

Episode 146-- On Survivors Surviving

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SPEAKERS

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines, Malisa Godwin, Brenda Joiner-Haymon, JJ Janflone, Kelly Sampson



JJ Janflone 00:08

This is the legal disclaimer where I tell you that the views thoughts and opinions shared in this podcast belong solely to our guests and hosts, and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. Please note, this podcast contains discussions of violence that some people may find disturbing. It's okay. We find it disturbing too. Hey everybody! Welcome back to another episode of Red, Blue and Brady, I'm one of your hosts JJ,



Kelly Sampson 00:41

and I'm your other host, Kelly.



JJ Janflone 00:43

And I've got to say, Kelly this week, I'm sort of basking, like-marinating, swimming like I you know, the words in my brain in the greatness of our co workers. I'm enjoying it.



Kelly Sampson 00:54

Yes, same here. I mean, really, honestly, it's overwhelming on many levels, the number of survivors that we have here at Brady, who continue to work so so hard to end gun violence in the US and to stop other families from having to go through the exact horror

that they've experienced.



JJ Janflone 01:12

Yes, people like Brady's very own Brenda Haymond and her sisters, Tanya Baines, and Malisa Godwin. All of these great women joined us today to talk about the murder of their father, Robert Godwin senior, which was horrifically live streamed on Facebook on Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter in 2017.



Kelly Sampson 01:35

And together we talk about Roberts life and legacy which is quite considerable, and what it's been like for Roberts family to try and survive after such a tragedy. Something that far too many families in our country have to face.



JJ Janflone 01:48

And on that horrible note, I do want to give sort of an additional trigger warning to our listeners. Sadly, the video of the shooting does exist on the internet. So please be very careful if like a lot of you do you go to do a little bit of research after this episode. You know, be careful with your with your googling and whatnot. So ladies, if you could please introduce yourselves. And now since we've got three sisters on I am going to say eldest gets the privilege of going first.



Malisa Godwin 02:18

So the oldest would be me. I'm Malisa Godwin and I am the third oldest out of the six of us.



JJ Janflone 02:28

And do you prefer Malisa or Lisa?



Malisa Godwin 02:30

Lisa is fine.



JJ Janflone 02:31

Thank you. All right, who's next on the on the block?



Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 02:35

I am Tanya R. Godwin-Baines, and I'm next to the baby. And I like to say that I am married with three children. And I'm a registered nurse by trade.



JJ Janflone 02:46

And then I suppose Brenda, your neck



Brenda Joiner-Haymon 02:48

I am Brenda Godwin Joiner-Haymon, I got a lot of last names around here. And as you guys know, I am the Director of Human Resources with Brady united against gun violence, and very excited to be here with you guys.



JJ Janflone 03:03

And if we're allowed to brag in front of your sister's Brenda is beloved. I work with her all the time. Brenda saves my life.



Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 03:12

It sounds like Brenda the lifesaver in our family.



Brenda Joiner-Haymon 03:21

I've worked closely with both JJ and Kelly. So, you know,



Kelly Sampson 03:25

You really are amazing. I don't look at it that I just looked at it as Hey, I'm just doing what I'm supposed to do.



JJ Janflone 03:32

And I think we'd all love it if you could tell us a little bit about your dad, Robert.

M

Malisa Godwin 03:37

My dad, Robert Godwin Sr. was just an awesome father, hard working, loving grandfather. You could talk to him about anything. He had a very tender heart, very kind, kind of reserved, but he taught us to become the people that we are today to be hard working to be respectful. He introduced us to God of course, which is the most important thing that you can give to your child, it's God. He took us to church, it wasn't an option. And that has a lot to do with all of the great adults we have become today.

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 04:20

He was a little bit of an athlete and a whole lot of funny I mean to hear my dad's laugh was just so infectious. I mean like to hear him laugh about like Fred Sanford cuz that was like his favorite sitcom. Sanford and Son that was his absolute favorite and then I'm not gonna leave out like Andy Griffith. He loved him some Andy Griffith and back in this age, Wild Wild West. We had to watch that after church every Sunday. That was what you know that I remember him watching all the time. And I'll let Tanya speak to his beautiful voice because she and Lisa can sing I can just you know, hum a little bit.

T

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 04:58

To add to that, I would like to also say that he was a collector. I'll put that on his resume. He collected everything. Nothing was junk to him. As a matter of fact, the day he was murdered. He was collecting cans. He was a fisherman. And not just fish, natural fish, but he was a fisherman of man. So he loved to fish, he found it very peaceful. He rode on this boat with his friends, he will leave in the wee hours of the morning and come back. And we thought he was missing and he would be like I'm on my way to be 113, don't worry about it. So fishing too

M

Malisa Godwin 05:33

The thing that I remember the most when I called my father, every single time he got off that phone. He's just would say "I love you, honey." He called all of us that "honey." So he was just, we call him a lawyer. He was a little messy sometimes.



JJ Janflone 05:55

And this is the part that we always hate to transition into and to have to ask, but can you tell us and our listeners about what happened on April 16 of 2017?

M

Malisa Godwin 06:08

I can start out because I was the second one at the murder scene. And it was Easter Sunday. We usually always give a very big Easter celebration every year for Easter. And I was actually standing outside at Brenda's watching over the salmon that we were cooking for our parents to come over for dinner. And that's when the call came in from our mom, Dorothy Johnson, she said that someone had hurt Dad. And I in turn, I believe Brenda correct me if I'm wrong, I came to the door and got you, to let you know that something had happened to daddy. And then we began to call each other because we wasn't sure of the location at the time. And then when I found out where he was when I got there, Robert Godwin Jr, which is our brother, my sister in law, his wife, Cecilia, me and my daughters, Ashley and Asia, and my sister, Debbie Godwin was at the murder scene. At that time, I was not aware that my father was not alive. I was trying to get to through the tape of you know, you always have that caution tape there. And me being a 911 operator for so many years. I knew what that tape meant. But I guess I was in such shock. I just didn't want to accept that something had happened to him. And then I watched homicide, walk toward me and my brother, and he gave me his driver's license. And he said, "is this your father?" And I said, "Yes, that's my dad." And at that point, I became very distraught, screaming to no end to the point that my daughter's had to pick me up and take me and put me in the car. And shortly after that, I watched a huge fire truck pull up. And that's when they opened up the homicide scene to let him through and I watched them wash my father's blood from the street. That's when I realized that my dad had already been moved. And he was gone. That's when the reality kicked in. And that's when news people started to surround me and my brother and talk to the lady who made the 911 call of which I had an opportunity because I kept going to the murder scene because I wanted to know what happened to him. How did this happen? I knew he was picking up cans, but I didn't know how he encountered this monster (is what I call them, excuse me). And she was telling me how she saw Dad, and she positioned her body in the position and showed me exactly the way that he was laying and that she physically saw, she called 911 she got so distraught because come to find out her son had got murdered eight days prior. The same way my father was so her son took over the call. And that's when the news begins to surround us and start to ask us all of the questions.

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 09:56

Lisa like I said, we were all Lisa myself, her daughter, my husband we were all at my house waiting for my Dad, and them to come for dinner, and they left and went down there, me

and my husband, we went to pick my mom up. And my daughter drove to the street. And by the time we get to the street, I could see the ambulance and police cars and you know, congregating and down the street and I just literally had such a panic attack, I started screaming in the car. And asked my husband, to just turned around, I couldn't go down there. So...

K

Kelly Sampson 10:30

Unimaginably traumatic and painful. I've been really, I can say, other than thank you for sharing that. And one of the things that happened for you all that made a bad situation even worse is that there was streaming by the shooter that he put up on Facebook, and it remained up there for several hours of your father being killed. And so it went, quote, unquote, "viral." And I was wondering if you could talk a little bit about what that experience is like, because unfortunately, it's something that we see happen these days with cell phones, things like that.

T

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 11:08

I'll just would like to say that speak to that part of it. I found out I was in a different location that day, it was April 16 2017. And it was my husband's birthday. We were in a restaurant, and Lisa daughter called me. And she was screaming and saying, Daddy is dead and I'm like, not comprehending and I'm like, calm down. Ashley, you know, what are you talking about? Who are you speaking of? And she just kept screaming and screaming and screaming. She said, No, your daddy, someone killed your daddy, and it's on Facebook. I ran out of the restaurant. I pulled up Facebook, and to be as not as graphic because it was very graphic. I literally like Lisa said, the lady described to her, You know, how he was positioned, I saw the whole I watched the entire thing. And I tried to jump out on my interstate after I saw it. I watched him shoot him I seen my dad's brains go out. I've seen them rejected in the air and land on his right side. I was devastated. So I remember saying if I'm allowed to swear, he killed my fucking father. That's what I said. And at that point, I checked out, like, literally, I could not literally believe it. So yeah. So I seen the video, Lisa and my brother seen the video. So it was kinda that was the rough one. I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. It was like my father was very small statute. So to be shot that way. And it was like he was like a rag doll. And I could just go to sleep every night now seeing the fear in his eyes, because he knew there was nothing that he could do. He was a small man, but very strong. Would you all agree? He could do anything he was strong, he can lift, he could run. But at that moment, it was like, frozen in time, and I could see his eyes. -inaudible- Even in that he maybe thought that could protect them, but it didn't. So that was my experience, the Facebook video.

M

Malisa Godwin 13:39

My experience of a Facebook video was, as my sister, Tanya was saying, the fear. And his voice is something that is actually in my head on a constant basis. Because that you could hear him, you know, he was very knowledgeable of what was getting ready to happen to him. And he knew it was nothing he could do about it. He begged him and for him to just do them and he had no idea why he was being murdered. And that's the most hurtful thing in the world. But somebody walk up to you and kill you and you don't even know why you're being killed. He didn't do anything. They didn't do nothing. He was just doing what he normally do as Tanya said, he was a collector.

K

Kelly Sampson 14:34

I don't I mean, nothing I can say will help but I just hope you guys went through something that no one deserves and so did your father and I'm just so sorry for your loss. Honestly.

M

Malisa Godwin 14:45

Thank you. The video. Just even thinking of the person that my father is and how private he was and reserved. There was a such way of wanting to be murdered a way. No one deserved that. No one would have wanted that. And you're right, the media was so rude. In fact, people were even sending it to our inboxes saying, look at this old man getting killed. And I remember saying, "this old man is my, you know, Father, you know, don't." And it was shared by the time it was taken down. Like 70 million times. So it was, it was unbelievable the amount of shares. But the fact that you couldn't put two and two together Godwin and Godwin and send it to my inbox, and it was just, it was unbelievable.

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 15:38

Then friends start calling because they saw it. And everybody knew my dad. And then of course, everybody just started pouring into our houses because everyone from you know, people, we grew up with as children, like knew our father and just knew how loving he was. And it just tore, I mean, to know my dad was to love my dad, and any anybody his, you know, his friends.

K

Kelly Sampson 16:01

But I think even in talking to you all today, I mean, one of the things we always say, we'll characterize what you experience as being survivors of gun violence. And I think this is why, because it's, it was almost your story is really showing, I think, why it's not just the

person who was hurt, or the person who was killed, it's destroying entire families and memories and everything. So

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 16:27

and I know, we oftentimes say survivors, I think we are surviving. I don't know that, you know, I know, that bothers in our, you know, and everybody our survivors are surviving as well. But, you know, I've had conversations with them as well, you know, Christian and Liz, and they just don't imagine that you ever get over it. I just don't, you know, like, it hurts like hell today, like it did in 2017. I don't know if it ever goes away, I really don't. We learn to deal with a gaping hole that we have in us, you kind of learn to roll around with this hole. But sometimes you just kind of fall into it. Like you know, when we have to talk about it, which we're okay with, we want our Dad to remember we do not want anyone else to go through what we're going through. And when I say going, I mean it's continuous as you guys can see what we experienced and just by talking to you guys is a continued thing. But it's just not it's it's you know, something's got to give a really tough something has got to give in this country. It's just too much gun violence. It really does.



JJ Janflone 17:40

And to what what I'm sure was terrifying for all of you is that you have to wait two days for the shooter to be found. All of Ohio goes on lockdown. And so I'm wondering what that experience was like too for all of you like just this retraumatization especially with all of this media attention that's descended on your family?

M

Malisa Godwin 18:01

Oh, it was terrifying. Because I mean, at that time, we didn't know him. We didn't know what he knew about us. We didn't know what he knew about our family. It was just like, you know, I didn't want to stand in my front yard. People were all you know, at all at our houses, and I didn't even you know, and I was just like, different family like my daughter or I'm one of the younger, you know, nieces and nephews. I was like get in the house. I mean, we were terrified. Because I'm like did this guy really know my dad from somewhere? We didn't know. Well, I actually was looking up some things. When I found out it was on Facebook. I actually saw the video that he posted where he had purchased two handguns, actually probably the one that he killed our father with because one of them was the same Magnum that the police said and he actually held it in his hand. So he actually videoed him purchasing those guns also.

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 19:05

Like I said, we would just pair we were terrified. I mean, we were just scared for the entire time until you know until you know, someone can share how he was taught. I remember going to work in the call from work and one of the ladies from my job told me she said one of I was working at a rehab facility and there was like sometimes older people there and she said that she said I said the old one of the ladies the resident said I tell you how he going to get caught he got he's a big guy because they had by that time had his picture all over and she says he's going to get hungry he gonna he gonna pull up at a McDonald's or Burger King. And one of you, I never told you guys that? Yeah, this old lady she like prophesied that and sure enough, I don't know if tanya you want to tell the story of how they physically caught him? I don't know if you guys got that information, Kelly but

T

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 19:59

Oh, like she said It was a big guy, he got hungry. He pulled up to a McDonald's. And then by that time, there was warrent money, a man hunt, And one of the workers to (which I wanna meet her it was) And I want to make sure they got the reward money because they call the police.

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 20:21

They recognized him. And he, I think he ordered like a 20 count, nugget and some fries. And they said, what they didn't have any fries. And they said to him, did he mind waiting on the fries. And you know, at McDonald's they make you pull to the side. And he pulled, I don't know if he pulled to the side, but they told him, they pretended like they didn't have them, they knew they had him at that time they knew, she called her manager and she said isn't that the guy that they're looking for? He was in Erie, Pennsylvania at that time. The manager and her, confirm that was him, they called the Erie police department and, you know, police 911 and told them, you know, so they had him hold in there. I mean, that was really risky for them, because at that time, he still had the same gun on him that he had killed my dad with. He still was riding around with this loaded gun. So he could have caused harm to them. I mean, you open a McDonald's window, anything can happen to you. So they really, you know, to me risked their lives, you know, to get make sure this guy was caught and not terrorizing the state of Ohio or Pennsylvania at that time, or anymore. So, you know, the police Actually, I guess, descended on them. And I must maybe he's heard them saw them or something that he ran and, you know, fled in the car. And as he was driving, I guess they caught you know, corner them off. And before they can get up on the car, he you know, blew his brains out. So he was still armed. But he shot itself and killed himself in Erie.

K

Kelly Sampson 21:42

The story about the staff at McDonald's, kind of identifying him taking the risk thinking on the spot, and then calling the police is really remarkable. I just like that, it kind of reminds me Brenda know this, but we work a lot with Fred Gutenberg, whose daughter was killed in the Parkland shooting. And one of the things he talks about is finding the helpers and how each of us can kind of make a difference in the ways that we can and that story reminds me of, of that of just like you said, those people risked their lives, and kind of on the subject of being a writer. Tanya, you are a writer, and you wrote a book from grief to grace. And in it, one of the things that you talked about his feeling like you forgave too soon. And I was wondering if you could share a little bit about what you meant by that. And how you've kind of gotten from grief to grace now.

T

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 22:39

I forgave too soon because of my spiritual background, my upbringing, it was like lights, cameras, action, and all eyes on us were the Godwin's, we have a name, a very respected family. So that's what we were trying to do. That's what we supposed to do. Our mother for everything people did, you know, for lack of better terms, they shit on us, "oh, forgive them, do this, forgive them" so that was embedded in us to do that. But when I sat back, and I thought about it, no, too soon, too much too soon, I wanted to spit on his grave, I was mortified even at myself, you know, for even forgiving him. You know, it was just too soon. It was just how we were taught. And so then after the lights and the cameras and the action went off, you know, I went into a dark, deep, angry, mad place. And I was angry with myself. So I would tell people, you're not obligated to do that. You're not. In grief I've learned like in counseling, like my husband has learned how to deal with me with grief and my children. And it goes back to the Scripture, you know, and First Corinthians 13, "to everything, there's a season there's a time to embrace and the time to refrain from embracing." So sometimes a grieving person don't want you to hug them. They don't want tissue because it's an indication you're telling them Okay, you've cried enough. Be quiet. I learned this through counseling. So sometimes my husband just let my face get totally I'm snot nose is running down like you know, Roscoe (they know that that means.) Sometimes, but when I'm done with that cry, I'm better. If that makes sense. Sometimes I don't he know when to do this. And he know when to do this. Oh, yeah. That was too soon. But Brenda never forgave. And that's what I wanted to say.

K

Kelly Sampson 24:59

Thank you Tanya, you know, for talking about supporting people that are grieving, which I think is really important. But also you know how to have grace for yourself. You are, you're preaching. So thank you.



JJ Janflone 25:14

You know, and Lisa, too, I'm just thinking, you know, what is this trauma like for you as well, because, you know, you're a first responder, right, you're your a 911 operator. So you're used to being, you know, I want to say, like the helper in this situation, and now you've sort of been forced into into the role of the victim here...



Malisa Godwin 25:31

It was very hard, because I'm used to sending someone to help someone in a trauma as opposed to the trauma actually being our family. I played it back over and over and over and over again, because I could not believe that it actually happened to our family. I hear it. I heard it for years working for East Cleveland police. And working for Cleveland State University campus was two different forms of police dispatch, but it was all the same when it came to our trauma. And you hear the screams and you take the job home, because it was difficult. I actually had a heart attack leaving my job one day due to the trauma of someone else. So when the trauma became mine, it started to affect my health, because the trauma was me. At that point, it was our family. So I'm like, what in the world am I going to do, and I'm gonna lose my mind, if I don't do something about this. So I walked in Victims of Crime through the Cleveland homicide division. And I told them, I said, I think I'm losing my mind. And I came through the door crying, and I stayed there for five hours, six hours a day, the lady would close the place out with me, because I didn't know what I was gonna do. And then she found out that I had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I would put my car in Drive. I was very paranoid. If anyone came near my car, I would roll up my windows, check my locks, I just was just paranoid. I didn't want anybody near me. And then they referred me over to cornerstone of hope. And I was in counseling for 14 and a half months, before I could even function on a job as a normal person. And my boss had to come to me and say, Melissa, I think you need to go get you some help. Because I was just I was there, but I wasn't there. So being the trauma, it hurt much more. But let me understand what others was going through. I heard of gunshot victims for years, listening to the families, looking at the homicide videos, looking at the homicide pictures, looking at the officers doing the reports, but when it became me, I had no idea how to handle it at all. And I had did it for years.



JJ Janflone 28:13

It just it seems we've really got to focus on this whole like grieving is a process. And just because something is a process doesn't mean it has like a definitive end, right.

M

Malisa Godwin 28:22

I just feel like I tell people a lot now that I'm overall in a serious, we lost about 24 people in six years. Last our sister, this year, January 16. Although it wasn't a murder. It was a bad deal. So we're like Brenda says surviving and I really liked that. That's a twist. Really, grab that and go with that. Because it's not day by day. It's moment by moment. I'm smiling now, but I may be cursing and mad and a second. So it's kind of like a bipolar grief deal, I don't know. But we were surviving. And some days barely. Sometimes I can't get out of the bed. I don't want to get out of the bed. I'm an early riser. I don't like people that sleep a lot. So if you call me and I'm in the bed at nine o'clock, I'm breathing.

B

Brenda Joiner-Haymon 29:24

So true.

M

Malisa Godwin 29:26

It's rough. It's really rough. And I'm just want to speak to also the people that says I know how you feel. They wouldn't want you to cry. I put that in my book. What are we supposed to do laugh? What do they want us to do have a party? I know what you're going through? Really your father got his brains blown out? I mean, it's just like, if I could teach people the best thing for a grieving person, especially to what to speak to what we went through, silence. Yeah. Just listen, Listen and pray. That's it. Yeah,



JJ Janflone 30:04

That was actually the part of your book that I found the most helpful to read, because I think and we're just, we're just citing Brady people, right and left, but Dr. Ted Bonar, who has been on the podcast a lot with us, He always talks about how when we see other people hurting, we want to fix it. Right. So it's, we want to step in and say the perfect thing in that moment to like, make us stop hurting, because we're seeing someone else hurting to make the person who's hurting, stop hurting. And we think that if we can't leave the conversation, having fixed it, that we failed somehow. And that's not fair to anybody. And in this situation, and I think, in particular, with gun violence, it's touched so many people in the US at this point, , that even people who haven't experienced it aren't, aren't like, it's six degrees of separation anymore. They know somebody, they love somebody who's been affected by it. So I think that desire to want to fix it is even higher. Because it's, it's not something that happens a world away from them. And so I think it just then leads to, unfortunately, people putting their foot in their mouths, or people just being like, I just want to make you better right now. But you can't as I think you've all pointed out, when you're

doing a process, you can't, you can't fix something that's still happening. That's not how that works. So I just I do recommend, we'll put a we always put a link to everything we referenced in the description of the podcast episode. But even beyond just the things that are really helpful in your book, there's pictures of your dad, and he was very cute.

T

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 31:40

I wanted people to see him not in the magnitude that they saw him in and I wanted them to see him. I don't know whether Brenda shared with you all but we got mail from like Singapore, Africa, London, literally all over the world and really poured into a soul. The reason I put those pictures in there, because I wanted you all to see him love the way America met, my father was with the barrel of a gun in his face. That's true. They didn't know him. And that's why I put the pictures in there. And I wanted them to see my sisters, my siblings, and my brother and his grandchildren. And so I thought that was important.

K

Kelly Sampson 32:31

Again, thank you for sharing that. And I, I hope that it helps people to who are listening, who may be also, you know, find themselves feeling the way that you felt. And one thing that I wanted to make sure we continue the conversation on and gave opportunities if there is anything else. Because Tanya, you already talked a little bit about how one of the things we can do if there's someone in our life that we care about that we love, who's going through something is listen, and let them do what they need to do. And I was just wondering, you know, if, if there are any more tips, or if there are other things that people can say or do to be support, and to be helpful support and not necessarily like put your foot in your mouth or say they wouldn't want you to cry or some of those other things. If you have any ideas.

T

Tanya R. Godwin-Baines 33:21

Well, another thing is very important because my marriage crumbled. I'm still married at the grace of God, you when you lose someone, you're not the same and the person that is your partner, whatever, they may think you are but you're not. Like I was a person I've been with my husband 28 years married 25 this coming year, and I was a person that was always around him. But once my father was murdered, I needed space. So you have to allow people space to grieve. You cannot tell them how to grieve you cannot tell them how long the grief. Thank god grief come in waves. Because it didn't come in like waves and it was constant, you would lose your mind. So it's like, you have to allow especially married people because I know you've researched the divorce rate from from grief. It's very high. And it does not have to be. You have to, again, there's a scripture to everything.

There's a season, you have to give that person a season and that season may not look like a typical four month, three month season, it may be 100 years, I mean I'm just you know, shooting 20 so it's just like, like you have to consider that, you know, every time that we got a scab on us something else happened, and something else happened. So I can't even tell you the people we lost after that. So it's just like, my sister was the overkill. Like now it's like I need a break a breather. And I think it kind of put us, I shouldn't speak for everybody but to kind of put me further back as losing a sibling, there's a whole another type of grief. So it's just giving people time giving them space. I told my husband I said, I'm not Tanya you anymore. I'm Sonya. I mean I'm being real. Oh you didnt used to drink... well I do now!! You didn't curse? Well, I curse now. We are comical family. So I like to laugh. And I tell people, my hip is all I got left. So I have to laugh. So it's just you got a got to give a person time and you can't be hard on them. And I told my husband like you read in the book. I said, you know, what do you want to do leave now so I can grieve you and my father at the same time. I said, walk now leave now. And then he stayed. But most people, they don't get that.



JJ Janflone 35:57

And sort of, you know, in in that wheelhouse, you know, Brenda, what made you decide to come work for Brady, which was a gun violence prevention organization. You know, what prompted you, as a survivor to start working? You know, on this every day in this field? What's that? Like?



Brenda Joiner-Haymon 36:14

I mean, when I first, at first somebody called me about the job. And I was just like, Oh my God, this just seems like you know, such a, you know, knowing what we had gone through, you know, maybe somewhere along the line, I can make some sort of impact. I can support somebody in some way in some space. And then I remember like, as I started, like, I mean, every day, guys, and I know Kelly, you JJ, we have a headache. I mean, we have a heavy lift. The lift is so heavy. So that's why I'm like so here, I want to be here in DC with you guys. So if I need to come and hug you for real, I can come hug you for real because every day is a real life heavy lift. I mean, at first. I mean, there was a moment, I'll be completely honest with you without my thought, what did I sign up for? I mean, really, I mean, I probably had the conversation with Tanya, I mean, I remember like crying to one of our co workers, thinking like, Oh my gosh, like, this is a lot. But then I got angry, and I got hungry. And I wanted to do something more like no, something's got to give, like, you know, this happened to my father, what can I do to not let this allow this to happen again. So sometimes I'm you know, I have the schedule slacks because I'm on slack all night. So I like thinking, having thoughts and just, you know, I mean, Susan, I know, she's usually up

with me, you know, my boss, I should say, not dropping names. But, you know, I literally, sometimes I'm emailing her at night, just thinking of different stuff, just how I can support our organization, and, you know, just wanting us to be, you know, just had that one magic, you know, you know, Kelly, you know, we work, you know, together I work under Kelly, but with that Racial Justice Initiative that Brady has, for me, it's just like, you know, I can't see, imagine myself being anywhere else, honestly. You know, I really can't I mean, you know, my dad definitely drives me, you know, drives me up a lot harder. But, you know, just, you know, just being in this space, and I've just known people, just even people that I've grown up with, you know, that I know, I have friends that have been murdered. And in our community, it, it's just tough. You know, you see it, you hear it, you know of it. I mean, I mean, just that that's another story. But you know, some police killed the guy right outside my hotel room. I didn't know, I mean, like, I have video of the night of the murder, but of course, the police cars and stuff out there. It's just, you know, it's a lot in our community, and something's got to happen, you know, something has to give like, I don't, you know, I mean, I look at, you know, some of our interns that we have, and I'm just so proud of them, knowing that they're going to take over this country one day, and make the big change that we really, really need. So, you know, it's not red, it's not blue, it's life or death. And I don't know that any of our leaders are going to see that I think that this new group, this new wave, including you, JJ, and Kelly are going to be the change that this country needs. JJ for president right!?



JJ Janflone 39:20

Kelly for president, JJ riding her coattails.



Kelly Sampson 39:25

Brenda I feel so pumped up after what you just said, Brenda for President?



Malisa Godwin 39:31

I'm really I'm so proud of Brenda. And Brenda did have a conversation with me about it. And the thing that I want everybody, I don't ever want my father to be forgotten. And I will stand here and make you remember I'm that one and Brenda I do believe you're going to be alive to see the change. We're not going to all be on the other side of talking about and crying and we're going to see some justice. You know, right? That's what I believe. So I just believe you know, here go my scripture again. First Corinthians 13. Season, if I can encourage you all read that that is a very powerful scripture. For Brenda. JJ. Kelly. This is y'all season to make a change. Yeah. So I think that this is really powerful.



Kelly Sampson 40:26

For everything that you shared with us today. I mean, I really think this will help people, both those who are grieving and those who are supporting people who have lost loved ones.



JJ Janflone 40:39

Kelly, Kelly, Kelly, Kelly Kelly



Kelly Sampson 40:41

This can't be good.



JJ Janflone 40:43

Nope. Never is. So today's moment of levity. I'm still talking about the awfulness of social media.



Kelly Sampson 40:49

There is so many places this could go and none of them are good.



JJ Janflone 40:53

Yeah. And I do. I do want to stress by the way that while someone is hurt in the story, they are okay.



Kelly Sampson 40:58

Okay. Wow. Lay it on me.



JJ Janflone 41:01

So this week's story comes from Texas, where a 19 year old relative was babysitting a 10 year old boy,



Kelly Sampson 41:07

No, I don't like this.



JJ Janflone 41:09

This is your "bail," bail, bail bail. Well, unfortunately, I have to tell you, so a babysitter found a gun that was just out. Thinking that the weapon was unloaded, she started posing and taking pictures with it for Instagram. And unfortunately, the gun unintentionally went off. And ultimately a bullet struck the boy in the stomach.



Kelly Sampson 41:35

Poor baby. Right. Like, I'm glad that he's physically okay. But that has to be, we know it is because we talk to people all the time getting shot is terribly, traumatizing. And as we always say, as gun owners you need to securely store your gun. And for anyone who happens to find a gun that isn't securely stored, just assume it's loaded, assume it's loaded and act accordingly.



JJ Janflone 41:59

Yeah, because this kid is now in stable condition. But obviously an investigation is underway into this 19 year old and it's just, Oh, you got to be so careful. And they're not props. They're not toys.



Kelly Sampson 42:13

Exactly. And friendly reminder about Brady's end family fire program because it's dealing with exactly situations like this. And one of the things that we talked about is how it's important to ask about guns in the home. So you know, parents need to ask on behalf of their children, before they visit other friend's homes or have playdates or what have you. And teens can also ask for themselves where they go to someone's house. And as a matter of fact, we specifically mentioned the importance of babysitters asking about unsecured weapons in the home before they take on any jobs to avoid these sorts of situations.



JJ Janflone 42:49

Yeah, and I always say, you know, someone who was a nanny for years it never occurred

to me to ask that question, I asked about everything else. That never occurred to me, but Oh, that poor kid and even that poor babysitter.

K

Kelly Sampson 43:03

Kind of right along these lines. JJ, I was extremely concerned when I saw that recent research dropped, saying that accidental gunshot deaths by children handling a gun jumped 31% during the start of the covid-19 pandemic in 2020. And while there were 98 deaths due to unintentional shootings by children from March through December of 2019. There were 128 over that same timeframe in 2020. And yet, in 2021, already, there have been at least 259 unintentional shootings by children, resulting in 104 deaths and 168 injuries. And 91% of those victims were under 18. And those are just horrifying numbers, and they just prove how important it is for gun owners to practice safe storage to keep your guns locked, unloaded and stored separate from ammunition. Always but especially if there are children in the home.



JJ Janflone 44:05

Exactly. It's it's a health threat to not do that. Honestly. I think that is that is JJ's opinion. And then the story I'm going to share Kelly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC, which I think at this point, everyone knows, agrees with me that gun violence is a quote, serious public health threat. So in an interview with CNN, the director of the CDC, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, said that, "this is one of the leading killers of our young people in this country, it's a high priority." So 2020 and 2021, just for listeners to know are the first year since 1997 that the CDC has been able to study gun violence. In '97 the NRA convinced Congress to cut all the CDC's funding for gun research. Now and we've talked about this in the pod, you know, due to the tireless work of like advocates, survivors, doctors, researchers, people that identify as all of those things. That funding is now back. And I know I'm really excited to see what comes out of that research. Because to your point earlier, Kelly, I mean, think about the summer where according to the gun violence archive, an average of 200 people were killed and another 472 injured by guns each weekend, like just in a weekend. And those numbers don't even include suicides, which, as we know, you know, 60% of gun deaths are, so it's just it's, it's, it's insane. And we can't waste any more time when so many lives are being impacted.

K

Kelly Sampson 45:35

Yeah, I mean, 100% like this should be a no brainer, right? That when something is killing this many people, it's a public health issue.



JJ Janflone 45:45

Hey, want to share with the podcast? Listeners can now get in touch with us here at Red, Blue, and Brady via phone or text message! Simply call or text us at (480) 744-3452 with your thoughts, questions, concerns, ideas, whatever! Kelly and I are standing by.



Kelly Sampson 46:00

Thanks for listening. As always, Brady's lifesaving work in congress, the courts, and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady, or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, please like and subscribe to the podcast, get in touch with us at bradyunited.org, or on social [@bradybuzz](https://twitter.com/bradybuzz). Be brave, and remember: take action, not sides.