

A Beacon of Hope: Maryland's Role in Transforming Violence Prevention Across the Nation

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND, USA, February 27, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In the heart of Maryland, Howard County emerges not just as a mere geographical location but as a crucible of innovation and hope in the battle against a national crisis— gun violence. It's here, in this unassuming part of the state, that a remarkable venture unfolds, spearheaded by two Maryland-based powerhouses: [Social Capital Builders](#) and the [Academy for Transformational Change](#). Together, these organizations are at the forefront of a pivotal shift in violence prevention strategies across the United States, leveraging a wealth of experience and a groundbreaking approach that could very well change the tide in this urgent fight.



From February 28th to March 1st, a transformative event is set to take place—a 3-day Transformation Academy aimed at equipping frontline violence prevention workers and their managers with innovative tools and strategies. This initiative is a direct response to the

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The suffering that is not transformed is transmitted.

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Edward DeJesus

staggering crisis of violence and gun violence that plagues America. Consider the statistics: almost 5,000 people have died in U.S. gun violence so far in 2024, underscoring the dire need for effective solutions.

The masterminds behind this movement, Edward DeJesus of Social Capital Builders and Charles Dotson of the

Academy for Transformational Change, bring to the table a combined 70 years of invaluable

experience working with some of the most challenging populations—in the streets and behind bars. Their mission is to harness this experience to mitigate violence in cities nationwide, including Baltimore, Washington D.C., Syracuse, Muncie (Indiana), Seattle, and beyond.

At the heart of their success is a concept often overlooked yet crucial—social capital. This strategy focuses on the power of relationships and networks, acknowledging that conventional violence intervention strategies fall short by failing to recognize the importance of social capital. Edward DeJesus passionately advocates for community-wide recognition and investment in building social capital, emphasizing that it's a collective effort no one can afford to overlook.

Charles Dotson sheds light on another critical aspect: the majority of frontline workers have firsthand experience with incarceration, lending them unparalleled credibility within the communities they serve. However, this credibility is often accompanied by a significant gap—a lack of necessary social connections. The programs offered aim to bridge this gap, empowering these workers with the tools and social capital needed to effect real change.

The story unfolding in Howard County's [Maryland Innovation Center](#) is more than just a local initiative; it's a beacon of hope for the nation. This partnership between Social Capital Builders and the Academy for Transformational Change is not only about safeguarding communities and reducing violence; it's about fostering economic growth and preserving the social fabric of communities across Maryland and the United States.

As we spotlight this gem of talent and dedication in our own backyard, we're reminded of the power of community, the importance of social capital, and the potential for transformational change. Howard County may be just one part of Maryland, but its impact on violence prevention could resonate across the nation, making us all proud of what's possible when expertise, compassion, and innovation come together for the greater good.

Edward DeJesus

Social Capital Builders - DeJesus Solutions

+1 2027138393

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