

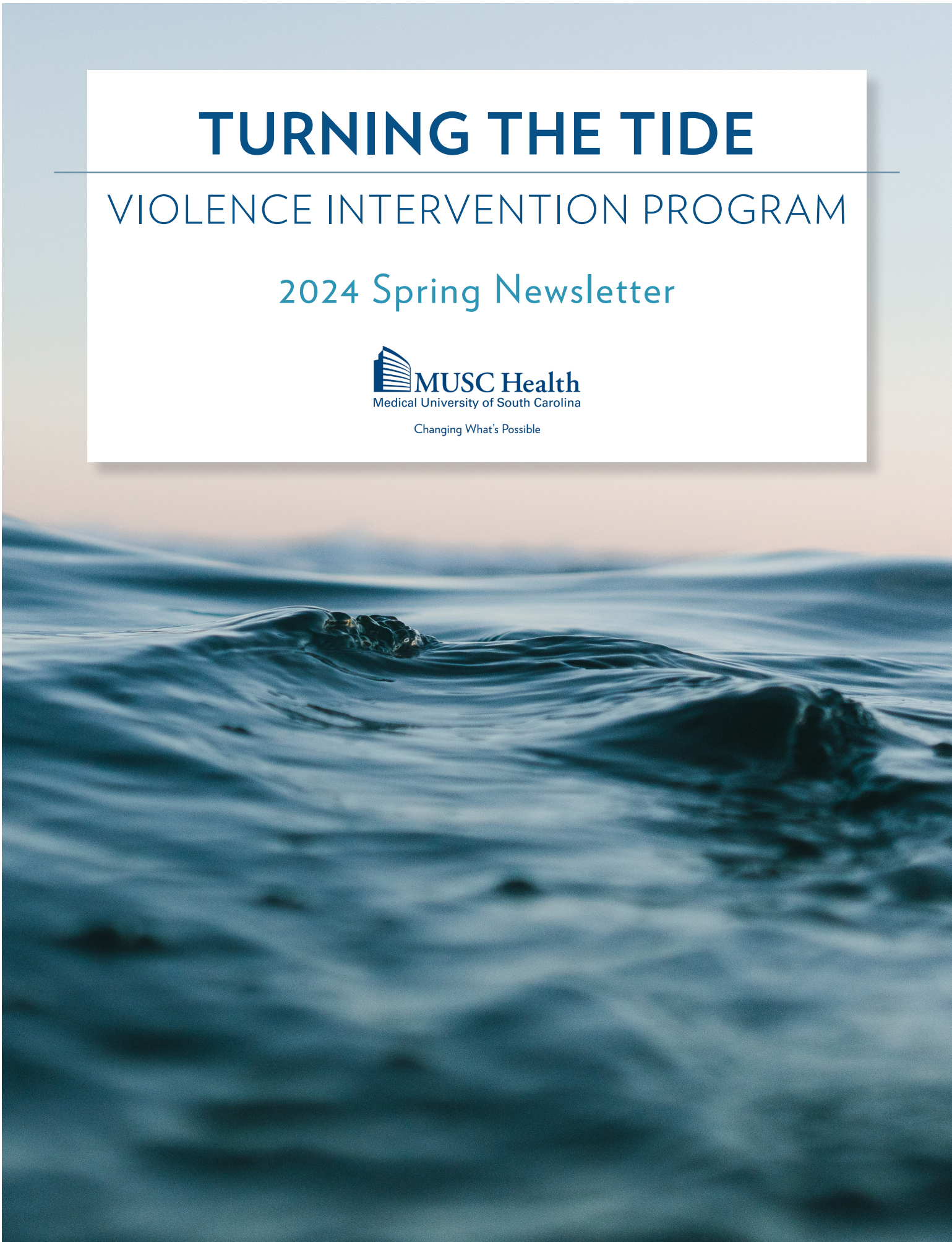
TURNING THE TIDE

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

2024 Spring Newsletter



Changing What's Possible



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Time flies! It's been nearly a year since our last newsletter, and we have several exciting updates and announcements to share.

This past December we welcomed our newest Client Advocate to the team, **Chantelle Mitchell**. Her direct experience working locally in the community violence intervention space makes her uniquely qualified to serve our patients and families, and TTVIP is so fortunate she joined us. Please see page 6 to learn more about Chantelle and what drives her interest in this work.

We are also proud to share that TTVIP has been accepted as one of the newest member programs of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI), a national organization that builds and connects programs like TTVIP and promotes equity for victims of violence. TTVIP has worked with the HAVI since we first launched in 2021, receiving important training and technical assistance in the development and early implementation of the program. We are excited to continue working with the HAVI and fellow member programs to advance community violence intervention efforts locally and nationally.

Lastly, we developed a comprehensive report detailing the progress and reach TTVIP has had since launching in 2021. TTVIP supported more than 360 patients during this reporting period, not only highlighting the prevalence of gun violence in our communities but also the need for programs like ours to support victims and families in the aftermath of these shootings. While the numbers are staggering to consider, our frontline workers' steadfast support and advocacy have significantly changed, and very likely saved, countless lives to date. Their unique skillsets have proven effective in connecting patients and families to services, meeting patient-centered goals, and interrupting the cycle of community violence. Please see page 5 for a summary of outcomes reported.

As we round out our third year of implementation, we celebrate our early accomplishments and look ahead to improving and expanding our services to best meet the needs of our community. We welcome your partnership and collaboration in this endeavor.

In peace & service,

Ashley Hink
Christa Green



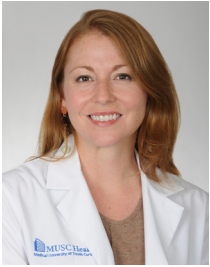
Ashley Hink, M.D., MPH
Medical Director, Turning the Tide
Violence Intervention Program
Department of Surgery
Medical University of South Carolina



Christa Green, MPH
Program Director, Turning the Tide
Violence Intervention Program
Department of Surgery
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MEET THE TEAM

PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Ashley Hink, M.D. MPH is a general, trauma and acute care surgeon and medical director of the Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program. She is a nationally known researcher on injury and violence prevention, and recovery after trauma. She serves on the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma's Injury Prevention and Control Committee, working on research and advocacy efforts that aim to reduce violent injuries and suicides. Her work has been published in scientific journals, and she has won awards for her leadership in surgery and humanism in medicine.

Contact Info: hink@musc.edu



Christa Green, MPH is the program director of the Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the program and leads a team of violence intervention client advocates. Prior to joining the MUSC TTVIP Program, Christa served as the Pediatric Trauma Injury Prevention Coordinator for MUSC Children's Health. She is a published researcher, advocate and organizer for community violence and firearm injury prevention.

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CLIENT ADVOCATES



Chantelle Mitchell is a motivational speaker, youth advocate, and certified life & family coach that is passionate about raising awareness, educating, and helping others heal from trauma. Chantelle started her career in youth violence intervention as a credible messenger in the Charleston community. She is now supporting youth and young adult victims of community violence beginning at the hospital bedside and as they navigate through recovery.

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Keith Smalls works with victims of gun violence from the time they enter the MUSC Health emergency department through the course of their recovery and beyond. A native of North Charleston, Mr. Smalls is the founder and executive director of My Community's Keeper Mentor Group, whose mission is to improve and enhance the quality of life from one community to another through mentorship, life skills training and revitalization projects.

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Cat Yetman, BS is a violence intervention client advocate and research specialist. She has many years of experience working with high-risk youth in the SC Department of Corrections in a youth offender re-entry program. Ms. Yetman also spent many years as a volunteer victim advocate with Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. and worked with unhoused community members at the City of Charleston's Hope Center.

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INJURY PREVENTION COORDINATOR



Adrianna Bellamy, BSPH is the MUSC Health injury prevention coordinator for the adult trauma program and the Trauma Survivors Network (TSN) Coordinator for MUSC. She works closely with the TTVIP team supporting case management, evaluation, and community outreach activities.

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WHO WE ARE

The MUSC Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program is an evidence-based, multi-disciplinary program that supports youth and young adults that are at risk of or experience violent injury with the aims of reducing risk factors for violence, preventing injury and re-injury, and improving patient-centered outcomes.

Core principles to this model include:

- A public health approach to address the social determinants of health and root causes of violence;
- Culturally competent, trauma-informed services to improve trust and communication;
- Community partnerships with community-based organizations and agencies that provide services to comprehensively support patients' needs.

Who do we serve?

MUSC's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program aims to improve the care and recovery of violently injured patients to prevent future violence and improve quality of life. We currently serve patients 12-30 years

old that suffer gunshot injuries from community-based violence, and are treated at MUSC Health Charleston's Adult and Pediatric Trauma Centers.

Full wraparound services are offered to enrolled patients and families. Homicide survivor support services are also available to families and friends that experience the loss of a loved one at MUSC. A key component of this program is the long-term intensive follow-up provided up to a year post-injury.

What are Wraparound Services?

Wraparound services are inclusive of whatever the patient and family need to address unmet needs and risk factors for violent injury, and will promote recovery, reduce repeat violence, and improve their health, social, and economic outcomes.

Services may include mentorship and encouragement, conflict mediation, and connecting patients to social services such as food, housing, education, employment, transportation, healthcare, mental health, substance abuse counseling, victims services, and community support.

IN THE NEWS



- *MUSC Catalyst News, September 2023: [Violence Intervention Program to Expand to Rural Counties](#)*

The Rural Innovations grant allows TTVIP an opportunity to determine whether expanding services to patients in rural communities will be as impactful.



- *Live 5 News, September 2023: [Gun Violence is an Expensive Problem, Costing Taxpayers Thousands Each](#)*

The TTVIP team was interviewed for a news report examining the financial impact of gun violence in South Carolina.

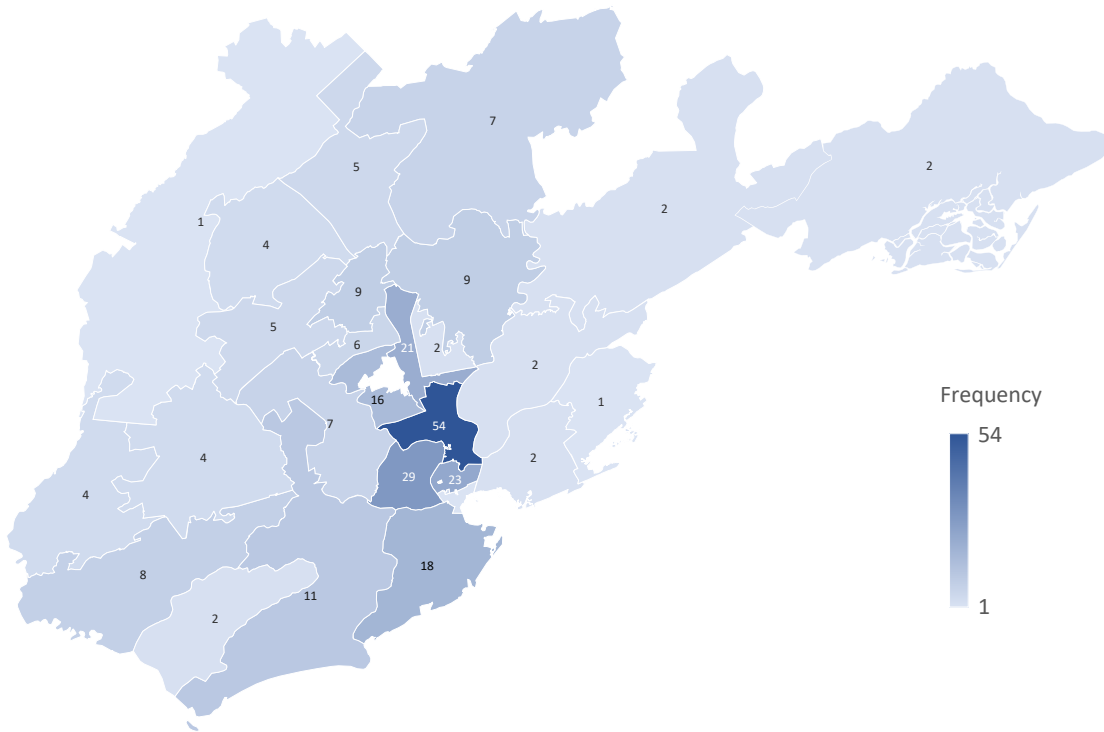


- *NC State, Winter 2024 Issue: [Enough is Enough: Dr. Ashley Hink, '05 takes on Gun Violence in Charleston, SC, by Treating it as a Public Health Crisis](#)*

Dr. Hink was featured as the cover story of NC State University's magazine, highlighting her career accomplishments to date, including founding TTVIP, as an NC State Alumna.

MUSC Health Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program

TRI-COUNTY PATIENTS' RESIDENCE BY ZIP CODE



PATIENT SNAPSHOT

19.9

Average Age in Years

91.4%

Non-Hispanic Black Race

78.9%

Males

60.2%

Medicaid Funded

WRAPAROUND INTERVENTION SERVICES

Most patients were injured by interpersonal gun violence in Charleston and North Charleston communities. Wraparound services holistically address social determinants of health, risk factors for violence, and injury recovery needs.

The most common services provided or referred to by TTVIP's client advocates include:

- Mentorship/peer counseling
- Education attainment
- Transportation assistance
- Emergency financial assistance
- Housing
- Guidance leaving criminal activity/gangs
- Medical follow-up
- Anti-retaliation counseling
- Employment/vocational training
- Family member support

TTVIP's IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

Since launching in 2021, TTVIP has served 363 violently injured patients & families, 128 of whom received modified or long-term wraparound intervention services. Beyond patient care, TTVIP has led 65 educational sessions, attended or hosted 30 community outreach events, and hosted multiple medical students & undergraduate interns for internships and research opportunities.

To learn more, please visit

www.muschealth.org/ttvip



LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE

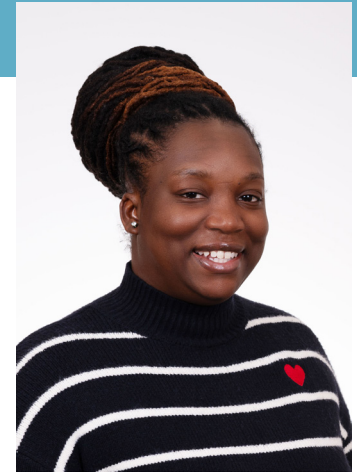
CLIENT ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: CHANTELLE MITCHELL

Chantelle Mitchell joined TTVIP in December 2023 and has been working with high-risk youth in Charleston communities for nearly two years. As a survivor of gun violence by an intimate partner, Chantelle felt that there was more to her than just surviving the incident. It was her passion to help others heal from trauma that pushed her toward the advocacy field.

Although Chantelle admits this work can be overwhelming, she shares how equally rewarding it can be too. Youth who live in impoverished, high crime areas often don't see opportunities for success. Chantelle says, "In order to see a person thrive, we have to see the community thrive, and in order to see the community thrive, we have to make the necessary resources accessible."

Already Chantelle has lost a youth to gun violence. "His loss shook me to my core. I even thought to myself, is this really where I need to be? Am I making a change? What could I do differently?" Instead of beating herself up, Chantelle decided that her presence was needed; if she could save one kid then her work is not in vain.

As a TTVIP client advocate, Chantelle shares her lived experience to build trust and relate to patients. It's her way of bringing the village component back to the community, which she says is needed. "I am part of their village. They do not only need me, but I need them. As I encourage and support them evolving into the best versions of themselves, they help me evolve into a better version of myself as well. We are a team!"



"Consistency is needed to experience positive change. They only need that one person to give them that consistency and they will change"

-Chantelle C. Mitchell

COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT: ADRIANNA BELLAMY

With a background in public health and experience in case management and program coordination, **Adrianna Bellamy** has been a valuable contributor to TTVIP since its launch in 2021. The Injury Prevention Coordinator for MUSC Health – Charleston's level 1 adult trauma center, Adrianna provides Keith, Cat, and Chantelle, significant case management support, a critical component of the client advocates' patient-centered work. Adrianna also collaborates closely with

TTVIP on community outreach events and firearm safety education. When asked about working with Turning the Tide, Adrianna says the team's dedication and commitment inspires her most. "Everyone truly loves what they do and they want the best possible outcomes for the patients we serve." Likewise, the TTVIP team is grateful to Adrianna's close collaboration as she also plays a key role in ensuring our patients' needs are met.





FINDING A HERO AMID THE CHAOS

In the fall of 2022, a mother received a phone call she'd never forget. Her eldest, but still teenage, son was a victim of gun violence. Vanessa's* mind raced as she made her way to the hospital. Was he alive? How bad was he hurt? She didn't know what to expect, all she knew was that her son had been seriously injured and he needed his mother by his side.

Vanessa was born and raised in Charleston. She lived in communities with high rates of violence her whole life and had heard the news or personal stories of senseless gun violence, but never thought she would be personally impacted, least of all through her children.

As Vanessa sat in the hospital room with her son feeling overwhelmed with sadness and questions about his future, she met Cat Yetman, a Client Advocate with MUSC's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program (TTVIP), for the first time. Vanessa did not yet know this was going to be someone she would later describe as her "hero."

Cat and Vanessa's unique relationship helped Vanessa to reflect. "I can say my life was pretty chaotic," Vanessa shared. "I was more depressed and after my son was shot, Cat began working with me and showing me different things." Through motivational interviewing and brief action plans, Cat guided Vanessa to various resources and services that could address some of the factors contributing to the chaos. Vanessa shares that

Cat helped her become a "better mother" to her sons; she realized how much it impacted her children if she was not mentally and emotionally healthy.

"She is sweet, like she is very compassionate."

While her son recovered and with the encouragement of Cat, Vanessa learned how to navigate community resources, overcome obstacles to improve her family's health and safety, and increase her confidence as a mother. The family has now graduated from TTVIP, and while Vanessa is happy with their progress, she does not want to part ways with Cat. "I grew really close to her; she made a change in my life."

Although TTVIP is designed to provide intervention services to violently injured patients, Vanessa's story is an important reminder that our violently injured patients are not the only victims. Parents, siblings, and other loved ones are also traumatically impacted by the shooting and may be experiencing some of the same risk factors for violence victimization. In addition, many social determinants of health are out of an adolescent's control (e.g., income, neighborhood safety, food security). In working directly with the patient's mother who can address these factors, Cat not only reduced the risk of violence exposure for the patient, but for his whole family, too.

**Name has been changed to protect identity.*

Gratitude

Your generous support is changing what's possible.

We'd like to give recognition and thanks to recent contributors to the MUSC TTVIP. Their support will help ongoing efforts for violence intervention and victim support in 2024 and beyond:

- Everytown Community Safety Fund
- SC DHEC, Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Program. This grant supports the ongoing implementation of TTVIP and the provision of its hospital-based violence intervention services to Lowcountry Residents.
- SC Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare. This grant supports victims of violence living in rural communities with less access to services. This is a pilot project aiming to determine the feasibility and efficacy of this approach by expanding our eligibility criteria for wraparound services to beyond the tri-county area.
- Volvo Car USA Operations Grant Fund via Coastal Community Foundation. This grant is supporting the development and maintenance of TTVIP's case management system.
- And, to all of our individual donors for their support which allows TTVIP to care for our patients and families!

Thank you.

Because of you, the tides are turning!

If you'd like to join our efforts and support the TTVIP that is creating positive change in our community, please visit connect2.musc.edu/surgery and select "MUSC Violence Prevention Program."

Learn more about how you can support the Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program by contacting Christa Green, MPH, TTVIP Program Director, at greechri@musc.edu.

Learn more at Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program
muschealth.org/TTVIP

[Join Us! Support the MUSC Health TTVIP Program!](#)