



## Organization Overview

### Our Organization and Purpose

Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a nonprofit organization led by several family members who lost loved ones at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on December 14, 2012. Our sole purpose is to prevent gun violence so that no other parent experiences the senseless, horrific loss of their child.

### Our Challenge

There are ~500,000 acts of gun violence each year in the US – with no change since 2004.

- ~30,000 adults and children die from homicide, suicide or unintentional death annually
- ~80,000 are wounded and another ~390,000 are traumatized victims involved in a gun-related crime each year
- Each day, 7 children and teens are killed and 9 are injured

SHP conducted extensive research to better understand why there has been no change in the number of gun violence acts despite downward trends in other non-gun related crimes – here are our key findings:

- Americans are not engaged in the issue of gun violence - they feel hopeless and are turned off by gun rhetoric
- Too much focus on “the gun” as *the* cause of gun violence - need to address “the human” holding the gun as well
- Belief that policy is the only solution to gun violence - historically, education and community are drivers to change
- Minimal support for prevention - even though many individuals give off signs before hurting themselves or others
- Schools and youth organizations ... petri dish of future violent / non-violent behavior and actions

### Our Approach

Prevent gun violence *BEFORE* it happens by teaching adults and youth how to recognize the signs and signals of individuals who may be at-risk of hurting themselves or others and intervene to get them help. We ...

- EDUCATE, engage and mobilize youth and adults in gun violence awareness and prevention
- PARTNER with schools and youth organizations to deliver, at no cost, our *Know the Signs* prevention programs
- ADVOCATE for prevention focused mental health and gun safety state and federal policy

### Our Impact in Ohio

- Delivered 350+ no-cost *Know the Signs* programs in partnership with Ohio schools and youth serving organizations.
- Protected, trained and empowered 300,000+ young people in Ohio to *Know the Signs* and prevent violence before it takes place.
- Stopped a school shooting, three suicides and multiple gun threats in schools
- Organized 147 events and round table discussions to build awareness and listen and learn with participation from schools, youth organizations, law enforcement, juvenile courts, foundations, faith organizations, nonprofit and community-based organizations, mental health professionals, and community leaders.
- Organized a “Say Something” Call-to-Action Week in October, 2015 with 40 Ohio schools participating, including 18 personally delivered programs and media coverage across the state.
- Organized a “Start With Hello” Call-to-Action Week in February, 2016 in partnership with 157 schools and youth organizations across Ohio; personally delivered 78 trainings to Ohio schools and youth organizations this week alone.
- Engaged 300+ active Promise Leaders from Ohio who have implemented a Sandy Hook Promise Program or organized an awareness-building event or activity within their organization or local community.

### Contact Information

- Bring Programs to Your School or Youth Organization:
  - Annie Stephens, Ohio Organizer – email at [annie.stephens@sandyhookpromise.org](mailto:annie.stephens@sandyhookpromise.org)
  - Sarah Malich, Program Manager – email at [sarah.malich@sandyhookpromise.org](mailto:sarah.malich@sandyhookpromise.org)



### ***Know the Signs* Prevention Programs**

SHP trains youth and adults, *at no cost*, in four research-based “*Know the Signs*” programs how to identify, intervene and get help for individuals BEFORE they hurt themselves or others. SHP delivers all programs in-person, via our 40 certified Promise Presenters, to schools and youth organizations. Say Something and Start With Hello can also be digitally-downloaded and self-led by youth and/or adults. Visit [sandyhookpromise.org](http://sandyhookpromise.org) for more program details.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Say Something™</u></b></p> <p>Say Something teaches youth how to recognize signs and signals, especially within social media, of an individual who may be a threat to them self or others and Say Something to a trusted adult BEFORE a tragedy takes place.</p> <p>Say Something is an evidence-informed program developed in collaboration with leading violence prevention researchers and educators. Training is delivered in-person or can be digitally downloaded and self-led.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Youth Mental Health First Aid™</u></b></p> <p>Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) teaches adults how to identify, intervene and get help for youth who may be in mental health crisis or displaying at-risk behavior BEFORE they hurt themselves or others.</p> <p>The National Council for Behavioral Health created this evidence-based program. SHP has partnered with them to drive training into schools and community organizations. Training is delivered in-person only.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Start With Hello™</u></b></p> <p>Start With Hello (SWH) teaches youth how to be more inclusive and connected to one another. SWH works to create connectedness and community, by minimizing social isolation, marginalization and rejection, BEFORE an individual chooses to hurt them self or others.</p> <p>SWH is an evidence-informed program developed in collaboration with educators and leading violence prevention researchers. Training is delivered in-person or can be digitally downloaded and self-led.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Safety Assessment &amp; Intervention™</u></b></p> <p>Safety Assessment &amp; Intervention (SAI) teaches adults in schools and youth organizations how to identify, assess and respond to threats of violence or at-risk behavior BEFORE a tragedy takes place. SAI not only addresses the threat itself but also the helps identify and treat the underlying problem in that youth’s life that led to him/her making the threat.</p> <p>SAI was developed by Dr. Dewey Cornell at the University of Virginia and is an evidence-based program. SHP has partnered to help scale and deliver SAI to schools and youth organizations. Training is delivered in-person only.</p>