

1 VGV 71 Laporche Kimber 12/10/2020

2 [...]

3 D: And tell me a little bit about yourself, Laporche.

4 L: Well, my name is Laporche Kimber. My maiden name is Barhelm. I was born and raised here  
5 in the city of Milwaukee in the projects of Hillside, so I'm very familiar with Hillside. I was  
6 brought up in the community as a young girl where people kind of poured into me of doing  
7 things in the community, and I kind of developed into doing that as an adult.

8 D: Wow, how old are you?

9 L: I am 35 (laughter) years old.

10 D: And what race are you?

11 L: African American.

12 D: What gender are you?

13 L: Female.

14 D: And what neighborhood in Milwaukee do you currently live? You don't have to give a  
15 specific street and address but like, the Harambee area, the King area, the Brownsville area, what  
16 area do you live in?

17 L: The Sherman Park area.

18 D: How long have you lived there?

19 L: Two years.

- 20 D: Okay. Somebody's knocking at my door, hold on one second. Don't go nowhere.
- 21 L: (laughs) We won't. (inaudible)
- 22 Q: Yes ma'am.
- 23 D: I'm sorry ladies, thank you for your patience.
- 24 L: You're welcome.
- 25 D: And Quenaysha. Did I say it correctly this time?
- 26 L: Yes (laughter).
- 27 D: Can you tell me a little bit about yourself?
- 28 Q: My name is Quenaysha Tucker. I'm Maurice's little sister and DeMarco's little sister, this is  
29 my mom. I am thirteen years old, and I love my family and siblings.
- 30 D: What nationality, what race are you?
- 31 Q: African American.
- 32 D: And what gender are you?
- 33 Q: Female.
- 34 L: (inaudible)
- 35 D: Okay, you looked at your mom you know?
- 36 Q: (inaudible)
- 37 L: (laughs)
- 38 D: What neighborhood do you live in?

39 Q: Sherman Park?

40 L: Yeah.

41 Q: Sherman Park.

42 D: And how long have you lived there?

43 Q: Two years.

44 D: And either of you can dive in and answer this question, and if you like you can each answer it,  
45 can you tell me what happened to your brother or to your son?

46 L: Maurice was murdered under the bridge on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 at [Walker's Point  
47 neighborhood], behind MATC. We don't have the full story of what exactly happened because  
48 we are still in the process of going through court, so there was never, the guy never testified so  
49 we don't have any statements or anything like that, but Maurice was a car salesman so word of  
50 mouth was told that this guy could possibly had owed Maurice some money or something like  
51 that for a vehicle that he had of his that he was on a payment plan with Maurice for. And  
52 Maurice may have thought that he was meeting him for whatever reason underneath the bridge  
53 for them to do an exchange, I'm guessing for that, and the guy got in the car with Maurice and  
54 shot him in the head one time and then fled. When Maurice was discovered, they found drugs  
55 on him and the media put it out as if it was a drug deal gone bad, so with the stories that was  
56 given to me and the child that I know that I raised, it's kind of conflicting as to what really  
57 happened on that day. My child has never been known to have any involvement with drugs. I  
58 asked people all throughout the community, but it just seems like there may have been something  
59 as a set up or something like that and for him to take Maurice's life.

60 D: When you say that they found the drugs on him and like you said you haven't known for him  
61 to ever use drugs, Quenaysha, what was your understanding of what had happened and what did  
62 you think when you heard that supposedly there were drugs on him?

63 Q: Well, I've never seen my brother do anything like that, and I know he's not the type of person  
64 because I have actually like, been with him when he's worked on cars because I'm always with  
65 him, and I don't think that my brother would ever sell drugs or ever put anybody in harm's way  
66 like that.

67 D: What do you, was the young man eventually caught?

68 L: Yes, Maurice was murdered on the 14<sup>th</sup>, he was caught on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

69 D: And you said that, I think you said that the trial isn't happening yet or, has he, so he hasn't  
70 been sentenced or anything at this point?

71 L: No, we just had court on yesterday and they did the scheduling yesterday for a speedy trial to  
72 be in place in the beginning of this year, so everything will be moving forward at the end of  
73 January and February. Yesterday we just basically talked about how he was initially stopped and  
74 the evidence that was found, the reason how they ended up connecting this young man to my son  
75 was one because of the vehicle that Maurice had sold to him, which was a green Yukon truck  
76 and all of this you can find in the reports. So, one, it connected him to the Yukon truck that he  
77 drove down there to murder my son in and the video cameras on the MATC building caught  
78 everything on camera and then I think they said about twenty blocks back to his house and a  
79 camera on I believe his house or something, like a doorbell camera or something like that there  
80 was supposed to be on his house taken a picture of him as he came in and changed his clothes or  
81 something. And that information I just got out of courts when we attended court, but there was

82 still never no statements or initial statements or anything like that. There have not been anything  
83 found as far as a murder weapon. But the DNA with my son's blood splattered on the hoodie and  
84 the young man's DNA is on the hoodie as well so that alone with the videos is what we have so  
85 far.

86 D: Quenaysha, did you also go to court with your mom yesterday or no?

87 Q: No, I was in school.

88 D: Okay, and did the young man plead innocent or did he plead guilty, or did he just no contest  
89 or what?

90 L: Just sitting there, Miss Debra, he's just sitting there. He has not given any statement; they  
91 really have not even offered him a plea. A few months ago, they called me and asked me, "What  
92 were my thoughts on the plea?", but I know that it was not offered to him yet. So, we've just  
93 been kind of sitting here this last year.

94 D: Is he mentally handicap do you know or?

95 L: No, he is not. He is a bright, intelligent young man.

96 D: How would you say this experience of your son being shot and murdered has affected you?

97 L: It has affected me and changed my life in so many ways. First, I just want to start with it made  
98 me face my biggest fear, because prior to my son passing I tried to run away from the city of  
99 Milwaukee because I was always afraid of these very things like that my son being a good kid  
100 and ended up losing his life to the streets, to the city of Milwaukee, and I'm not going to say the  
101 city of Milwaukee or the people in the streets of the city of Milwaukee because they don't like to  
102 see young men like him getting money and things like that in the honest way or moving in away

103 and not being caught up in the streets so that was always my biggest fear and I tried to move  
104 away to Dallas, Texas. My son had driven me to Dallas, Texas to start us a new life, and we  
105 came back home to pack up and he was murdered three weeks later. So, we just been here ever  
106 since. So, it changed me in a way to learn that I cannot run from things. If I want to see change, I  
107 have to be part of the change, so I've just been on this journey, you know, to try to figure out  
108 different ways that I can be part of the change. I know that we can't stop the violence. I know  
109 that we can't stop these shooting and killings because ignorance is going to happen, but there is  
110 ways and different things that we can do to figure out to put a dent in it to resolve some of these  
111 issues.

112 D: Quenaysha, same question, how has this affected your life?

113 Q: Well, I was very sad when, oh, I was sad—(pause)

114 L: (inaudible)

115 D: Quenaysha, at any point of this is too much for you, you do not have to go on. I appreciate  
116 your bravery, but you do not have to go on.

117 Q: I was very sad when I had lost my best friend, he was my best friend, he was my number one  
118 supporter, and I've been very sad, but I've always tried to be like happy and there for my mom  
119 because I'm very strong and I know that my mother needs me and also like, I've lost one of my  
120 best friends already, and it just hurts me again to lose my blood best friend, my brother, my hero,  
121 my everything because I'm so like, I love my family, and I'm all about my family. I've been  
122 looking into a lot of things spiritually; my mom has been teaching me a lot about butterflies and  
123 that he's our guardian angel and yeah.

124 D: How do you think the situation could have been avoided?

125 L: Miss Debra, I don't think that this situation could have been avoided. And the reason that I  
126 say that is because I've heard stories about how things occur prior to my son passing, and I  
127 looked at it as one of those things to where it was kind of like a spiritual fight between God and  
128 the enemy. And that the enemy was working but God was trying to work out something too and  
129 he kind of put things on pause and shifted things around to kind of put my son in the right place  
130 at the right time which I believe was under that camera, but the reason I say that is because my  
131 son had a gun held to his head three times prior to the day that he was shot in the head, so three  
132 days in a row, he had a gun held to his head. Supposedly from somebody else, and I was also  
133 told that the young man who actually murdered him tried to pull the gun out to him prior, I think  
134 like two days prior, held it up to his head and the gun jammed, so, I know that when my son went  
135 to meet him, that it was just time and God had positioned him to be in the right place so that we  
136 can get the answers that we needed. But that's just one of these things that had to happen because  
137 it is life. We all have to go someday and unfortunately, he just had to go in that way.

138 D: Quenaysha, same question, how do you think it could have been avoided?

139 Q: Like my mom said, I don't think it could have been avoided, and I know that God and Jesus,  
140 he needed my brother, cause he's our guardian angel and he always looks over us and he always  
141 will look over us. But yeah, I don't think it would have been avoided.

142 L: Are there some things you think your brother could have did? To not be in that place at that  
143 time?

144 Q: Well, I don't know. I think he could have been home with us, 'cause he usually stops by and  
145 he come lay with us, talk with us, asks us how our day is, you know? I think sometimes  
146 (inaudible) he would have been home.

147 D: You okay?

148 L: This is good for you. This is good therapy for you 'cause you never get it out. I'm proud of  
149 you.

150 D: What do you, and each, both of you can answer this question, what do you think we can do to  
151 lower gun violence?

152 L: Like I said before, I think that we have to figure out what the needs of these people or in this  
153 city or in this world really are. What are some barriers, what are some things that they are  
154 lacking? Once we get to the root of the problem, then we can come up with a solution to help  
155 them and then it will increase their feelings or their needs of wanting to go out and rob someone,  
156 maybe they're just struggling financially, you know? What are some things that they're dealing  
157 with mentally, what was some resources that they need such as therapy, and support groups and  
158 things like that. I think that if we get to the root of a lot of these problems and go back into the  
159 homes and the schools and peep, peep into the communities. If we can touch some of these  
160 people and speak to them and see what the root of the problem is, we can then come up with  
161 better solutions and resolve this problem.

162 D: What do you think, Quenaysha?

163 Q: Well, I think that some people, they deal with a lot of stuff at home, and they don't know how  
164 to express themselves so they might like take their anger out on somebody else and you know  
165 sometimes they just need a friend to talk to or somebody that they can talk to because they don't  
166 have anybody, and they might need somebody to talk to.



167 D: Your mom and you came up with giftboxes and I want to, what you both refer to them, I think  
168 Quenaysha you refer to them as Feel Better Boxes and your mom calls them Survivor Kits. What  
169 motivated you to come up with the boxes, or kits?

170 Q: I wanted to give back to the families for Christmas because I'm a big kid, but I love  
171 Christmas. So, I thought about what if they need something to make them feel better, and I just  
172 came up with the idea like we could put little affirmations in there and make them feel better and  
173 have little memories of their children.

174 D: Ms. Laporche?

175 L: Yes.

176 D: So why the Survivor Kits?

177 L: I call it Survival Kits because it's kind of like that those first aid or survival kits that you have  
178 to go to in an emergency, that's why I call it survival, and we all reach those times of need that  
179 we need those things to help to heal us and to put the pieces, the broken pieces, of us back  
180 together. So, if they're able to pick up these Feel Better Boxes, or Survival Kits, whatever they  
181 would like to call it, memorial boxes, they will be able to find pieces, broken pieces, of their  
182 selves or memories that they had already restored, and they just needed to, you know like  
183 medicate themselves like do a lot of self-healing just by revisiting good memories or speaking  
184 life back into their self with the affirmations and the scriptures and different things like that.

185 D: You talk about the Survival Kit and the Feel Good Boxes, so I pick up a box and tell me, what  
186 will I see?

187 L: Okay, so when you pick up a box you will see, in the inside of the box its filled with things  
188 and its filled with things such as journals for you to journal when you're having a tough time or  
189 to look back on things that you've journaled to kind of see like other times you were in a dark  
190 place, but then you saw that you overcame that because you journaled it again another day or  
191 affirmations and the scriptures that you put in there to help you get though those tough times and  
192 the art therapy, so that's why we have the bullet journals. That's our number one, we wanted to  
193 teach people a different way of journaling and kind of healing with it, using art therapy, so that's  
194 our main like, I don't want to call it a band aid, but I want to say our main piece of, she said  
195 "pick me up," I want to say our most, our best surgical piece is what I'm going to say, our repair  
196 piece. The candles actually represents for you to find light through dark times and actually  
197 someone got us essential oil candles which is really good from Bath and Body Works. We didn't  
198 even expect that, it was actually one of our things that we wanted to learn how to do, because  
199 we've learned how essential oils can help you with natural healing. So, you can light something  
200 like the stress relief, or the lavender, and it will help you to relax or to go to sleep, you know, so  
201 you have the candles in there and then there's picture frames and pictures will be in the inside of  
202 them, of their loved ones. You have a butterfly, what do you call those things?

203 Q: Ornament.

204 L: Ornament, I keep calling it a bulb, it's so big, a butterfly ornament. And the butterfly  
205 ornament will have pictures of their loved ones behind a butterfly and there will be a message  
206 attached to that that says, "When a butterfly appeared that means that an angel is near" and other  
207 little trinkets inside a smaller survival kit. What we started to give away to the community, a few  
208 years ago when I was hosting events for domestic abuse because I was a victim of domestic  
209 violence as well, and I used to give away these little survival kits with little things in there like

210 hand sanitizer and it came with a scripture attached to it and it said, “the hand sanitizer is for you  
211 to wash away your troubles.” So, people would keep that in their purse, or you know their bag or  
212 in their car and they would look at that and say, “Oh yeah let me wash away my troubles” and  
213 then there will be scriptures and stuff like that to go along with it.

214 D: You mentioned the journaling, I know journaling is important, but how does journaling help?  
215 And you mentioned bullet journaling, explain that.

216 L: Journaling helps me because it’s a place where I am able to go and release all of my thoughts  
217 instead of kind of being trapped in them, in my head. It’s like a sacred place that I can put  
218 everything down and it’s just between me and God, you know? Like no one would have access  
219 to this unless I allowed them to have access to my journal, so the bullet journals, this is actually  
220 an example of my bullet, this is my actual bullet journal, someone taught me how to do this  
221 journaling and with this journal, you use magazine clippings and stickers and pictures and  
222 different things like that so, with the bullet journaling, this was my first page. I dedicated this  
223 first page to rejection, so I would like find something say, some people use bullet journals to  
224 accomplish their goals, it’s a lot like vision boarding, if that makes any sense.

225 D: Okay.

226 L: So, a lot of people use it to set their goals and accomplish their goals, some people use it to  
227 keep up with their daily schedules, use it just for journaling purposes, you know there’s a lot of  
228 different ways that you can use it. By having dots and not lines, there’s nothing but free space for  
229 you to write in a lot of different angles, cut out pages and different stuff like that and that’s how  
230 you make it fun like this. So, my first page I dedicated to rejection, and I had to put a prayer for  
231 rejection, around that prayer I put affirmations for rejection, as you can see here, and its more

232 affirmations and then the things that I felt like I was rejected from or made feel rejected, like  
233 domestic abuse, infant loss, being homeless, divorce, going through molestation just a lot of  
234 different things like that, being stuck spiritually, and then I had to come up with strategies that  
235 would help me to overcome rejection, and then I wrote out strategies and things that I found  
236 online that could help with that so that I can be able when those times I feel rejected, I can go  
237 back to my journal and look at some of the strategies that will help me to overcome it if I forgot  
238 them and then yeah it was just more stuff and then things that I wanted to manifest from me  
239 feeling rejected, now you have to turn that pain into something good. So I wrote out a page of  
240 things that I wanted to manifest after me feeling rejected and yeah, I had, I just have pictures of  
241 different stuff still that have me feeling rejected like my marriage, like I was no longer a  
242 princess, and my son's funeral and my grandmother's funeral, so what was some things out of  
243 that that I wanted to do in a positive way, some projects that I wanted to manifest, some events  
244 that I wanted to pull together, you know some things that I wanted to do to help other people  
245 around the community or in life, so I manifested that by writing these things down.

246 D: That was powerful, you should do-

247 Q & L: (laughter)

248 D: We got to make sure that we set you up so you can do a class!

249 L: Yes, yes, I manifested that too! Starting out with this brunch!

250 D: You should, you know, Colette Shumpert does a brunch. I'll talk to you about that afterwards  
251 though.

252 L: Oh yeah, I spoke to her.

253 D: Okay. Quenaysha, when you think of the box, what do you envision that you want a person to  
254 get from it?

255 Q: I just want them to like, if they're having a bad day or they're sad and crying, they just don't  
256 want to sit there and lay and cry down, they can go to the Feel Better Box. You know, it's like a  
257 pick me up box and you want to feel better, so you just want to get the trinkets. I also do put  
258 affirmations in the boxes.

259 D: Okay.

260 Q: I love affirmations. But yeah.

261 L: What is an affirmation?

262 Q: An affirmation is basically something that you say every day that you manifest, and you know  
263 you put into yourself. "I am beautiful." "I am smart." "I am intelligent." Just like that. You just  
264 tell yourself that every day. And you manifest and you just have a great day, nothing but positive  
265 energy.

266 D: That sounds beautiful. Do you two have a photo of your brother or your son that you would  
267 like to share? Oh, that's nice. It's a collage. I'll be asking for a copy of that, all you have to do is  
268 take a picture of it and text it to me.

269 L: Okay.

270 D: And what would you say to elected officials, if you had the opportunity to talk to them about  
271 how they could reduce gun violence in our communities?

272 L: I would say pretty much for a lot of these things to be opened up that is kind of closed out to  
273 us in the community, because I know of things like businesses and organizations may struggle

274 with the funding or buildings to create a space, you know different things like that and these are  
275 really good programs that could be effective, really effective in our community, help us to create  
276 a way to open up a different avenue for us to make this a better place. As far as like the gun laws  
277 and stuff like that, just being realistic about it, it's going to always be a back-and-forth thing.  
278 Every time we get somebody else new in the office and you know that's going to be a constant  
279 battle forever, which is why I chose to say to open up these different avenues and help us to  
280 create a way, such as like allowing us to create an avenue for us, like the mothers, to be on this  
281 movement to travel around and give other people hope and telling them our stories and doing the  
282 things that we do in our own community across the world so, if they have the money and the  
283 funding and different things like that, open up these doors for us. They have the power, create  
284 these avenues for us, and we will be the change that we want to see in the world. No, it won't be  
285 too many mothers that are hurting in the way like we hurting, and at least if they do the money  
286 and the resources and the things like that will be right there because there's mothers who is  
287 starting a nonprofit for like burial funding, but she may have struggles with the grant writing or  
288 the money or the thing like that. Well, they know how to get access to it, they know how to open  
289 up these avenues; open this door for us. There may be somebody who wants to start an  
290 organization to, like myself, I want an organization that teaches young men how to become  
291 business owners and entrepreneurs which was my son's dream, teaching them skills and trades  
292 so that they don't have to be out here in the streets hustling. That was, that was my son's goal  
293 that's what he was starting before he transitioned.

294 D: What about you Quineisha, what do you think we could do, what would you say to elected  
295 officials, and, or our community?

296 Q: Well, I really don't know, but like I'll ask them like you know to put into people more, like  
297 more support groups if they don't have any money or anything like that to be able to start it or  
298 you know get it going, they can like support us a little bit.

299 L: What would you like to see?

300 Q: What do you mean?

301 L: What would you like to be done differently for you that you felt like you were lacking, what's  
302 something that you would like to see?

303 Q: I don't know.

304 L: What are you missing as Maurice's sister that you feel like the community could have did  
305 better to help you? There is no right answer, don't look for what we think.

306 D: Yeah, we want to hear the thirteen-year-old's opinion.

307 L: Right. How do you feel like this community or like Project Ujima or therapists or somebody  
308 like that that let you down while you've been on this journey?

309 Q: Well, I feel like sometimes people let me down because like they don't give me like the right  
310 therapy I need, like I don't need therapy like about family or anything like that, I need therapy  
311 about how I'm going to fix my ways, well not my ways but like, work on building like having  
312 this even more and work on me more you know, not being so sad at night, like crying myself to  
313 sleep or anything, I need that type of therapy, not therapy about family and spiritual therapy.

314 D: Okay. So, you want therapy that would help you address trauma, and self-improvement?

315 Those are the things that you want.

316 Q: Yes.

317 D: Okay, I get that. That's interesting. So, after your son Maurice, you two had the pleasure of a  
318 new brother, you a new son, and his name was DeMarco Smith. Tell us what happened to  
319 DeMarco.

320 L: Well, about 8 months after losing my son, I met the young man DeMarco Smith at, he was  
321 just released out of the detention center into programs in the community like Running Rebels and  
322 We Got This, so the owner of We Got This, Mr. Andre Lealis, had connected the two of us and  
323 DeMarco and I kind of made an agreement on the first day that we were going to become mother  
324 and son. We brought DeMarco into our family which was something that he felt like he was  
325 lacking, like the support of family, he felt like yeah, he could be a part of programs and different  
326 things like that, but the community couldn't really give him what he needed, which was family,  
327 and Quenaysha and I were missing a son and a brother, (pause). So God kind of gave all of us a  
328 second chance, and we were blessed with this angel, and he came into our lives and he reminded  
329 me so much of my son, it was scary, and he was just be so happy that he has somebody to call  
330 every day and to tell his darkest secrets and talk about girlfriends and goals and, you know, we'll  
331 do little special things for him like fuss at him the times he wanted me to just be a mother and  
332 just fuss at him, take him out to get treats and we took pictures, we took family pictures, to just  
333 do little family things that was some things in his life that he struggled with and he kind of felt  
334 like he was lacking, and God blessed me to be a blessing to him and also for him to be one to us  
335 as well. Well we only had a short time with DeMarco, the enemy didn't like what was going on  
336 there, something good was happening in that and of course he had his hands in it too just like I  
337 said with Maurice, and it was just another one of those things that just had to happen, but I  
338 believe the same thing that I believe with my biological son that God was working too, I knew  
339 God was working in the beginning when I met him, because he was just surrounded by so many



340 butterflies and that was my confirmation from God, so when the enemy had torn DeMarco and I  
341 apart, I believe that some things occurred, or some things happened in DeMarco's life that he  
342 started to turn backwards because he felt like the community was failing him, again. And it  
343 wasn't the programs that was failing him, it was that the community couldn't give him what he  
344 really was missing, what he felt like he needed, and I say that because I kind of had took a break  
345 from him not thinking that he was going to transition anytime soon, but I just was allowing him  
346 to see how he was moving and the people that he kind of was surrounding himself around again,  
347 you now, he was at a point where he almost couldn't be told anything because, he, like my son  
348 again, "I'm grown, I'm getting ready to be grown," you know how they get stubborn right and go  
349 through those stages, he was at that stage and we were waiting for him to turn 18, he really  
350 wanted to have his first, he said he'd never really been celebrated in life before like that, so we  
351 was excited about his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday coming up, and I was excited about that because we didn't  
352 get to do anything for Maurice and unfortunately with us not really talking, we didn't have any  
353 plans. I thought I had time to reach back out to him and still be a part of his life and do these  
354 things, but one day led into another, into another day, when I got the phone call saying that he  
355 had been murdered, right in the Sherman Park area. I don't have details on that, I did not get to  
356 see him. I didn't get to say my final goodbyes or anything like that. It's hurtful, because one, I  
357 feel like I failed him as a leader in the community. I feel like I failed him as a mother, but I know  
358 that I didn't because we've had conversations about God and goals and different things like that  
359 so, it's just again, another one of those things that just kind of had to happen, and I believe that  
360 DeMarco was the missing piece that God was waiting to create to help push me farther into my  
361 purpose.

362 D: Quenaysha, how did, were you very close to DeMarco and what, how do you think he was,  
363 what is your understanding of what happened to him?

364 Q: DeMarco, he was our guardian angel. We already know Maurice sent him because they act so  
365 much alike, they follow Mom. They say, they're just like, "Mom." We used to look at DeMarco  
366 and say, "Is that Maurice inside of him?" And DeMarco, the first day I met DeMarco, I already  
367 knew instantly that he was going to be a great big brother to me. I looked at him as my big  
368 brother. He laughed with us, he talked with us. He talked to us about girlfriends, and you know  
369 he was just like call my mom and say "Where's my sister at?" and she'd be like, "She's gone for  
370 now" and he'd be like, "When can I see her?" and you know I used to come back, and we used to  
371 always just, you know, go have fun. We did take family pictures. That was my favorite memory,  
372 and he'd do silly things like turn off my music. He's like "Nuh-uh we can't turn that music up,  
373 we in the car with you." Yeah, DeMarco he was a guardian angel, and he was my big brother.

374 L: What did he used to always tell us?

375 Q: About what?

376 L: About who was his angel? He would always, DeMarco would always say, "Man, I know I'm  
377 covered, because Ma's my guardian angel" every time something would happen and he would  
378 remind us of Maurice and we would tell him, he would "man, he got to be my guardian angel. I  
379 know I'm covered. I know God got me." You know so, we found peace in his death too, because  
380 knowing that God does have him, he always said that he always told us that he believed that  
381 Maurice sent him to us.

382 D: It sounds like he did, it really does. Do you have a picture of DeMarco that you guys would  
383 like to share?

384 L: I do, it's actually in my phone. I don't have one printed out so I will definitely get the picture  
385 emailed over to you so that you could utilize it.

386 D: Okay, is there any last words you guys would like to add about DeMarco or even Maurice or,  
387 or it could even be a statement. Oh! I don't want to forget, the Butterfly's Sacred Struggle. Tell  
388 me about that and how did that come to be?

389 L: So, the Butterfly Sacred Struggle is my daughter and I's journey. It started when our bishop  
390 preached a sermon about butterfly struggle, and that's a story about a caterpillar going through a  
391 struggle in life. And bishop's son also reached about butterflies too, so we found we kind of  
392 prayed to God and that became our confirmation that God was working out things in our life and  
393 we would see butterflies and butterflies also represents guardian angels as well. So, whenever we  
394 would see a butterfly, we would think about the boys or that we knew that God was directing us  
395 in the right path, so we created Butterfly's Sacred Struggle for us to become mom and daughter  
396 life coaches to help people to overcome barriers in life and also connecting them to resources  
397 that is needed to overcome these barriers.

398 D: That sounds beautiful. Is there anything that you'd like to add, Quenaysha?

399 Q: Yes, well like she said butterflies is our confirmation that our guardian angels are around, and  
400 she see that I give the various idea when I see orange cars or anything orange, I'm like, "oh  
401 mama look, there goes an orange car" and she's like "we got confirmation," and I said "no, my  
402 brother is probably just coming to visit us." It's crazy because my brother, he used to come visit  
403 me at school, I used to see him outside in our garden because my school, we have a garden at our  
404 school, and all types of orange butterflies would just be in the garden and I'd be like "Aw, that's  
405 so nice," yeah.

406 L: So, what she's saying is that while on this journey, we learned how to connect with God by  
407 looking into things when we were in different situations and different things occurred, we  
408 learned how to pay attention to the signs and the signs have become butterflies, numbers, like the  
409 number 8, the color orange. So, whenever we want to know whether or not if its God working in  
410 our life or if this is the direction that we should go in, we would look for confirmation that this is  
411 God working, and if we don't see that, we really don't move (laughs). We kind of stay still, so  
412 she may be down sometimes, and an orange car would drive past, she'd say orange cars because  
413 Maurice was into cars so whenever she would see a nice laid out car or an orange car she'd be  
414 like "oh hey brother!" You know, that's kind of her way, or an orange butterfly. We know that  
415 he's always sending us signs and different stuff like that. Like when I met DeMarco, I saw  
416 butterflies, so I knew Maurice and God were all up in that, I knew that he was sent to us so that  
417 just kind of how we found that confirmation. And also, in addition to that, what I did not talk  
418 about was our butterfly healing garden that we really want for the City of Milwaukee, and it's  
419 just kind of a sacred place that we want to create for people to come to and to start their healing  
420 journey with us. They can start with us as life coaches, or we can connect them to other resources  
421 and different things like that. They can spend some time in the garden, the garden would be  
422 dedicated to DeMarco and Maurice, it will be done in the honor of them. We have another  
423 surprise that I'm not going to put out there, I'm just going to wait for this part to happen, but the  
424 garden will be in honor of them. DeMarco had a dream of having his own garden after working  
425 in the We Got This garden, and we were working on that to do a garden and he was going to be  
426 like the owner of it, but he wanted to do it in honor of Maurice, but he was the missing piece. So  
427 now I can dedicate it to both of them. Maurice wanted a car lot. So, I want his garden. We know  
428 exactly how we want it to be and what it's going to look like, that it's just going to be like a car

429 lot full of butterflies and things in there from made of cars and different stuff like that. It will be  
430 a place where the young men or the kids can come to and they can do crafting, like art therapy  
431 and stuff like that, making thing out of car parts, selling them to get money versus being out on  
432 the streets.

433 D: That wounds wonderful! Anything you guys want to add?

434 L: No, again that it has been besides it has been an honor to be here and be a part of this  
435 movement. I just thank God for Mother's Against Gun Violence. You opened up a door, you  
436 created a space and welcomed us in to be a part of this, well mothers and sisters, to be a part of  
437 what you're doing, and I believe that this is going to be the key of us being the change that I was  
438 looking to see in the community staring with us being a support to one another, starting from  
439 telling our stories, supporting one another in the organizations, working together for this to  
440 become a movement, and them knocking on the elected official's doors like "hey, we are  
441 demanding this." (laughter) I am honored to just be a part of this.

442 D: I'm honored that you and Quenaysha shared y'all's stories, and I couldn't have done anything  
443 of this unless God hadn't connected me with UWM and Carroll University. So big thanks to  
444 them. I'm going to stop the recording.