



VTV CARE



Virginia Beach 5/31/19 Families and Survivors Deserve Much More

On April 16, 2007, the largest massacre on a US college campus took place on the Virginia Tech campus. 32 students and professors were killed and 17 others physically injured, some permanently, not to mention those present that day who were traumatized. All of this was caused by a distraught student who needed help. The institutional response was to push the tragedy away rather than embrace it, build a wall, pull up the bridge to the moat to protect image, and keep the victims from building bridges to one another.

On 5/31/19, a massacre took place in Building #2 on the municipal campus of the City of Virginia Beach. 12 employees were killed and 3 wounded, some permanently, not to mention those present that day who were traumatized. All of this was caused by a distraught employee who needed help. The institutional response was to push the tragedy away rather than embrace it, build a wall, pull up the bridge across the moat to protect image, and keep the victims from building bridges to one another.

It took compassion, empathy, courage, grace, and leadership after the VT shooting. The response by, then, Governor Kaine (now Senator Kaine) to reach out and ask, “What can I do for you, what do you need?” was commendable. A hand was extended with an embrace, along with constant communication, in response to those in need. Kaine promised to form a commission to determine the cause, and what was needed to prevent another mass shooting on a college campus. He included the families of the victims in the process and the results were available within four months. With input from those harmed, changes to make our Virginia college campuses safer were made through legislation.

With the support of former Governor Kaine, Attorney General McDonnell, and members of the Virginia General Assembly, a unique settlement was agreed upon whereby identified VT victims were given a forum to meet face-to-face with institutional leadership, policy makers, decision makers, and law enforcement to ask questions, air grievances, and find a financial path forward which would assist with their long-term trauma-related care needs for physical and psychological injuries.

Dear Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, members of the Virginia General Assembly, and City of Virginia Beach leadership, we beseech you to display the same compassion, empathy, courage, grace and leadership to those families and survivors of the Virginia Beach 5/31/19 shooting as was shown to the VT victims.

Resolution without litigation is before you. In fact, it was modeled, and successfully implemented, 15 years ago with the VT settlement.

Respectfully,

**Members of the Board of Directors
VTV Family Outreach Foundation
(a 501c3 formed by the families and survivors of the VT shooting)**

vtvcare.org

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