

1 GVP21 Shannon Allen

2 D: Please state your name.

3 S: Shannon Allen.

4 D: Okay. And Shannon, you lost a child to gun violence.

5 S: Yes.

6 D: Tell-tell us about your child.

7 S: DeAndre, he was uh, 27 years old, a father of six, um, very lovin', mama's boy, um, family
8 clown. (laughter) Um, you know, uh, everybody he encountered with, he trusted everybody, he
9 you know, loved on everybody that he came across.

10 D: Wow. So, tell us about the day when you lost your son.

11 S: Um, it was December 26th of 2016. Um, I got the call from the, uh, a cousin, that the
12 detectives had been at my house and they left a card. Um, I was at therapy in New Berlin. Um,
13 our day started um, that mornin', DeAndre got up. He did my home healthcare. And I had to go
14 to um, therapy in New Berlin. And uh, we left the house at 10:36 and DeAndre told me he was
15 goin' over to the barber shop and his friend, Bookie, was gonna pick him up. Um, on Mondays,
16 his uh, timesheets had to be turned in. And so, he said, "Mom, you go to your appointment. After
17 your appointment, you call me and we'll meet up so you can sign my timesheets." So, at 1:25
18 that afternoon, I contacted DeAndre to let him know that my therapy time had been pushed back
19 and so he, bein', still bein' him, this was at 1:25, jolly, funny, jokin' um, "Okay, my beautiful
20 queen," he said, "when you finish your appointment, just contact me and," you know, "we can
21 sign the time sheet." And so, um, that was at 1:25. So, when I got the call at therapy that the
22 detectives had been to my house and they left a card for me to contact. After I got out of therapy,
23 which was after 5:00, um, I contacted them. And um, they wanted me to come down to the

24 municipal court building. And they were (inaudible) inquiren' about my son, DeAndre Allen.

25 Um, the picture that they showed me of this DeAndre Allen, that wasn't my son. So, it's a young
26 man with the same name, same birthday, but that wasn't my son.

27 D: And you were relieved!

28 S: And so, I was relieved at that moment. Um, so when he went and got his colleague, they came
29 back and they was like, "You sure this not your son?" I'm like, "No, this is not my son." So, to
30 make that long story short, the next individual that they wanted to show me was the person that
31 was, had been murdered, so when um, um, they had, they was aware of my heart condition and
32 my health. So, they had my daughter and my fiancé identify this other DeAndre Allen and it
33 came out to be my son DeAndre, um, that had been murdered. Um, he was pronounced dead at
34 1:44. Mind you, I had just talked to him at 1:25. So, less, within twenty minutes or so of me
35 talkin' to him, my son was murdered. Um, we haven't gotten to the whole motive of what it is,
36 but we do know the friend that he was with plays a part um, he pretty much set him up, but he
37 wasn't the shooter. Um, it was two shooters. Um, my son, at that time, they told me he was shot
38 seven times. But once I got the full autopsy, he was shot eleven times. Three shots to the head,
39 once in the neck, um, then multiple shots over his body. Um, the shots to the head and the neck
40 were the ones that, you know, died, he died within seconds of him bein' shot. Um, it's still an
41 ongoing investigation. Um, right now we don't have the complete answers um, as to you know,
42 what and why. Um, the only thing that the detectives had told me was that um, they know the
43 friend set him up, um, they definitely know DeAndre wasn't killed for nothin' that he did. It was
44 what he knew. So, basically, he was killed for somethin' that he knew. Um, what, what that is—
45 D: We don't know.

46 S: —is still ongoing. And I'm just trying to find out and you know, seek him justice. And, you
47 know, wish I could get some closure.

48 D: You will. I know you will. Um, when you think of DeAndre, did I say his name correctly?

49 S: Yes, ma'am.

50 D: When you think of DeAndre tell me one of um, your uh, most uh, precious moments. Or what
51 comes to your head of a really good time?

52 S: Um, DeAndre was my child that um, I always looked forward to seein' him comin'. Um, he
53 was, like I said, he was the life and the fun of the family. Um, you know, he was my child. If me
54 and him had a disagreement, um, before that day ended DeAndre was gonna come in, or even
55 call and apologize and you know, he gonna talk it out and see, you know, where we different in
56 our situation. Um, DeAndre was my child, he brought everybody home. You know, sometimes I
57 find myself, "DeAndre, don't bring everybody home with you." (laughter) You know, "Don't
58 cater to all these different people. Who are these people you mix and mingle with?" And he used
59 to always say, "Mama, don't be like that. You know you always told us you know, to love on
60 people. Don't be like that Mama, these my friends." You know, everybody was his friend, so,
61 um, even at his service um, to hear so many older people get up and say so much nice and lovin'
62 things about my son, that really, you know, made me feel like, you know, he wasn't out here
63 doin'-he would always tell me, "Mama, I'm out there rappin'. You know I be out there, I just be
64 chillin'. Mama, I don't be on that." And you know, I used to tell him, "Boy, you ain't finna rap.
65 You can't rap, you can't do..." And he would always assure me, "Yeah Mama, one day, I'm-
66 I'ma, I'ma buy you that house. I'ma, you know, you gonna be alright, Mama. I'ma make sure
67 you alright, Mama." And I never knew that the death of my son, you know, would, would come
68 ahead. Like, I always would say my kids was gonna bury me. I never once seen this comin'. Um,

69 you know, he wasn't a child that was in and out of jail or you know, police callin'. So, when the
70 police and the detectives came, we all got all paranoid and got scared, 'cause you know, we, I
71 didn't experience that. He finished school. My only problem with that young man was, he was a
72 ladies' man. (laughter) He, that, that young man loved these women. And, you know, at his age,
73 he was twenty-seven with six children, but I made sure he was active in their life. You know, he
74 used to complain about you know, his new job taked child support and then took more, so, yes, I
75 still gave him a allowance. You know, because I seen him tryin' you know, and you know, it's
76 hard for a young man out here. So, you know, I did, you know, pick up the slack, you know, for
77 him. And you know, to try to let him see, you know, you made these children, you gotta do for
78 these children, but you know, I'ma have your back because I see you doin' this. So, that, with
79 DeAndre, he you know, he was a lovin' person that smiled like, I miss my child smile. You
80 know, his talks. Um, just cryin' with me, just laughin' with me, just watchin' TV with me. Um,
81 twenty-seven years old, he used to always come and get at the bottom of my bed and, you know,
82 I had to tell him, "Boy, get out of here! You too old to be still bein' in my bed." Like, that, he
83 was, he was my oldest son, but he was my son that still, like as they say, held my skirt tail. You
84 know, he wouldn't leave home. I put that young man out my house, he'd put his clothes in the
85 basement. (laughter) I'd say, "Give me my keys to my house." He done went and bought him
86 and got him some more keys made to the house. (laughter) Like, he would not leave home. And,
87 you know, when they did this day, they damaged, you know, me. You know, um, I live on
88 memories now. You know and I try to go, I do, I'm not gonna say try, but I do go on every day
89 of the, the good memories. But, there's always a tear. And those tears, you know, that he used to
90 wipe away, he can't do that no more. Because he's not here. And you know, I try to just go on
91 and I do go on every day, I'm sorry, I keep sayin' try, but I do go on every day. You know, with

92 my everyday life, because I know if he was here, what he would want, you know? Me smilin'
93 and you know, laughin' and, you know, "Mama, don't worry about that medicine, you gonna be
94 alright. Don't worry about your heart, you gonna be alright." So, he was that more comforter and
95 you know, that encourager, you know, he wasn't just my son. He was my friend. You know, he
96 wasn't you know, just my son, but you know, he didn't just show love as a son, he l-showed love
97 as a human being and adult and he understood a lot of things that my other two children didn't
98 understand. So, you know, me and him, we had a, a bond. You know, and now it's like, you
99 know, they say your right-hand man, they took my right-hand man from me. They took my right
100 hand.

101 D: What would you say to a parent who recently lost his or her child?

102 S: You're gonna, you're not gonna never get over it. But in time, you will get through it. Um,
103 hold onto the, the good memories that you have with your child. Um, if you have other children,
104 um, embrace them. Um, talk with them. Um, let them know that, you know, it's not just about
105 the child that you lost. You know? Be um, still be the parent that you know, you was for that
106 child, with those children. Um, pray. Pray. Pray. Give it to God. Um, let God be your head. Um,
107 I know they say we don't question God, but if you can't question God, who do you question?
108 Um, every day, think of some of the, the good things. Think of happy things. Um, get in some
109 grieving counselling. Um, surround yourself with women that are goin' through what you're
110 goin' through. Because not always everybody uh, understands what you're goin' through at that
111 point. So, to get into some grievin' support and you know, to talk with other mothers that are
112 goin' through what you're going through. You find a connection. You find a bond. You find a, a
113 love. You can find a peace. You know, we all cry and we got somethin' to cry about and we all
114 can cry together. And we can strengthen one another, um, with what we're goin' through. Um,

115 just you know, one day at a time. Just take it one day at a time. Because it's not a easy journey.
116 This is a, a journey that none of us asked to be on. So, when we go on this journey, we wanna
117 have our whole armor of God on. And just take it day by day, day by day. And you're gonna get
118 through.
119 D: Thank you!
120 S: Thank you.
121 D: That was wonderful.
122 S: Thank—