

Mother Who Lost Son to Violence Reaches Out in Peace

by Maria Cramer

Henrietta Adger did not know if the mother of the young man police say killed her son was in the crowd. But if she suddenly happened to stand in front of her, Adger said she would know exactly what to say: "Happy Mother's Day."

Adger, of Dorchester, Massachusetts, was one of about 300 people who gathered early yesterday morning for the Mother's Walk for Peace. For the past nine years, women who lost their children to violence have participated in the 3.6-mile walk through Dorchester. . . .

"The violence needs to stop," said Adger, whose 17-year-old son, Tacary Jones, was gunned down in March on an MBTA bus. . . .

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The annual walk, hosted by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, is not only a remembrance for the victims, but it is also a call for peace and restraint against avenging those killed, according to organizers.

Clementina Chery cofounded the institute, named after her 15-year-old son who was fatally shot in 1993 in Dorchester on his way to an antigang-violence Christmas party.

Since the walk began nine years ago, 10,000 people have participated. It is not unusual for some of the participants to be mothers whose children committed the violence. Genevor Monell of Dorchester was among them yesterday. Her eldest

son, Ernesto Monell, 27, spent nine years in prison for attempted murder and was put back behind bars last year after police found him in possession of a gun.

A single mother who worked three jobs, Genevor partly blamed herself for the first crime and spent every Christmas and Thanksgiving at the prison. But after her son was arrested again, she decided this time she would visit less often.

"Mothers can only take so much blame," she said. "I still support him, but not like the first time around." Yesterday, after the walk, she interacted easily with the victims' survivors, who praised her strength.

Mothers of victims and perpetrators must unite to set an example of peace for others, said Chery. "We have the power to stop what's going on."

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