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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on this milestone year, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for what we have accomplished together. This inaugural Impact Report represents not only the measurable outcomes of our collective efforts—it also tells the story of how Delaware has embraced community violence intervention (CVI) as a shared responsibility and a path toward lasting peace and safety.

End Community Violence Now (ECVN) serves as **Delaware's community-based Office of Violence Prevention**, aligning, strategizing, fundraising, grantmaking, advocating, educating, and advancing research and evaluation for the CVI field. In 2025, we made tremendous progress in building both the infrastructure and the relationships that define a healthy and sustainable ecosystem.

2025 was also about **building our own internal infrastructure**, strengthening governance, and continuing to **raise funds not only for ECVN but for the broader ecosystem**. We recognize that this is just the beginning. The progress reflected in these pages represents the foundation of a movement—one that centers people, prioritizes prevention and intervention, and invests in community-led solutions.

To everyone who has contributed to this vision—survivors, our partners, funders, advocates, and community members—thank you for your trust, your courage, and your commitment. Together, we are showing what is possible when Delaware stands united to end community violence now.

With Gratitude and Resolve,

Lauren Footman

Lauren Footman

Executive Director, ECVN Delaware

2025 SNAPSHOT

2025 was a year of growth for ECVN. Here are some of our biggest accomplishments!

Developing our first organizational strategic plan to guide our mission and ensure long-term sustainability.

Completing the first statewide landscape analysis of community violence intervention, helping to map needs, assets, and opportunities for strategic investment.

Amplifying the voices of those directly impacted by violence, ensuring that lived experience remains at the heart of Delaware's CVI movement through media, and programming.

Collaborating closely with survivors, public health officials, law enforcement, and local, state, and federal leaders, advancing coordination and understanding across sectors.

Hosting Delaware's first-ever Community Violence Intervention Summit, in partnership with Delaware State University, bringing together survivors, service providers, advocates, policymakers, researchers, funders, and national experts.

Engaging the business community in new and strategic ways, building bridges between public safety, economic opportunity, and community well-being.

Earning regional and national recognition, garnering media coverage and elevating Delaware as a model and thought leader in the CVI space.

Bringing national thought leaders and partners to Delaware, fostering shared learning and strengthening our collective vision.

Launching an innovative Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) pilot in Laurel, where, as of this publication, the community has celebrated **zero homicides**—a testament to what is possible when public health, public safety, community, and philanthropy strategically align.

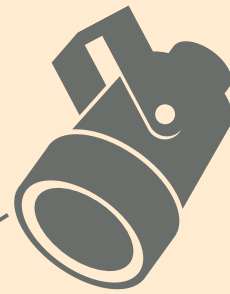
CVI IMPACT & INNOVATION

GRANT PROGRAM LAUNCH

ECVN provided robust technical assistance to ecosystem partners and applicants. Through a pre-application Research & Evaluation Training and 1:1 meetings, we helped applicants brainstorm ideas and develop their applications.

Ultimately, we distributed \$200,000 in grant funds to four organizations. These grantees also received ongoing training and support, including a Community Advocacy Training and Governance 101.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



OPERATION
WEST LAUREL



GROUP VIOLENCE
Intervention
WILMINGTON



ÖUT
LOUD 

CELEBRATING WINS: ZERO HOMICIDES IN LAUREL

Small towns and rural areas often experience high crime rates, yet these areas are overlooked in statewide violence prevention conversations and efforts.

Laurel had a disproportionately high crime rate until a group of residents took charge after three teenagers were fatally shot in a 6-month period in 2023. Laurel residents launched Operation West Laurel (OWL), which has partnered with ECVN to reduce gun violence.

Their efforts have paid off: all violent crime was down in Laurel from 2024 to 2025, including homicides, shootings, and shots fired.

IN 2025, THERE WERE
ZERO
HOMICIDES OR SHOOTINGS
IN LAUREL, DE



"The absence of shootings or homicides in Laurel this year shows what's possible when the community comes together. Faith leaders, social service providers, law enforcement officials, and partners like Operation West Laurel are helping create the conditions for safety, while the Gun Violence Intervention (GVI) model ensures those most at risk receive support and accountability. These results are encouraging, but the rise in assaults reminds us we can't be complacent – we must expand prevention programs, strengthen public awareness, and invest in solutions that stop violence before it starts."

- Lauren Footman

SHAPING THE NARRATIVE

Throughout 2025, ECVN hosted and participated in local and national events to build alignment across organizations working to prevent gun violence and to shape community conversations. This includes several tactics—such as our op-ed and public-private breakfast—designed to educate and engage the business community as strong partners in this work.

JANUARY

Launched ECVN in Sussex County to elevate visibility and catalyze investment in communities below the canal, advancing efforts to interrupt and prevent cycles of violence

MARCH

Hosted a webinar on Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy, Legislation, & Community-Driven Solutions

APRIL

Engaged local and national partners to support professionalization and standardization of ecosystem through a meet-and-greet event

Hosted a hybrid convening in Wilmington, Delaware with Brady: United Against Gun Violence, Everytown for Gun Safety, Giffords, and the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions to enable national partners to learn from Wilmington-based CVI organizations and share opportunities for collaboration and national best practices in policy and research.

MAY

Participated in Governor Meyer's executive order signing establishing the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety

Co-hosted the Annual Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy Day in Dover, convening community leaders, advocates, and policymakers to advance statewide violence prevention priorities

JUNE

Engaged Cities United for the first ever statewide CVI landscape analysis

Lauren co-authored an op-ed in the Delaware Business Times: “A Shared Responsibility – How Business Can Help Strengthen Community Safety in Delaware”

Launched the Wilmington CVI Coalition to coordinate efforts amongst service providers, CVI organizations, state and local elected and appointed officials, and the philanthropic community, in partnership with Wilmington’s Community Public Safety Initiative (CPSI)

JULY

Partnered with Gun Violence Intervention (GVI) and the Department of Justice for the Dover Voices Heard Town Hall Series to amplify local voices and solutions to violence

AUGUST

Launched Sussex County Peace and Prosperity Project alongside Operation West Laurel



The Sussex County Peace and Prosperity Project is designed to build community pride and security by creating safe, cared for, public spaces. ECVN obtained community input and feedback through surveys and focus groups as we launched. So far we’ve hosted two community clean-ups, supported the Laurel Police Department’s Laurel Night Out, and provided three trainings to build capacity for local nonprofits. Next, we’ll build community gardens that provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers and honor young lives lost to gun violence in Laurel

SEPTEMBER

Hosted a Wilmington Public–Private Breakfast featuring the Commercial Club of Chicago, highlighting cross-sector alignment strategies to reduce gun violence and strengthen workforce and economic development

OCTOBER

Partnered with Delaware State University to host the inaugural CVI Summit, highlighting statewide progress and exploring opportunities to leverage regional and national best practices, as well as the latest research and data

DECEMBER

Launched the Dover CVI Coalition, with plans to launch the Sussex CVI Coalition in January 2026

LOOKING AHEAD

2025 was a year of building alignment and laying the foundation for ECVN's sustainability as an organization and for the movement as a whole. In 2026, we are excited to build upon this foundation and operationalize plans made in 2025.

In 2025, we provided technical assistance to the Governor's Office and the newly formed Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety, the Wilmington Mayor's Office & City Council, and the Laurel Mayor's Office and Police Chief. Looking ahead, we will continue to provide technical assistance to other public, private, and government entities. This includes providing ongoing support to our CVI Impact & Innovation Grantees.

We recognize that there are numerous social determinants that drive gun violence. In light of this, ECVN donated resources for 6,000 meals to the food bank of Delaware in 2025, supported outreach efforts for the unhoused and food insecure in Dover, and supported the Seaford Community of Hope Pantry. Looking ahead to 2026, we will translate our engagement with the business sector into strategic partnerships, including a focus on workforce development. ECVN will also convene healthcare systems to facilitate sector learning, building on the momentum of Christiana and Nemours.



Finally, we are eager to continue formalizing and professionalizing Delaware's CVI community. We are working with public health and law-enforcement officials to make existing data as real-time and convenient as possible, contributing to an accessible data infrastructure that enables us to track the efficacy of our local and state-wide efforts. We are also creating a professional development curriculum for the CVI workforce to build their expertise and capacity.

Whether you were a volunteer, donor, advocate, or ally, we are so grateful to bring you on this journey with us, and we cannot wait to see what 2026 holds.

OUR TEAM

LAUREN FOOTMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lauren J. Footman is the inaugural Executive Director of End Community Violence Now, where she spearheads initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence in communities throughout Delaware. With a wealth of experience spanning the corporate, non-profit, higher education, and government sectors, Lauren is a strategic leader renowned for her expertise in organizational development and advocacy. As a thought leader in violence prevention, she is frequently sought after for her insights on engaging diverse communities in policy creation, program development, and research.



DANIELLE FISHER, PROGRAM OFFICER

Danielle manages and supports End Community Violence Now's grantee relationships in Delaware, ensuring that community-based organizations receiving funding are equipped with the technical assistance, resources, and developmental support they need to successfully implement violence reduction initiatives. Prior to End Community Violence Now, Danielle worked as a Senior Consultant at Social Contract, a Delaware-based social impact consulting firm. During her time at Social Contract, Danielle incubated and launched End Community Violence Now, among other projects.



OUR BOARDS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Handy, Chair | Co-Founder, Operation West Laurel

Mike McLively, Treasurer | Policy Director, GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention

Romain Alexander | Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Matthew S. Meyer

Tynetta Brown, Secretary | Interim Executive Operations Director, Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia

Natalie Di Sabatino | Policy and Media Liaison, Delaware Department of Insurance

Chris Grundner | President & CEO, Welfare Foundation

Renata B. Kowalczyk, MBA, MS, Vice Chair | CEO, Wilmington Alliance

Nathaniel McQueen | Cabinet Secretary, Delaware Department of Safety & Homeland Security (Ret.)

Jonathan Starkey | Vice President, Government Relations & Senior Advisor to the University President, Delaware State University

NEW IN 2025: ADVISORY BOARD

ECVN officially launched our Advisory Board, which is tasked with providing the Board of Directors and the organization with recommendations, strategic oversight, and cross-sector alignment to reduce gun violence across Delaware. The Advisory Board ensures that ECVN's work is informed by lived experience, grounded in best practices, and sustained through cross-sector collaboration. The Advisory Board comprises community leaders and survivors, public health professionals, youth and grassroots organizers, law and policy experts, and government representatives.

Dr. Dorothy Dillard | Director, Center for Neighborhood Revitalization and Research, Delaware State University

Beth Kopicki | Founder, Nonviolent Seaford

Cammerin Norwood | Founder, Our R.O.O.T.S. Foundation (Reclaiming Our Own Through Support)

Jalyn Powell, MA | CEO and founder, OUTLOUD LLC

Shania Trammell | Strategic Partnerships Associate, American Oversight

Dr. Alexandra Wynn | Postdoctoral Researcher, Delaware Statewide Health Improvement Plan

OUR COALITION PARTNERS

DOVER

ACLU Delaware
Capital School District
Carry Their Light Project
Delaware Department of Justice
Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Delaware Group Violence Intervention
Delaware Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety
First Step Community Reform
Healthy Communities Delaware
Neighborgood Partners
Next Gen Outcome DE
Our R.O.OT.S Foundation

SUSSEX

Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware
Children and Families First
Delaware Group Violence Intervention
Healthy Communities Delaware
HELP Initiative, Inc.
Nonviolent Seaford
Operation West Laurel
Outloud DE
Regional Foundation
Senator Lisa Blunt Rochester's Office
Thumbprint Strategies

WILMINGTON

Bay Health
Born 4 Brothers
Center for Structural Equity
ChristianaCare
ChristianaCare Empowering Victims of Lived Experience
ChristianaCare Empowering Victims of Lived Experience
Churches Take a Corner
City of Wilmington
City of Wilmington Police Department
Community Public Safety Initiative
Delaware Community Foundation
Delaware Department of Justice
Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth, and their Families - Division of Youth
Rehabilitative Services
Delaware Group Violence Intervention
Dual Generation Center
Jameil Aikeem Congo Cares
Network Connect
Network Delaware
Northeast Community Development Corporation (NECDC)
Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety
Office of the Governor
Positive Thinking Positive Change Inc
Project New Start
Reeds Refuge
Social Contract
The Moms Foundation
Thumbprint Strategies
Wilmington Alliance
Wilmington City Council
Wilmington Public Safety Roundtable

OUR FUNDERS

ECVN is incredibly grateful to the community members, board members, and donors who make our work possible.

In 2025, we applied for \$9,095,000 in grant funding for ECVN and for the ecosystem!

We were grateful to receive philanthropic support from the following generous donors:

- Delaware Department of Natural Resources
- Healthy Communities Delaware
- Jessie Ball DuPont Fund
- Laffey-McHugh Foundation
- Longwood Foundation
- State of Delaware
- Welfare Foundation

CONTACT US



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www.linkedin.com/company/end-community-violence-now

THANK YOU
FOR STANDING AGAINST
COMMUNITY VIOLENCE