



Strides for Peace

207 East Ohio Street, #437
Chicago, IL 60611



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Stonor Saunders, Executive Director
773-326-5368 mary@stridesforpeace.org

Nearly 2,000 to gather for Strides for Peace's 6th Annual Race Against Gun Violence bringing together an unprecedented 70+ non-profit, academic, arts, health care and civic organizations committed to ending gun violence and building a Chicago where all can thrive.

Vic Mensa, Takesha Meshe Kizart-Thomas to perform with Civic Orchestra of Chicago

WHEN: Thursday, June 6th: 10AM Community Organizations set up "graveyard"; 4:00PM Sound Check; 5:00PM Field Opens; 6:15 Mascot Rally; 6:30 PM Tots for Peace Sprint; 6:40 Performances; 7:00PM RACE

WHERE: Arvey Field, 1501 S Lakes Shore Drive, Grant Park, Chicago

WHAT: Scheduled at the start of summer when gun violence escalates, the 6th Annual Race Against Gun Violence, is Chicago's largest athletic event to celebrate hope and support nonprofit organizations working to reduce gun violence in our community. In addition to the USTAF Certified race, RAGV features several components to bring diverse stakeholders together to raise funds for and awareness about what is being done to end gun violence.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- **Notable runners expected to attend:** Senator Durbin, CCSA Kim Foxx, and former Education Secretary Arne Duncan and others, bringing 2 together more than 170 zip codes representing Chicago's wealthiest (36%) and poorest (34%) communities.
- Members of the **Civic Orchestra of Chicago** and **soprano Takesha Meshe Kizart-Thomas** will perform a song composed by student activist **Trevon Bosley** as part of the **CSO's Negaunee Music Institute's collaboration with St. Sabina parent survivor group, Purpose Over Pain. VIC MENSA** to perform a special version of ***We Could Be Free*** with the CCO.
- **Greg Zanis of Crosses for Losses** will install 500 crosses and hearts to represent those killed by gun violence in Chicago during 2018. Representatives of Chicago community organizations will assist installation.
- Proceeds and **100% of fundraising** from the event benefit participating Chicago nonprofit organizations engaged in the life-saving work to end gun violence. Currently, **47 charities**, are participating, representing a wide spectrum of strategies and sizes.
- More than **400 free registrations** for organizations working to stop gun violence
- Chicago White Sox and Southpaw will be leading the Tots for Peace Sprint with the help of the Blackhawk's Tommy and members from the Luvabulls squad.

WHY: Strides for Peace believes all of Chicagoland has a stake in stopping gun violence and that by working together we not only change the narrative of our city — we save lives. The Race Against Gun Violence is the culminating event of months of community outreach and promotes the spirit of collaboration while representing a broad spectrum of sectors and strategies that play a vital role in stopping gun violence. In addition to the nonprofits, Strides for Peace assembled a diverse range of **Civic Partners including the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Wu Tang Foundation, Chicago Police Department, Senator Dick Durbin, Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention, World Business Chicago and SA Kim Foxx** elevate shared goals of ending gun violence. RAGV is truly a special platform for those who want to bring out the best in their city focusing on what is shared in common to build new bridges to peace.

About Strides for Peace: Founded in 2014 by Margaret Baczkowski, Strides for Peace is a registered 501(c)3, with a mission to increase the collective impact of organizations working to end gun violence in Chicago.

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