

TWO SONS MURDERED THREE BLOCKS APART. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

*After facing their grief and the question
“How do I go on...what do I do?”
these mothers started a Peace Movement
that is changing lives in their city...
and, they’re not stopping until their
message is heard across our land.*



RUTH DONNELLY AND DOROTHY JOHNSON-SPEIGHT
*Dorothy is the founder of Mothers In Charge.
Ruth has been with Mothers In Charge since their first meeting.*

In January 2002, a few weeks after the senseless murder of Dorothy Johnson-Speight’s son Khaaliq, who was shot eight times over a parking space, she was almost consumed by grief and pain. As Dorothy watched the nightly news, a mother, Ruth Donnelly, was featured in a “Crime-stoppers” segment. This mother pleaded for help, she wanted information on the murder of her 19-year-old son Justin, who was killed six months earlier on a friend’s porch. While Johnson-Speight sat listening, weeping and feeling the pain of this mother’s grief, she felt the story had a familiar ring. The man who killed Justin was looking for a pit bull dog...the man who had so recently killed Khaaliq owned several pit bulls.

Dorothy was determined to learn more, to see if she could somehow help this mother. She went to the porch where Ruth had conducted the interview. She met her and they soon discovered that *the person who killed Justin in July 2001 was the same person who killed Khaaliq five months later.* From that day on, a bond was forged between these two mothers—one that now strongly joins them with other mothers of murdered children—to work together to stop the violence. Unfortunately, many of the killers are not brought to justice, but the killer of Khaaliq and Justin was found guilty of 1st degree murder and is now serving two life sentences. Mothers In Charge began a peace movement in Philadelphia that is gaining national attention and spreading to other cities.

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All profits from book sales at the website
www.facesofcouragebook.com
will go to Mothers In Charge

Harrowood Books, in association with Mothers In Charge, is pleased & honored to announce the publication of:
Mothers In Charge – Faces of Courage (to be published May 15th, 2009)

The members of Mothers In Charge are on a mission. They have begun a “Campaign for Peace.”

Like the mothers of M.A.D.D., of the Northern Ireland Women’s Peace Movement, or the “Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo” in Argentina, they are destined to be an irresistible force. They have suffered the ultimate loss—the deaths of their children—and now fear nobody.

They are committed to bringing this Peace Movement to the inner cities of America and to halting to the proliferation of handguns and Stop the Violence.

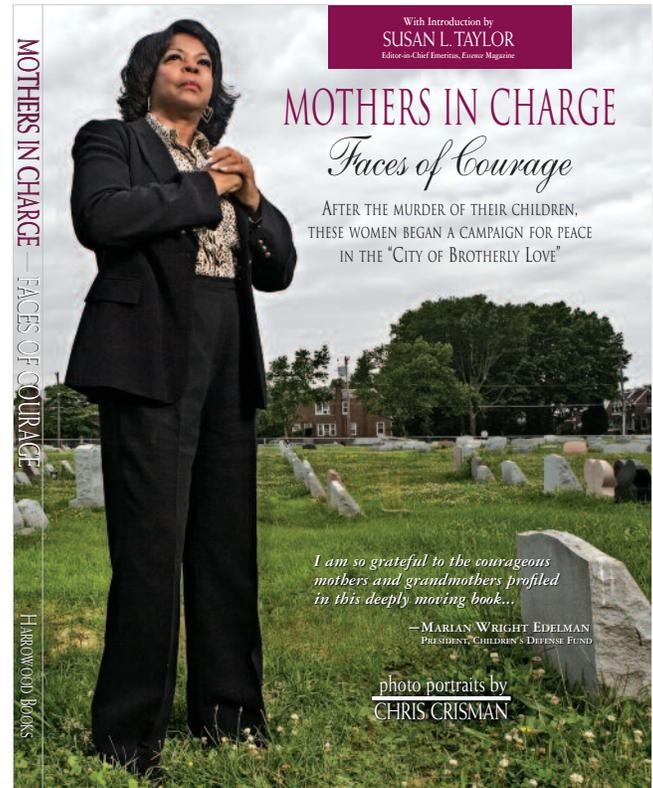
They provide victims’ families something that nobody else can:
– Grief counselling and the ears and understanding of mothers who have suffered this same fate.

They visit young and old, in schools and in prisons, and bring them something which teachers and even parents cannot:

– Stories that touch their hearts...they come from these women’s hearts and cannot be ignored...even by the most hardened of criminals or potential offenders.

They bring mentoring and counseling services to men and women; they are there to avert future suffering and they portray, with crystal-clear clarity, the consequences of violence.

And their message has reverberated beyond our shores...they were invited to England to share their stories and insights with mothers there who have endured similar losses.



A beautiful, large-format book, “Mothers In Charge – Faces of Courage” portrays these mothers with stunning, full-page portraits by photographer Chris Crisman and tells the mothers’ stories (and their children’s) in their own words; one mother touchingly and succinctly stated her hope for the book:

“I want those people who don’t know me—who know nothing of my life, who are so removed from this city—to know me and understand my pain. So that they don’t think that my son somehow deserved this. And then, THEY’LL say: NO MORE!”

Sadly, many people feel that victims somehow contributed to their own fate...were somehow partially responsible for their own murders. The young people portrayed here by their mothers did not deserve these fates. They were NOT dropouts, or losers, or gangsters, or anti-social...some were young people headed to college or working hard and making their families proud; they were hoping for a better life and their lives came to unjust, awful endings.

Their mothers will not let these deaths be in vain...nor will they allow them to continue as “unsolved murders” (as is too often the case) or be abstract statistics on the wall-charts of bureaucrats...their deaths will be atoned for—peacefully—and their lives will be given meaning by the great movement that their mothers have set their course upon.

This book asks you to look into their faces and ask “HOW CAN I HELP?”

All profits from the sale of “Faces of Courage” will contribute to the work of Mothers In Charge