

Westminster Presbyterian Church and The City of Wilmington present



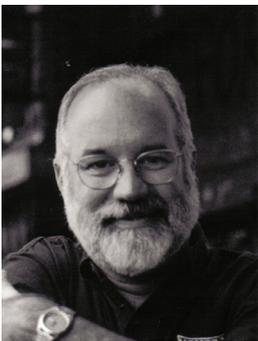
Taking On Violence in Wilmington **Learn How You Can Help**

The time has come to address the violence in our city.

A new perspective sees violence as a public health epidemic that affects everyone's well-being. At this half-day conference, you'll hear about proven remedies for changing a culture of violence by focusing on youth and fostering their positive development. Most importantly, you'll learn how you can help.

OPENING REMARKS

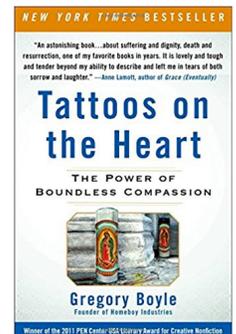
Mike Purzycki, Mayor of the City of Wilmington
Hanifa Shabazz, President, Wilmington City Council



KEYNOTE:

Gregory Boyle
Founder of Homeboy Industries, Los Angeles, CA

Gregory Boyle: This nationally known author and award-winning humanitarian will share stories from his 25+ years of providing positive healing opportunities to youth involved in street violence in Los Angeles. His book, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* has inspired people across the country and changed the lives of countless individuals. Learn more at: www.homeboyindustries.org



EXPO

Many local organizations are working to turn around the culture of violence in our city. At this expo, they will discuss their programs with you, describe their impact, and offer opportunities for you to help.

Technical support courtesy of WHY.

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Taking On Violence in Wilmington

Learn How You Can Help

BACKGROUND

A few years ago, Wilmington was dubbed *Murder Town, USA* by a national news magazine.

This unwelcome title was based on the FBI's rankings of cities by their level of violence, and Wilmington's level was escalating fast. A recent study of Wilmington by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) describes the impact: "this violence results in a substantial degree of fear among city residents, slowing of business growth, straining of city resources, and suffering among victims' families."

We all want it to stop and we shake our heads in frustration as it continues. Many think that this is just the way it is, a new normal, that nothing can be done.

But, actually, something CAN be done. In recent years, many cities across the country, such as Hartford, CT and Portland, ME, have experienced a dramatic reduction in violent crime. There is accumulating data that validates successful programs and points the way to how and where to implement best practices.

We believe that the stars are finally aligned for Wilmington and that significant violence reduction can begin now. Wilmington has new leadership committed to addressing the problem.

National expertise was brought in to work with local residents to study the city, resulting in several new and well-aligned reports and initiatives. For example, the CDC analyzed Wilmington's gun violence from a public health and social services perspective, and a Community Advisory Council was formed to drive their recommendations. The Wilmington Public Safety Strategies Commission gathered national experts to study and recommend improved policing strategies. Additionally, the Wilmington Education Improvement Commission developed a clear path to a better school system for our city youth. These initiatives—among others—will succeed by leveraging a coordinated approach focused on at-risk populations and relying on proven methods.

A small group of citizens was inspired by these changes and by Gregory Boyle's book to explore how WE could help. After months of discussion, the idea for this conference was born.

We are excited to host Gregory Boyle, Delaware leaders, and many of the excellent organizations working for positive change in our city.

Saturday, September 9, 2017, 1 - 4 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church

1502 W. 13th St., Wilmington, DE 19806

Free, but space is limited. Register at

www.taking-on-wilmington-violence.eventbrite.com

or call 302-654-5214, ext. 100.