

THE 2023 CENTRAL FLORIDA FENTANYL SUMMIT

Providing support and education about the new drug paradigm, fentanyl poisoning. Presenting the facts, explaining the risks, and offering how to protect your students and families.



**THE
BLUE PLAID
SOCIETY**

**FACING
FENTANYL**



Lifetime Counseling Center

**Space Coast Health Foundation
Center for Collaboration
1100 Rockledge Blvd (US 1)
Rockledge, FL 32955**

THE 2023 CENTRAL FLORIDA FENTANYL SUMMIT

11:30 am	Doors Open - Sponsor Resources and Networking
12:40 pm	Pre-Show Videos, Conference Center
1:15 pm	Attendees Welcome To Find Your Seats
1:20 pm	Introduction Video, Facing Fentanyl Now
1:30 pm	Welcome and Introductions, John Torres, Florida Today
	<u>Dias 1 Speakers</u>
1:40 pm	Suzy Pereira, Founder, The Blue Plaid Society
1:55 pm	Helen Brusco, Group Supervisor for Tactical Diversion Squad Drug Enforcement Administration
2:05 pm	Commander Victor A. DeSantis, Brevard County Sheriff's Office
2:15 pm	Will Scheiner, Florida State Attorney's Office
2:25 pm	Q&A for Dias 1 Speakers
2:50 pm	Break
	<u>Dias 2 Speakers</u>
3:00 pm	Dr. Quaiser, Brevard County Medical Examiner
3:10 pm	Johnathan Weiss, Brevard County Fire Rescue Narcotics Training
3:20 pm	Abby Jones, Lifetime Counseling Center
3:30 pm	Josh Howard, Survivor Testimony
3:40 pm	Laura McCarthy, Brevard Recovery Fest
3:50 pm	Q&A for Dias 2 Speakers
4:10 pm	Special Presentation, Blue Plaid Angels Music Video
4:15 pm	Sponsor Resources and Networking
5:00 pm	Exit



SUZY PEREIRA

Suzy Pereira founded The Blue Plaid Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to fentanyl education and drug poisoning prevention, after she lost her son and only child, Tristan, to the fentanyl epidemic in November 2021. She named the organization after her son's iconic style of wearing blue plaid shirts. Suzy is the organizer of the Central Florida Fentanyl Summit, bringing community experts together to support the mission of educating the public about illicit drugs and saving lives. After being selected as a candidate and completing training, Suzy became a Special Ambassador for the DEA in March 2023. Her story has been seen on FOX and Spectrum news stations, and she is a public speaker providing education about the modern drug paradigm and a warning of the dangers of illicit fentanyl and other synthetic drugs being pushed to our young people. She is passionate about lifting the stigma of addiction and changing the national conversation from overdose to poisoning as it pertains to fentanyl death.



HELEN BRUSO

Helen J. Bruso, began her law enforcement career in 2002 as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Before joining DEA, Helen was a forensic toxicologist at the University of Florida. She obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio, and a Masters Degree in Forensic Science from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Helen has served in numerous domestic posts, including Detroit, Los Angeles, and the DEA Special Operations Division (SOD). In 2015, she was promoted to a Supervisory Special Agent to the Orlando District Office where she currently supervises the Tactical Diversion Squad. She also serves as the Outreach Specialist for Armor Up Recovery Homes and Ministry, a faith-based non-profit that provides Bible studies, 12-Step studies, mentoring, and discipleship to women recovering from addiction to alcohol, narcotics, and sex trafficking. Helen is passionate about assisting her community in drug prevention and those suffering from addiction.



**COMMANDER
VICTOR A.
DeSANTIS**

Commander DeSantis is a thirty-seven-year law enforcement veteran, having served seven years on active duty with the United States Air Force Security Police and the past thirty years with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. He currently serves as the Commander of Criminal Investigative Services, responsible for all investigative units and resources of the Sheriff's Office. Commander DeSantis was sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff by Sheriff Jake Miller in March 1993. He served as patrol deputy until being promoted to Agent (Criminal Investigator) in 1995 and served as an investigator in both the General Crimes and Major Crimes Units. He was promoted to Sergeant in January 1998 and served as a patrol Sergeant until January 2000, when he was assigned to investigations as an investigative supervisor for the West Precinct in Viera, Florida. Promoted to Lieutenant in 2004, he served as a patrol and administrative lieutenant with the East Precinct (Merritt Island) until 2009, when he assumed the Special Investigations Unit Supervisor role (Narcotics & Vice) within Criminal Investigations. He was appointed to the Command Staff in 2011 with the rank of Major and served in Administrative Services, overseeing Communications and Judicial Process. In 2013, he was selected to remain on the Command Staff of Sheriff Wayne Ivey, and he assumed responsibility and supervision of patrol operations in the South Precinct (Melbourne and South County area). He was promoted to Commander in 2017 and remained in command of the South Precinct until June 2021, when he transferred to his current assignment. Commander DeSantis holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Barry University and a Master's in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida. He is a Dean's Scholar Graduate of the Southern Police Institute's 111th Administrative Officers Course (Command and Staff) at the University of Louisville and a graduate of the FBI-LEEDA 26th Command Institute for Law Enforcement Executives. He is a Law Enforcement Medal of Valor recipient. Commander DeSantis and his wife, Dana, have four children and four grandchildren.



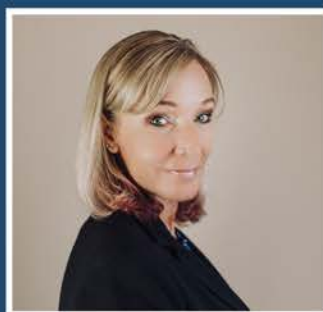
WILL SCHEINER

William Scheiner has worked as a prosecutor in Brevard since October 2008. William is an experienced trial attorney who has prosecuted cases ranging from theft to 1st-degree murder. Currently the Chief Trial Attorney for Brevard County, William is responsible for supervising 25 felony trial attorneys and overseeing the prosecution of cases brought as part of Operation Unified Front. Operation Unified Front is a joint task force of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working to combat the Fentanyl epidemic. Fentanyl and controlled substances affect people from all walks of life. The Fentanyl epidemic is a plague on our community and is responsible for numerous overdoses and poisonings. In his role as the Chief Trial Attorney in partnership with law enforcement agencies, William has taken a strong stance on cases involving drug traffickers and dealers. William is the recipient of multiple awards for his trial work including Outstanding Trial Attorney of the Year for 2012 and 2015, The Victims' Rights Week Norman R Wolfinger Attorney of the Year for 2014, and the Brevard County Association of Chiefs of Police State Attorney of the Year for 2015.



**DR. SAJID S.
QAISER**

Dr. Qaiser, MD, FCAP, FRCPC, has been with the Brevard County Medical Examiner's Office since 2000. He was the Associate Medical Examiner until October 2006, when he was promoted to the District/Chief Medical Examiner for Florida's 18th District. Dr. Qaiser holds medical licenses in Florida and Pennsylvania and is certified with the American Board of Pathology, Anatomic, Clinical, and Forensic and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. His training includes fellowships and residencies at Allegheny University Hospital, Philadelphia, State University Hospital, Brooklyn, NY, and Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon, Canada. He was also the Assistant Clinical Instructor for the State and Royal University Hospitals. Dr. Qaiser graduated with M.D. at Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan, in 1983, acquiring continued education and certifications throughout his career. He has performed extensive research on numerous topics and has been published in the American Journal of Clinical Pathology. He has numerous affiliations, including the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the National Association of Medical Examiners, and the American Society of Clinical Pathology, to name a few. When not working, Dr. Qaiser enjoys reading biographies, music, and outdoor sports.



ABBY JONES

Abby Jones is the Assistant Director of Lifetime Counseling Center, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and a Certified First Responder Counselor. She received her Master of Science degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and relocated to Merritt Island in 2015. She provides clinical oversight and services for the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court and Veteran's Treatment Court in Brevard County. Abby has over 20 years of direct clinical experience working within the Substance Use and Mental Health fields with individuals, couples, families, first responders, crisis debriefing, crisis intervention, and as a responder for state and county-level crisis management responses. She is a collaborating member of the Florida Crisis Response Team, Child Abuse and Prevention Task Force, and the Brevard Prevention Coalition (Opioid Task Force).



**JOHNATHAN
WEISS**

Jonathan Weiss has worked for Brevard County fire rescue for twenty years. He started as a firefighter/EMT and became a firefighter/Paramedic. Jonathan now serves as the Community Health Resource Coordinator since November 2021. He runs the Brevard County Fire Rescue's Narcan[®] and the Coordinated Opioid Recovery programs. He holds FEMA and Florida State Fire College certifications as a Public Information Officer, basic and advanced. He is also the Brevard County Fire Rescue Infection Control Officer.



**LAURA
McCARTHY**

Laura McCarthy, MA, is a retired Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Master's Certified Addictions Professional with the State of Florida. She is a subject matter expert in Addictions and Substance Use Disorders. She founded the Brevard Opioid & Addictions Conference and Recovery Church Space Coast - Palm Bay. Laura is the Executive Director and organizer of the Brevard Recovery Fest, a free, family-friendly event coming to Wickham Park on September 9, 2023, celebrating National Recovery Month and a collaborative effort to end the stigma of addictions and mental health, bringing awareness and resources to end the deadly fentanyl epidemic. She is a published author of "Mess to Majestic," a true story of recovery from trauma, shame, and addictions with Biblical and Clinical Insights. Sharing some of her own healing and recovery journey since 1985. Laura is a mother, grandmother, and wife, married for over 34 years. She is passionate about saving lives and ending the stigma of addictions and mental health. She loves serving her church, playing pickleball, traveling, and snow skiing in her spare time.



**JOSHUA
HOWARD**

Joshua Howard is a volunteer with The Blue Plaid Society. He and his wife, Mary, dedicate their time to visiting underrepresented citizens here in Brevard County, distributing free Narcan®, free fentanyl awareness and prevention services, and most importantly judgment-free support and love. After conquering his many years with addiction, Joshua became a volunteer with the Society. He allows his volunteering to provide a way to aid in his sobriety by helping others achieve the same goal he meets day after day. Joshua is a devoted father of three, a loving husband, and a loyal, hardworking employee. He loves his family, being a cat dad, adventures, and his motorcycle.



JOHN TORRES

John Torres is the community engagement editor at FLORIDA TODAY/USA Today Network. A native of the Bronx, N.Y., John worked for newspapers in the New York City area before moving with his family to Brevard County in 2001 and starting his work at FLORIDA TODAY. He has since won numerous state and national awards for reporting and writing, mainly focusing on the legal system, justice, and individuals wrongly imprisoned. John also started and hosted a popular podcast series called "Murder on the Space Coast." As an author of children's books, John has appeared on numerous television and radio programs and spoken to different groups in the community. John is the father of five children, and he and his wife, Jennifer, live in Indialantic.



JUDD SPITZER

Judd Spitzer is the Co-Chairman and Technical Director of The Blue Plaid Society. Judd has been working with The Blue Plaid Society since its inception. Judd is a retired submarine veteran. Judd was the District 84 Public Relations Officer for District 84 Toastmasters where he managed a social media campaign. He has volunteered locally as the immediate Past President of the US Navy League Cape Canaveral Council, and served as a board member for Space Coast Runners.

THE 2023 CENTRAL FLORIDA FENTANYL SUMMIT

IS SPONSORED BY



THE SOBER PAD



AND SUPPORTED BY

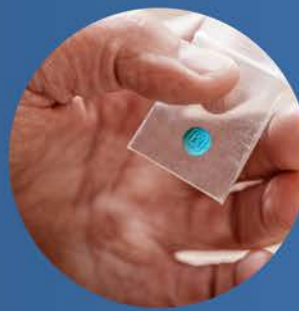


Thank you

THE BLUE PLAID SOCIETY

WHO WE ARE

The Blue Plaid Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and educating the public about illicit fentanyl, the chemical that is killing our children and loved ones by lethal poisoning at a catastrophic rate. The group was named in remembrance of the founder's son, Tristan Welsh, and his iconic style of wearing blue plaid shirts. Tristan did not know the drug he was given contained fentanyl. This chemical does not discriminate against any group in American society. Victims include the unknowing one-time experimenter, recreational users, and those trapped in substance use disorder. All souls lost to this epidemic are important, and we stand together as bereaved survivors and supporters to alert the public of the existence and danger of contaminated illicit drugs pouring into America; to educate society of the potency and lethality of these drugs; to exploit how they are distributed through unmonitored borders, US mail, social media, and the dark web; to explain why these deaths are poisonings, not overdoses, and should be charged as homicides; and to foster an environment that encourages education and support as it relates the stigma and lack of understanding of the disease of addiction. Welcome to Blue Plaid!



WHAT IS FENTANYL

Fentanyl is an extremely powerful synthetic opioid that when ingested can result in sudden death. It is up to 100 times more potent than morphine, with a lethal amount being 2 mg, equivalent to a few grains of salt. It is found in all street drugs and being pressed in counterfeit pills made to look like prescription medication. Criminal organizations make this poison and often anonymously sell it through social media to addict and deceive.



YOU CAN BE POISONED WITH STREET DRUGS!



OVERDOSE

EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF AN OTHERWISE SAFE SUBSTANCE

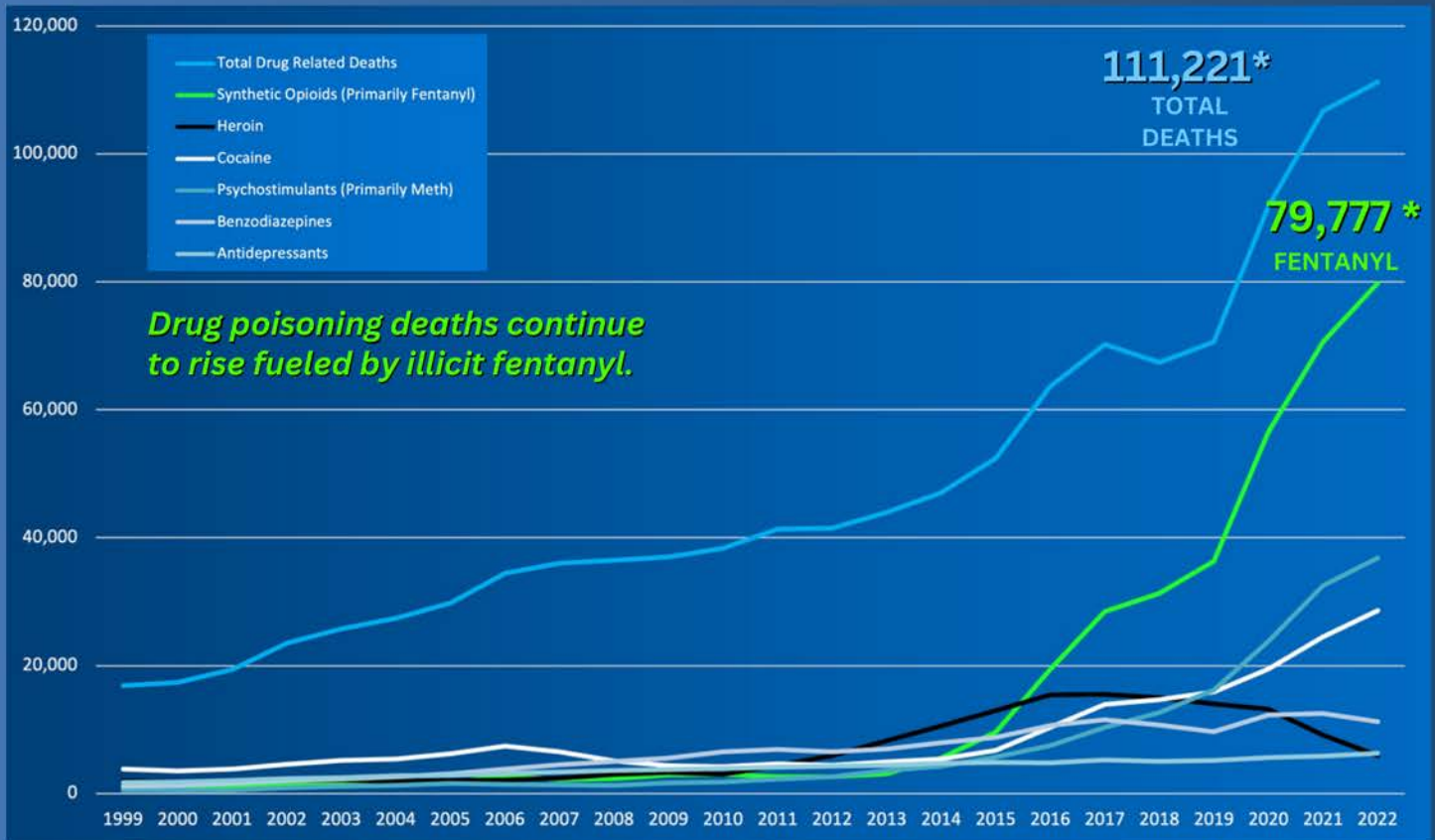
VS.



POISONING

CONSUMPTION OF FAKE PILLS AND LACED POWDERS

FENTANYL CHANGED EVERYTHING!



CDC WONDER, National Center on Health Statistics, Underlying Causes of Death, ICD-10 Codes, Drug Poisonings, Subsets of T40.0-T40.6, T42.4, T43.0 - T43.2, T43.6

**2022 PROVISIONAL

HERE'S WHAT BLUE PLAID IS DOING ABOUT IT!



The Central Florida Fentanyl Summit

Event organizer bringing experts together to address and educate the community on the epidemic.



Saving Lives

Distribution of opioid reversal medication, Naloxone, at Blue Plaid events. Free drop off to any business address.



Professional Training

Blue Plaid offers a one-hour continuing education credit for treatment and recovery specialists.



Collaboration

We fully support the efforts of other groups fighting fentanyl. We welcome collaboration opportunities. We're all in this together.



Angel Programs

Free graphic design services to angel families for unique advocacy materials. Creator and host to a beautiful and diverse digital gallery showing the reach of fentanyl poisoning.



Public Education

Public speaking awareness events for educational institutions, businesses, conventions, and seminars.

To request these services or find out more visit BLUEPLAID.ORG

Our Blue Plaid Angels

Visit all of them and read their stories at BLUEPLAID.ORG



Tristan, 26



Christopher, 31



Jared, 31



Kelsie, 23



Sean, 34



Jordan, 25



Tim, 36



Daniel, 39



Adrian, 25



Dustin, 32



Donny, 28



Jesse, 34



JC, 22



Hunter, 25



Matt, 30



Tyler, 19



Kiana, 22



Caleb, 24



Erik, 29



Clayton, 38



Ricky, 35



Blaine, 20



Deenilson, 19



Trenton, 20



Jake, 24



Cassandra, 38



Matthew, 23



Mike, 37



Devon, 29



Heath, 36



Sebastian, 24



Alyssa, 17



Brian, 33



Keith, 22



Seth, 23



Cristina, 41



Jenny, 29



Ava, 24



Drearon, 22



Lilly, 17



Keaton, 26



James, 30



Timmy, 26



Greg, 30



Jessie, 24



Evan, 27



Logan, 26



Amanda, 30



Kayla, 19



Josiah, 15



Jacinta, 34



Shane, 27



JJ, 17



John, 37



Amber, 29



Jesse, 23



Tyler, 27



Jarod, 21



Zach, 28



Mikey, 22



Tash, 21



Jeremy, 29



Colin, 26



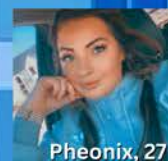
Joshua, 25



Jordan



Layno, 15



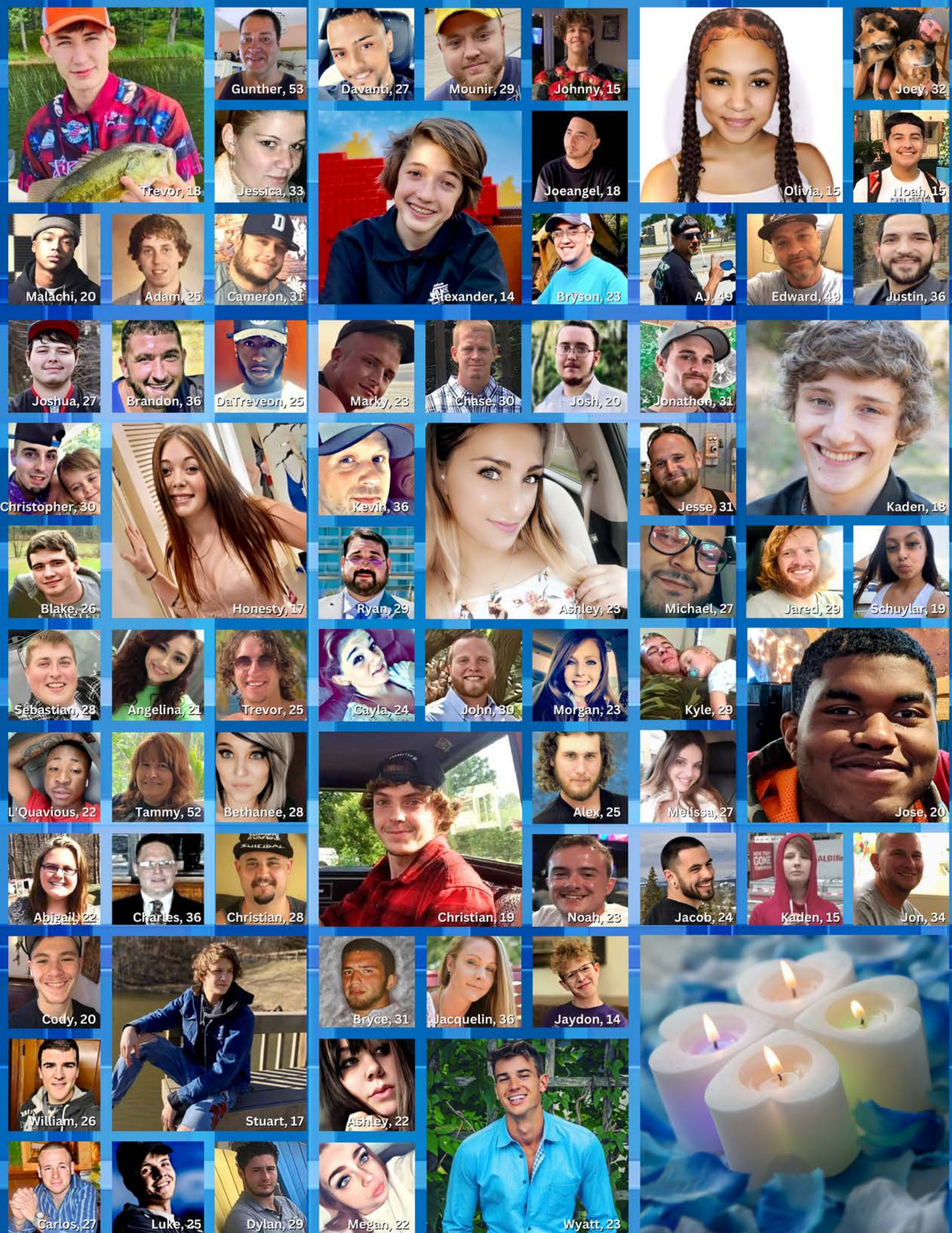
Pheonix, 27



Ricky, 28



Christina, 25



Gunther, 53

Davanti, 27

Mounir, 29

Johnny, 15

Olivia, 15

Joey, 32

Trevor, 18

Jessica, 33

Alexander, 14

Joeangel, 18

Noah, 15

Malachi, 20

Adam, 25

Cameron, 31

Bryson, 23

A.J., 49

Edward, 49

Justin, 36

Joshua, 27

Brandon, 36

Da'Treveen, 25

Marky, 23

Chase, 30

Josh, 20

Jonathon, 31

Kaden, 18

Christopher, 30

Honesty, 17

Kevin, 36

Ashley, 23

Jesse, 31

Blake, 26

Ryan, 29

Michael, 27

Jared, 29

Schuyler, 19

Sebastian, 28

Angelina, 21

Trevor, 25

Cayla, 24

John, 39

Morgan, 23

Kyle, 29

Jose, 20

L'Quavious, 22

Tammy, 52

Bethanee, 28

Christian, 19

Alex, 25

Melissa, 27

Abigail, 22

Charles, 36

Christian, 28

Noah, 23

Jacob, 24

Kaden, 15

Jon, 34

Cody, 20

Stuart, 17

Bryce, 31

Jacquelin, 36

Jaydon, 14

William, 26

Ashley, 22

Wyatt, 23



Carlos, 27

Luke, 25

Dylan, 29

Megan, 22

"When it really comes down to it . . . all you have is friends and family. People that are willing to do anything for you and willing to do what it takes to make you happy and successful. I'm thankful for these people everyday."

-Tristan Welsh June 17, 2012

