siblings of homicide victims. Differences became apparent when subjective well-being was assessed. Most studies on homicidal loss concentrate on psychopathology. While this is important, such a focus limits understanding by not providing a broad and more balanced perspective. Since subjective well-being is known to influence current and future health, assessing how it is affected by homicide loss is just as important. Subjective well-being is experienced as a positive and affirming state of being; it is reflected in the capacity to feel, think, and act in ways that enhance a person’s ability to realize their self-potential, to enjoy life, and to deal with the inevitable and the terrible of life. The key components of well-being that our survey addressed are subjective distress, social support, satisfaction with life, and self-worth. The homicide group reported significantly greater levels of subjective distress, associated with avoidance of others, intrusive thoughts, and hyperarousal (for example, anxiety, trouble concentrating, difficulty sleeping, irritability, feeling constantly vigilant). These individuals also reported less social support than the comparison group and lower satisfaction with life. However, both groups reported good self-worth, which is a novel and encouraging finding. When asked about growing up after their sibling’s death, the homicide group reported significantly lower levels of happiness and significantly higher levels of feeling different than the comparison group. Self-assessed happiness growing up is one determinant of well-being, so this finding might help to explain the higher level of subjective distress and lower life satisfaction we found in siblings of homicide victims. Some of the homicide group’s subjective distress might have been tempered by the fact that 72% reported having a lot of current social support, although their average level of current social support was still lower than the comparison group’s. When answering the surveys, participants had the opportunity to provide information clarifying or explaining their responses. These contributions showed that siblings of homicide victims in our study continued to feel alone and different, and to experience relationship difficulties, insensitive responses, and social stigma many years after their loss. Further studies are encouraged to examine the net effect of homicide on the health and well-being of siblings of homicide victims, particularly how self-assessed happiness growing up after the homicide death of a sibling is associated with health and well-being over the longer term.

How Satisfied are Siblings of Homicide Victims with Police?
Written by: Susan Louise Tasker, PhD, 2020

A Summary and Discussion of Findings
Police personnel and services are likely to have a tremendous impact on the psychological well-being of siblings who become victims of the murder of a brother or sister. Only one study conducted in Australia has asked about satisfaction with police from the direct perspective of (nine) adult siblings of brothers and sisters missing for between one and five and a half years as the result of a probable homicide. The present study involved 67 siblings aged between 9 and 63 years of victims of confirmed and probable non-vehicular homicide. When I designed this study, I divided the question around satisfaction with police into two questions: (a) How satisfied are siblings of homicide victims with the way police officers and homicide division investigators communicate and respond to their needs and questions? (b) How satisfied are siblings of homicide victims with the way the investigation of a sibling’s homicide is handled? Overall, almost 60% of the siblings indicated satisfaction. They were satisfied when police were beacons of humanity, treating them with a high bar of common decency, and committed to justice by being competent and diligent in the investigation process. The siblings were Canadian or American and represented 56 (29 brothers, 27 sisters) victims of confirmed and probable homicide. Their average age was 34.9 years (with a range of nine to 63) and their average age when their sister or brother was murdered was 20.4 years (with an age range of 6–40). Three quarters (76.1%) were sisters of victims. For three-quarters of the victims, the cases had been cleared (a charge had been laid or had gone to prosecution, or the accused had committed suicide or died). Twelve cases had been unsolved and/or cold for one to 54 years.

Satisfaction with Police Contact
Almost 60% of the participants said they were satisfied with police contact. They were satisfied when police treated them with a high bar of common decency. Police showed common decency when, from the first interaction, they treated siblings with common, everyday courtesy and respect, and were sensitive and responsive, available, honest, and fair.

Satisfaction with Police Service
A little over half of the participants (53.3%) were satisfied with police service. They were satisfied with police service when they felt that they could rely on police to be competent and diligent in the investigation process. Police were competent when they (a) oriented participants to the new physical worlds of homicide investigation and the pursuit of justice; (b) made few or no mistakes; and (c) made progress. Police were diligent when they did their best to solve the case by investigating thoroughly and showing commitment to justice.

Additional Findings
There was quite a large (64%) overlap between siblings’ level of satisfaction with police contact and service. That is, some of the (dis)satisfaction they felt with the way police treated them extended into or influenced their satisfaction with the investigation, or the other way around. When I put the results of siblings’ satisfaction with police contact and service together to make an overall score for satisfaction with police, just more than half (56.1%) were satisfied overall and about one-third (37.9%) were dissatisfied. As one sibling said: “There is always room for improvement.” There are two other interesting things to learn from siblings in this study. One is that the more satisfied they were with the way police treated them, the more satisfied they were with the CJS and with media contact and media reporting. This suggests that how police treat the siblings of homicide victims influences siblings’ experiences and satisfaction with the CJS and the media. The second is that the more satisfied they were with the way police managed the investigation, the more satisfied they were with the CJS. This shows that police do act as gateways or orienteers to the CJS. The following quote from a participant who was 23 when his brother was murdered in 2010 is a model for overall satisfaction with police: “At times I was frustrated with the lack of progress in the case however I feel as though the investigators had a plan and could not have done a better job. They were also very good to us and explained as much as they could. They also offered a lot of emotional support to us.”

Discussion of Findings
Participants believed that it is very important for police to include siblings when they contact a homicide victim’s family, and they deeply appreciated feeling included and supported by police. Police services form the “gateway to safety, support, information, and justice for victims of crime,” and they’re in some cases the only agency that families have contact with, because not all homicide cases go to court, and others remain unsolved.

Police Contact
This study underscores the ongoing importance of sensitivity and responsiveness training and support for police. Siblings of homicide victims want a level of common decency beyond common courtesy or professional behaviour. Two participants’ experiences with police in the 1970s shows the big difference police treatment can make. One, who was nine when her sister was murdered, said, “They were wonderful with me,” whereas the other, who had been 14 at the
time, said she was still very perturbed by “[t]he investigators, how insensitive they were.” While 80% of the murders occurred between 2000 and 2010, well after the families of homicide victims became legally recognized as secondary victims, police sensitivity and responsiveness were still what mattered most to siblings. Most particularly, they needed information and explanations. The International Association of Chiefs of Police recognize that receiving information is one of seven “critical needs” of crime victims. When police don’t respect this need for information, families find it difficult to “understand or bear,” writes Bill Jenkins, whose 16 year old son William Jenkins was murdered in 1997. Participants were upset when police refused or were reluctant to give them access to information, details, or pictures they had the right to receive. There is a lot of debate about whether it is appropriate for police to make this call. Although police probably mean well and want to protect siblings from more anguish, “knowing all the details of the incident can actually be more beneficial for [family members] than not knowing” and can be better than imagining what happened. “Without information, we created imaginary scenarios that produced unnecessary worry” says Karen Beaudin, a participant in the study, in a book she’s written. Bill Jenkins also points out that when family members of homicide victims “decide we are ready to know these details, it puts us back in control of our own lives to some extent. . . . If officials understand this concept, they may be less reluctant to share this information.” Siblings also wanted police to explain how the CJS works and give them a realistic sense of how a case is likely to go. For example, they might explain why even though a case appears rock solid, a charge of first-degree murder may still result in a lesser conviction. Being able to rely on police to give them information ahead of the media or the courtroom empowered siblings by giving them the choice to ignore the media or leave the courtroom. When police were upfront like this, siblings could manage their expectations and prepare for the path ahead, —including its unpredictability, which helped reduce their frustration, distress, and despair. As this study shows, “police need to recognize that acting as a teacher and a social worker is part of a homicide investigator’s role and relationship with a victim’s family, including their siblings” (retired Criminal Investigator Rod Gehl 2019, personal communication, April 19).

**Police Service**

The primary job of police is to “find out what occurred, and who did it” and to “ensure that the criminal case against the accused is as strong as possible.” The siblings in this study wanted that level of competence and diligence from police. When mistakes were made and progress was slow or stalled, they questioned police competence and worried that this would interfere with their siblings being found (if they were missing and presumed dead) or the murderer being brought to justice. In cases where evidential insufficiency had been an issue, it was sometimes impossible for me to know whether this was due to police incompetence or lack of diligence. In some instances, it could have been due to the limitations of technology at the time. For example, until DNA became examinable in 2007, there had been insufficient evidence to file charges in the case of one participant’s sister, who was murdered in 1987. Although some siblings held the police responsible for what they saw as failures of justice, many more held strong opinions about the CJS. One considered the CJS “a disaster,” and another condemned its handling of the case as a “horrible travesty of justice.” Many shared the view that the law protected criminals more than victims. Balancing the rights of offenders and victims is, of course, a longstanding issue in the CJS. Overall, this study shows that siblings of homicide victims need police to be committed to justice but also to serve as beacons of humanity. While there was some overlap between satisfaction with police contact and with investigative work, siblings understood the difference. This is important because it challenges the idea put forward in the Australian study mentioned earlier, that police need to be “free[d] to undertake their primary role” (of case investigation) by having professionals such as “social workers, counsellors, and psychologists” provide ongoing support to siblings of missing, presumed murdered, siblings. The results of the present study indicate siblings want this to come from the police themselves. What siblings seek from police is the dedication expressed by these homicide investigators: “We take our cases very personally—the case becomes a part of our lives, we live with it. No one works harder for the deceased and their families . . . we speak for the deceased . . . the case can become a part of you for the rest of your career and life.” Or, as communicated to me in a conversation, Retired Homicide Investigator Doug Workman, 2014, April 2, “We become very attached to our files, perhaps second only to how attached the family is attached. We have many sleepless nights and unsolved cases haunt us. But as a human being, I’m working like a machine and I [sometimes] forget the family . . . [it] can be an emotional-roller coaster of hope, despondency and cynicism.”

Clearly, for these police officers, investigating a homicide is more than just a job. And as one sibling wrote to me in an email, “[s]howing the family compassion right from the get-go means a lot. We understand they have a job to do, but it’s important to a family to feel that it’s more than just a job.” Like all studies, this one has limitations. More sisters than brothers participated in the study, and the homicides all occurred in Canada or the US. There are differences in the way homicides are managed and prosecuted across the world, and within countries; for example, a sibling at a symposium where I presented some of this study’s findings in April 2014 said her experience with police in northern Canada had been less positive than what I had found or what the handful of other siblings at the symposium described.
Maintaining the Beauty of the MURDER WALL...Honoring Their Memories

Time and much travel have put stress on the many panels of the Murder Wall... Honoring Their Memories, and scratches, nicks, and dents need to be repaired. Many of the cases that are used to transport the Wall have split or broken, handles have fallen off, and the protective material inside each case needs to be replaced.

Currently, the Wall is made up of 33 panels, displaying over 4,000 victims’ names, dates of birth and dates of death.

In order to maintain the beauty of the Wall, POMC continues to seek donations to help make some of the repairs. To help, please use the form below.

Donations made in memory/honor of, will be in the next issue of Survivors.

POMC-Wall Repair
(Please Print)

Name: ______________________________________

In memory/honor of: __________________________

Address: ____________________________________

City, State, Zip: ______________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Amount enclosed: $_________ Check:____

Money Order :____ Visa:_____ MC:_______

Am. Express:______ Dis:_______

Card Number: ________________________________

Expiration date: ____________________________

Security Code (back of card):__________________

Return to:
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

WALL BOOKLETS HONOR THEIR MEMORIES

POMC’s Murder Wall...Honoring their Memories is a beautiful memorial to the more than 4,000 murder victims whose names appear on the Wall. Behind each name there is a face and a story of a person whose life was taken prematurely. It is time to tell those stories.

Memorial booklets, which travel with the Wall, are compiled as an ongoing project of National POMC. Cost is $20.00 to include one page, front and back without a photo, or $30.00 if you wish to have a photo included. The photos are non-returnable and must be no larger than 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches.

Forms are available on the POMC Web Site at: www.pomc.org or by calling National at (513) 721-5683.

Donations to Maintain the Beauty of the Murder Wall… Honoring Their Memories

Thank you for your donation to maintain the Murder Wall:

- Albany New York (Capital District) Chapter
- Central Illinois Chapter
- Central Ohio Chapter
- Denise Coleman, in memory of Timothy Staunton
- Deborah Desmarais & Lawrence Faller, in memory of Lawrence Anthony Faller
- Howard & Ann Klerk, in memory of Lisa Marie Weaver
  - Maine Chapter
  - Miami Dade Chapter
- LC & Sherry Nolan, in memory of Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan-Broe
  - Queens New York Chapter
The names that appear in this issue of *Survivors* are those that have been submitted to the National Organization of POMC, Inc., with full or partial payment before May 1, 2020. Names after this date will appear in the next issue.

The Wall consists of solid walnut panels with each holding 120 brass plates inscribed with the name of the victim, along with the date of birth and the date of death. A donation of $75 is required before a name will be inscribed on a plate and permanently mounted on a panel. (See order form inside this edition.) Not only is this donation a tribute to the memory of your loved one, but it is a tribute that will guarantee that the memory of those we miss so deeply will survive forever. The Wall is a powerful statement of the violence in our society and of the numbers of loved ones senselessly killed by others. Not only does it give comfort, but also hope, because every name on it cries out silently for awareness, prevention and justice.

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**Murder Wall...Honoring Their Memories Order Form**

Anyone interested in having their loved one’s name inscribed and permanently mounted on the Wall should fill out the order form below. Make checks payable to “POMC Wall,” or for your convenience, Discover, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted.

Send to: Parents Of Murdered Children, 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104, Cincinnati, Ohio 45203

**LOVED ONES INFORMATION**

Loved ones name ____________________________ Date of Birth ____________________________ Date of Death ____________________________

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

Choice of payment (check one): _____ Pay in full for $75.00 OR _____ 3 payments of $25.00 each

Payment type: ____ MC _____ Visa _____ Am. Express _____ Discover _____ Check

Card Number ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________ Security Code ____________

**SUBMITTERS INFORMATION**

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City, State, Zip ____________________________

Phone Number ____________________________

Relationship to victim ____________________________

The name will be added to the panel upon payment in full. Once your plate has been permanently mounted on the panel, you will be notified. New panels join the Wall as they are completed.
Parole Block Program

1709 Convicted murderers have been denied parole through POMC’s Parole Block Program!

Support for the Parole Block Program

In memory of:
- Central Illinois Chapter’s loved ones
- Central Ohio Chapter’s loved ones
- Jarrod Chrisman from Susie & Rodney Chrisman
- Janet Leonhardt from Carol Leonhardt
- Maine Chapter’s loved ones
- Shannon Nolan Broe & Alexandra Jordan Broe from LC and Sherry Nolan
- David Pottinger from Carolee Hildenbrandt
- Timothy Staunton from Denise Coleman
- Lisa Marie Weaver from Howard & Ann Klerk

Hearing Results:

Denied Petitions:
- David Edward Clark
- Robert Alan Grisgby
- Frank Sapanaro
- Peter Hiltbrunner
- Anthony McIntosh

Released from Prison:
- Jon B. Adams
- Anthony Butler
- Michael Deane
- Daniel Hinton
- G Jelosh Rukaj
- Jon Waters

Continued from Page 9

In Closing
This study is important because it foregrounds how the siblings of homicide victims feel about their experiences with police. Research has barely recognized that siblings’ experiences and perceptions should be treated as distinct from those of parents, other family members, and friends. By examining participants’ responses to the two separate questions about satisfaction with police, we gain specific insights into how police in homicide investigations can be more sensitive and responsive to siblings’ needs. When siblings see police as beacons of humanity and commitment to justice, their psychological resources are boosted. What they feel about police treatment and the quality of the investigation can influence their emotional well-being early on and over time. The study’s results show a strong need for training and support to help police recognize, include, guide, teach, and support (RIGhTS) the siblings of homicide victims.

References

3 Jenkins, *What To Do When the Police Leave*.
7 Staff Sergeant P Tewfik and Detective R Gill, “The Process of Homicide Investigation”.
© Susan Louise Tasker, 2020
Hearing Date: August 2020  
Charles Finley  ID#: A538100

On September 21, 2005, Charles Finley brutally bludgeoned to death his girlfriend’s son, Christopher Beck (1) with his hands and then bit him multiple times. Charles then drove Christopher to his mother’s house, passing Children’s Hospital, and when Charles laid him down, his mother noticed that the baby was not breathing and called 911. The murderer has no remorse and has contacted the family from jail pretending to be someone else. Finley was convicted of murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life. He will have served only 15 years when he is up for parole.

To protest, please write to:
Ohio Parole Board Office of Victim Services
4545 Fisher Rd. Suite D
Columbus, OH  43228
Fax #:  (614) 752-0600

Hearing Date: September 2020  
Eric Schlensker  ID#: A518642

On December 5, 2005, Eric Schlensker let himself into Larry Lewis’ Clifton home and brutally stabbed him on the right side of his head with a steak knife to get to the right temporal lobe, while Mr. Lewis lay sleeping in his bed. As Larry was dying, Schlensker stole Lewis’ clothes, expensive jewelry, money, car, checkbook, ATM card and credit cards. He then sold the car for the money and ran a check cashing scheme. Larry was said to have taken care of Eric providing him with food, clothing, shelter and money. Eric Schlensker’s heinous murder of Larry Lewis was over greed.

Schlensker pled guilty to special felony murder and 3rd degree robbery and was sentenced to 15 years to life. He will have served 14 years when he is considered for parole.

To protest, please write to:
Ohio Parole Board
4545 Fisher Road Suite D
Columbus, OH  43228
Fax #:  (614) 752-0600

Hearing Date: August 2020  
John Salyers, Jr.  ID#: A185067

On October 6, 1984, John Salyers Jr. murdered Stewart Mendelson. Salyers was paroled early from a Florida prison and back in his hometown of Athens, OH, for just four days, when on a downtown street Salyers spoke crudely to Stewart’s fiancée. Stewart was a senior in Ohio Universities School of Business. A verbal confrontation followed on the crowded downtown street and Salyers stabbed Stewart in the throat cutting his carotid artery. Salyers fled the scene and was apprehended several hours later. At his trial, a witness quoted Salyers, saying (after he stabbed Mendelson and before being arrested), “That dude I stabbed I think I killed him. Let’s go downtown later and stick a Nigger and watch him die.” Salyers was convicted of murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life. Salyers prison behavior has resulted in transfers to several maximum-security prisons plus discipline time in solitary confinement. He has a long history of violent and disturbing anti-social behavior. He has served 36 years when he will be considered for parole.

To protest, please write to:
Ohio Parole Board
4545 Fisher Rd Suite D
Columbus, OH  43228
Fax #:  (614) 752-0600
Thank You

Thanks to all those who have chosen POMC as their charity of choice. Your donation has helped thousands of surviving family members; stopped the early release of 1,709 convicted murderers; assisted in POMC’s *Second Opinion Services*; provided the National newsletter, *Survivors*, to those who cannot afford it and so much more. POMC’s outreach would not be able to exist without your continued support.

### In Memory of

**Kevin Richard Bailey**
from Catherine Bailey

**Sylvia Banks**
from Dan Levey

**Jeffrey Aaron Buck**
from Jami Travis
from Gina Boshears

**Morgan Kelly Cameron**
from Sheila Massoni

**James Chevedden**
from John Chevedden

**Jarrod Chrisman**
from Rodney & Susie Chrisman

**Ashton Coggins**
from Charlie & Arlene Coggins

**Jason Elliott**
from Gary & Judy Elliott

**Edgar Fortin**
from Benjamin Fortin

**Ann Michelle Garay**
from Frank & Pat Garay

**Tim Garsow**
from Linda Hutchens
from Patty Walters

**Eric Jay Gelman**
from Lynn & Richard Gelman

**Aaron Goldman**
from Honore & Thomas McIlhatten

**Michael Grasa**
from Michael & Lazella Grasa

**Susan Marie Green**
from Marilyn Kramer

**Jason Griffin**
from Andrea Griffin

**Sara Gruber**
from Barbara Brady

**James “Jay” Hitt**
from Deborrah Hitt

**Lisa Hullinger**
from Bob & Charlotte Hullinger

**Steven Isheim**
from Terry Isheim

**Kimberly LaShara Jacobs**
from Linda Jacobs

**Robbie Lawless**
from Todd Emanuel

**Jenise Christine Landolfa**
from Deborah Landolfa

**Janet Leonhardt**
from Carol Leonhardt

**Scott Jonathan Lewis**
from Jean Lewis

**Sam Michel**
from Bruce & Deborah Michel

**Melanie Ann & Michelle Marie Miers**
from Linda Miers

**Jennifer Mullin**
from John Mullin Jr.

**Terri Nadeau**
from Pat & Allen Walker

**Shannon Marie & Alexandra Jordan Nolan–Broe**
from LC & Sherry Nolan

**Susan Marie Otterson**
from David Otterson

**Jeffery Armstrong Patterson**
from Ann Patterson

**Alton Perry**
from Josei Perry

**Ray Podell**
from Marilyn Lipson

**David Pottinger**
from Carolee Hildenbrandt

**Becky Reed**
from James & Ann Reed

**Lamar Robinson**
from Lamorial Robinson

**Hannah Sellers**
from Lisa & John Savala

**Timothy Staunton**
from Denise Coleman

**Angeline Stadler**
from Francine Stadler

**Willie**
from Flora Tafoya

**Christine Tilghman**
from Donna Jackson

**Bryce Waldman**
from Richard Waldman
**Donations**

- Daniel Baker
- Harry Bonnell
- Central Illinois Chapter
- Central Ohio Chapter
- David Morse
- Holly Brians Ragusa
- Daniel Smith
- Southwest Florida Chapter
- Dani Underhill
- Valley of the Sun Chapter

**In Memory of**

- Linda K. Walters, Aunt of Tim Garsow
  - from Patty Walters
  - from Linda Hutchens
  - from Doris Silber
  - from EN & LS Pratt
  - from Angela Hacker
- Judith Samuel Jackson, in honor of Meshia L. Samuel
- Trish Schindel, in honor of her son Patrick Razaghzadeh
- Sue Schrack
- Flora Tevis, in honor of KeOvion Seay
- Staci Wright-Adams, in honor of her son Jordan Wright

Follow up from last Newsletter: Faces Not Forgotten

Families, friends,

We have 26 Faces Not Forgotten quilts (#27, FNF Chicago #8 is almost ready) up on our website now: [http://facesnotforgotten.org/all-quilts/](http://facesnotforgotten.org/all-quilts/) PLEASE SHARE AND USE THESE IMAGES OF THE CHILDREN RESPECTFULLY for WEAR ORANGE VIRTUAL EVENTS June 5th, TO TELL THE STORY OF YOUNG LIVES LOST EVERY DAY TO GUN VIOLENCE. Please credit us on your posts. Now more than ever, I am trying to raise awareness of these young lives lost but please be respectful of our families during this very difficult time. Their children deserve to be remembered on June 5th, a National Day of Memorial for all gun violence victims.

If you need individual FNF images contact me and I'll be happy to send them to you! I can not do this alone...but we can.

Best,

Christine Ilewski
Founder, Director of Faces Not Forgotten
[www.facesnotforgotten.org](http://www.facesnotforgotten.org)

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**SAVE THE DATE FOR POMC’S FIRST VIRTUAL CONFERENCE!**

The POMC National Conference Committee members are excited to invite you to join us for our first Virtual POMC National Conference!

What: 1st Virtual POMC National Conference

When: July 25, 2020, 11am-6pm Eastern Time

The Conference will include an opening and closing ceremony, workshops, a memorial video!

For more information, contact Bev Warnock at bwarnock@pomc.org or by phone at (513) 721-5683

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**Facebook Fundraisers** (individuals who created a fundraiser and/or donated to one)

- Zakkiyyah Roxana Abdulrahim, in honor of her sister, Wendy Castleman-King, and her unborn niece Chrissy Burns, in honor of her son Jack Finnegan Williams
- Diann Diaz-Bauer, in honor of her sister Eva Diaz Rondon
- Misty Foster, in honor of her brother David Foster
- Katherine Kaney, in honor of her daughter Ashley Kaney
- Laura Michaels, in honor of Dani
- Deborah Samonek Trimmer, in honor of her daughter Jessica Ariana Trimmer
- Judith Samuel Jackson, in honor of Meshia L. Samuel
- Trish Schindel, in honor of her son Patrick Razaghzadeh
- Sue Schrack
- Flora Tevis, in honor of KeOvion Seay
- Staci Wright-Adams, in honor of her son Jordan Wright
Contact Person/Chapter Leaders/State Coordinator Corner

With
Sherry Nolan

We want to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers for the valuable services that they provide to other survivors on behalf of POMC, Inc. If you would like more information about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Sherry Nolan, National Volunteer Coordinator, at: (513) 721-5683 OR snolan@pomc.org.

Thank you to the following Chapters for dedication, compassion and selflessness shown through their continued efforts to provide on-going emotional support to others through phone calls, email, support group meetings, court accompaniment, local events bringing about awareness, education, and advocacy to victims of crime, and remembrance programs for the survivors family members whose loved ones lives were taken from them.

In this 2020 anniversary, POMC acknowledges those Chapters with Articles of Association that were signed between May 1st and August 31st of the year they became a probationary POMC Chapter:

- Central Illinois Chapter/ IL - 29 years
- Chicago Area Chapter/ IL - 16 years
- Colorado Front Range Chapter/ CO - 37 years
- Desert of Hope Chapter/ NV - 4 years
- Greater Orange County Chapter/ CA - 15 years
- Greater Ventura County Chapter/ CA - 15 years
- Hampton Roads Chapter/ VA - 15 years
- Saginaw County Chapter/ MI - 7 years
- San Antonio Chapter/ TX - 31 years
- The Fort Myers Florida/ Lee County Chapter / FL - 4 years
- Trumbull-Mercer County Chapter/ OH - 32 years

CP/SC/CL UPDATES

If you have a message of interest, a great fundraising idea, upcoming Chapter events, special awards or recognitions received or ideas that you would like to share with our “POMC family”, please mail them to my attention: Sherry Nolan at National POMC or email them to snolan@pomc.org. The deadline for receipt of the next newsletter articles is September 1, 2020. Please note: due to deadlines or overflow of articles, etc., we may not be able to include all of those received in the next SNL, but may keep them for future newsletters.

There are hundreds of survivors across the U.S. who volunteer for the National Organization of POMC as Chapter Leaders, Co-Leaders, Contact Persons and State Coordinators. If you are at a point in your life where you are ready to reach out to others who have suffered the loss of a loved one due to violence, please contact me.

The following states need someone to offer support services through phone, email, support group meetings, & court accompaniment, etc.:
- Alabama
- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Nebraska
- New Jersey
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- Utah
- Vermont
- Wyoming
Volunteers are essential in fulfilling our mission!

Nothing teaches hope, kindness, courage, and compassion like helping others.

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time...they just have the heart.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many Contact Persons and State Coordinators throughout the U.S. who also offer invaluable services to those survivors in their state who reach out to them for additional support, especially when there is not a POMC Chapter nearby. These volunteers are willing to spend time talking, and especially listening, to others about their loss. Let us recognize some of our Contact Persons who have offered continuous supportive services to others for more than 20 years.

We Honor...

Darlene Rader - Chapter Leader / Contact Person since 1993, OH
In Loving Memory of Her Brother

Barbara Dimario - Chapter Leader / Contact Person since 1994, PA/MI
In Loving Memory of Her Daughter

Gary K. Betts Age: 53 Years

Hope Ann Dimario-Popoleo Age: 26 Years

Carol Leonhardt - State Coordinator / Contact Persons Since 1996, AZ/WI
In Loving Memory of Her Daughter

Elaine Colclasure - Chapter Leader / Contact Person since 1997, AR
In Loving Memory of Her Husband

Janet Marie Leonhardt Age: 20 Years

Charles R. Colclasure Age: 47 Years
ATTENTION:
NEW ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP THROUGH FACEBOOK.
Are you on Facebook? If so make sure to join our Facebook support group which is being used as a topic forum to talk among one another, share stories of your loved one and lean on one another for support. You can join the group at www.facebook.com/groups/POMCOFFICIAL

Please note, this is the ONLY official online POMC support group. If you belong to other groups claiming to be POMC please be aware that they are not affiliated with or representatives of POMC.

We still have our National page on Facebook as well which is used for updates within the organization and National Office as well as other important information. Again, this is the ONLY official page for POMC (besides Chapter pages) so please be aware if you are linked with other pages claiming to be a POMC Facebook account. You can access our National Facebook page at www.facebook.com/POMC1978

*REMINDER*
Has something changed? Please, let POMC know if your name, address, email or phone number have changed. Call us toll free at (888) 818-7662 or email us at natlpomc@pomc.org

POMC Catalog Available
POMC’s “Journey Through Grief” catalog is available by contacting POMC at: (513) 721-5683. The catalog can also be downloaded from our website at: www.pomc.org.

The catalog provides color photos and a listing for all POMC items: books, bumper stickers, brochures, clothing, magnets, music, etc.

Information on items for POMC’s National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, special gifts, memorials, and tributes are also included in the catalog.

Contact POMC today for your free copy.

Our future depends on you!
Please remember the National Organization of Parents Of Murdered Children in your will and estate planning.
Thank you for keeping us in mind.

Dedication Page Information
Dedication Pages are included in each publication of the Survivors Newsletters. Not only is this a way to memorialize our loved ones, it also helps to defray the cost of publishing the newsletter. We offer this opportunity to pay tribute with poems, photos (black and white only), letters/loving thoughts or special requests.

The prices for dedication pages are as follows: $35.00 for a quarter page, $65.00 for a half page or $125.00 for a full page.

Send item and appropriate donation to “Dedication Page,” POMC, 635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104, Cincinnati, OH 45203. Please include your name and daytime phone number in case we have to contact you for clarification.

Did you know Amazon.com is a POMC sponsor?
POMC receives 4-13% depending on item of all Amazon.com purchases made through the amazon link on our webpage. The use of this link does not increase the cost of your purchase.
Survivors Newsletter Subscription

Please find enclosed $10.00 for my annual subscription (three issues) for the Survivors Newsletter ($25.00 outside the United States). Please consider adding an extra subscription fee to help defray the cost for someone who cannot afford to subscribe.

(Please Print)

Name:_____________________________________
Address:____________________________________
___________________________________________
City, State, Zip:______________________________
Email Address:______________________________
Phone number: ( )_________________________
Amount enclosed: $_________ for _______ year (s)
Payment method: ___Check    __Visa   __MasterCard
__American Express    __Discover
Card number:________________________________
Expiration date:_____________________________
Enclosed is an extra $__________ donation for someone in need and is given in:
Memory of:_________________________________
Honor of:___________________________________

All those donating an extra gift ‘in loving memory of’, or ‘in honor of’ will be listed in the next issue of the Survivors newsletter. To have POMC send a letter acknowledging your gift to the family, please provide family’s name, address, city, state, and zip code.

Return to:
Parents Of Murdered Children, Inc.
635 W. 7th Street, Suite 104
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
Table of Contents:

A Word About COVID and Your Grief .......................................................... Page 1  
Domestic Violence Increase During the COVID-19 Lockdown ........................ Page 2-3  
A Message from the Board Room .................................................................. Page 4  
A Message from the Executive Producer ....................................................... Page 5  
In Memoriam .................................................................................................. Page 6  
Exploring Aspects of Health and Well-being in Siblings of Young Homicide Victims ...................................................................................... Page 7  
How Satisfied Are Siblings of Homicide Victims With Police? ....................... Page 8 - 9, 12  
Murder Wall ................................................................................................... Page 10 - 11  
Parole Block Program ..................................................................................... Page 12 - 13  
Donations ........................................................................................................ Page 14 - 15  
Faces Not Forgotten Follow-up ..................................................................... Page 15  
Save The Date-Virtual Conference ................................................................ Page 15  
Contact Person, Chapter Leaders & State Coordinator Corner ....................... Page 16 - 17  
Dedication Page ............................................................................................... Page 17  
For Your Information ...................................................................................... Page 18  
Newsletter Subscription & Editorial Team .................................................... Page 19