



BPEACE for Jorge

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In September 2012, violence struck at the heart of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts when 19-year-old Jorge Fuentes was murdered while walking his dog outside his home in Dorchester. He was an exuberant, remarkable young man and natural leader, adored by the children he mentored at St. Stephen's Church and St. Mary's Church in Boston and respected by his peers. Many in our diocese knew him because he grew up and worked in the B-SAFE summer and B-READY afterschool programs and the Barbara C. Harris Camp of our church.

Bishop's Action Steps toward Peace

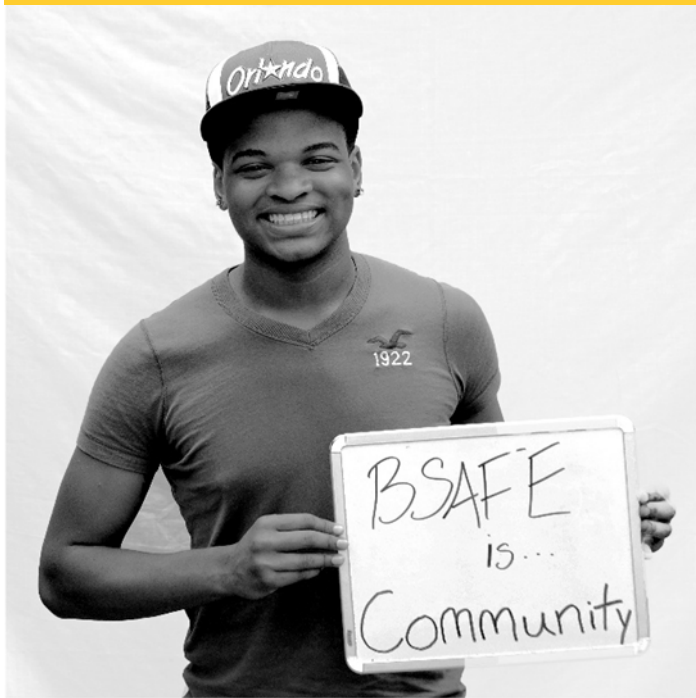
Programs for Youth

Employment for Teens and Young Adults

Academic Excellence in Public Schools

Communities for Families

End to Gun Violence through Gun Reform



After Jorge's murder, then Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE convened a group of clergy and lay leaders to help determine how our diocesan community could take meaningful action toward alleviating some of the root causes of violence across eastern Massachusetts. The 2012 Diocesan Convention formalized that group and its charge by unanimously voting to create the Jorge Fuentes Antiviolence Task Force. Our 2013 Diocesan Convention reaffirmed this commitment and the work continues!

Staff & Key Leaders

Christine Duggan, Lead Organizer

Lexy Raphael, Life Together Fellow & Youth Jobs Organizer

Tania Ortiz, Youth Organizer

Liz Steinhauser, Convener of Jorge Fuentes Antiviolence Task Force

Mirna Ramos, Community Leader

What has B-PEACE already done?

What is B-PEACE working on now?

Educational Opportunities & Liturgy

- Organize 50+ congregations to read The Rich and the Rest of Us
- Host 350+ Episcopalians at Diocesan Resource Day
- Mobilize 900 Episcopalians to march in the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace (2 years)

- Starting a book group discussion on *The New Jim Crow*
- Developing liturgical resources on the root causes of violence
- Organizing an educational event with a speaker for Spring 2015

Family & Youth Engagement

- Conduct a youth & family needs assessment survey (45 responses)
- Resiliency workshop
- Youth-led event: Youth Voice, the Right Choice

- Engaging youth from across the Diocese through events and parish-based organizing
- Facilitating workshops at key congregations utilizing the STAR (Strategies for Trauma Awareness & Resilience) model

Jobs & Workforce Development

- Host Bishop's Business Leaders Breakfast for 70+ people (2 years)
- Create 100 summer jobs for teens in 2013 and 2014
- Lobby to increase state funding

- Creating 100+ new summer jobs for teens in 2015
- Encouraging funding for youth jobs to be included in municipal budgets

School Partnerships

- Launch a new church-school partnership with the Edison K-8 School in Brighton with 55+ volunteers at the Day-of-Action
- Lay foundation for partnership at Boston public high school

- Developing 50+ peer leaders through a youth council
- Helping students be prepared for college and the workforce through advocacy and leadership training

Gun Reform & Public Policy

- Coordinate 100+ Episcopalians to attend and lobby at 5 gun reform hearings across the state
- Recruit members from 63+ congregations to participate in our gun reform efforts

- Celebrating our legislative victory!
- Implementing the new law
- Joining national efforts for stronger federal gun laws
- Building relationships with gun manufacturers to improve practices

Collaborative Partners:

YOUTH JOBS COALITION



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
"CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"



Leadership Development Initiative

