

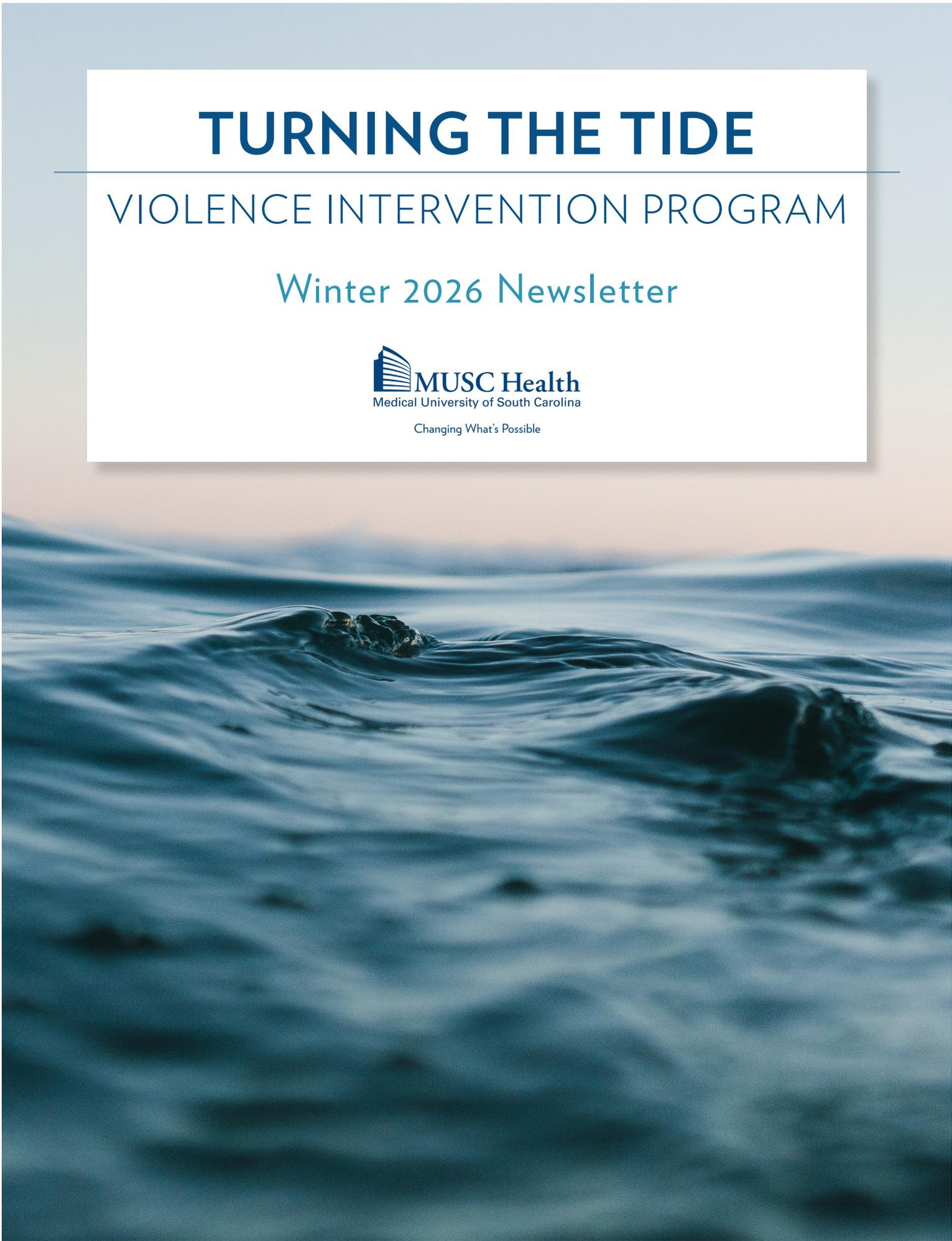
TURNING THE TIDE

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Winter 2026 Newsletter



Changing What's Possible



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Happy new year! As 2026 takes off, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on a couple of this year's accomplishments and share a glimpse of what's to come for MUSC's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program (TTVIP).

While direct care and service to patients and families is TTVIP's focus, critical research and evaluation activities are often happening behind the scenes to inform our work. In early 2025, an internal research study found a clinical quality improvement opportunity aimed at reducing complications and emergency department visits for patients treated and discharged with firearm injuries at MUSC Health – Charleston. As a result, TTVIP formed a multidisciplinary team to develop a clinical care protocol, provided clinical education to providers, and partnered with Power4STL, a nonprofit organization that creates wound care supply boxes (called BRIC Boxes) that aim to support holistic healing and recovery from firearm injuries. Since October 2025, patients who discharge from the adult ED after being treated for a firearm injury receive a BRIC Box – no strings attached. TTVIP is thrilled to contribute to improved clinical outcomes of violently injured patients and thank Power4STL for their meaningful partnership.

Similarly, our 3-year study that is comprehensively evaluating TTVIP from the perspective of patients, loved ones, and healthcare team members, has recently hit a major milestone: The first of three study aims has been completed and we are finalizing dissemination of our findings that demonstrate the value of HVIP efforts among healthcare team members. Integral to this work is **Claire Jacoby**, TTVIP's research coordinator, who shares some insights into her role with TTVIP on Page 6.

In this issue, we take a closer look at Turning the Tide's early intervention program (Page 5). Launched in October 2024 in partnership with MUSC's Pediatric Primary Care Clinic, TTVIP expanded to include early screening and referral of youth at disproportionately high risk of experiencing community firearm violence. **Kristen Moldenhauer**, TTVIP's early intervention client advocate, provides the same intensive case management and wraparound services to enrolled youth that our violently injured patients receive. With over a year of experience gained, learn more about Kristen and her perspective of this work on Page 6.

Lastly, **Dr. Ashley Hink**, founder and medical director of TTVIP, is transitioning to a new role at WakeMed Raleigh, where she will serve as trauma medical director for its level 1 trauma center, and importantly, be serving the community where she is from and where her family lives. Working with TTVIP and its team has been an honor, and she is proud to be a part of improving equitable care and evidence-based services for survivors of violence at MUSC. She will continue to support TTVIP efforts and research in an adjunct role, and will forever be the TTVIP's biggest champion and grateful for its many supporters at MUSC and in the community.

In peace & service,

Ashley Hink

Christa Green



Ashley Hink, M.D., MPH
Medical Director, Turning the Tide
Violence Intervention Program
Department of Surgery
Medical University of South Carolina



Christa Green, MPH
Program Director, Turning the Tide
Violence Intervention Program
Department of Surgery
Medical University of South Carolina

MEET THE TEAM

PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Ashley Hink, M.D., MPH



Christa Green, MPH

CLIENT ADVOCATES



Cat Yetman, BS
Violence Intervention



Chantelle Mitchell
Violence Intervention



Herbert Jenkins, D. Min
Violence Intervention



Kristen Moldenhauer, MA
Early Intervention

INJURY PREVENTION COORDINATOR



Adrianna Bellamy, BSPH

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



Claire Jacoby, BA

WHO WE ARE

The MUSC Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program is an evidence-based, multi-disciplinary program that supports youth and young adults that are at risk of or experience violent injury with the aims of reducing risk factors for violence, preventing injury and re-injury, and improving patient-centered outcomes.

Core principles to this model include:

- A public health approach to address the social determinants of health and root causes of violence;
- Culturally competent, trauma-informed services to improve trust and communication;
- Community partnerships with community-based organizations and agencies that provide services to comprehensively support patients' needs.

Who do we serve?

MUSC's Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program aims to improve the care and recovery of violently injured patients to prevent future violence and improve quality of life. We currently serve patients 12-30 years old that suffer gunshot injuries from community-based violence, and are treated at MUSC Health Charleston's Adult and Pediatric Trauma Centers. TTVIP also provides early intervention

services to youth 12-18 years old who are identified in our pediatric settings as being at high risk of experiencing community gun violence. Once enrolled in TTVIP, these youth receive the same services as our violently injured patients.

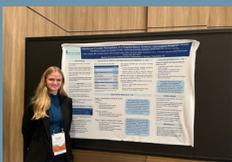
Full wraparound services are offered to enrolled patients and families. Homicide survivor support services are also available to families and friends that experience the loss of a loved one at MUSC. A key component of this program is the long-term intensive follow-up provided up to a year post-injury.

What are Wraparound Services?

Wraparound services are inclusive of whatever the patient and family need to address unmet needs and risk factors for violent injury, and will promote recovery, reduce repeat violence, and improve their health, social, and economic outcomes.

Services may include mentorship and encouragement, conflict mediation, and connecting patients to social services such as food, housing, education, employment, transportation, healthcare, mental health, substance abuse counseling, victims services, and community support.

WHAT'S NEW



- Claire Jacoby, TTVIP's research coordinator, was busy this fall sharing study findings at MUSC's Department of Surgery Research Recognition Day with an oral presentation and the National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms with a poster presentation, titled "Healthcare Provider Perceptions of an HVIP: Significant Impact on Quality of Care, Reducing Provider Distress, and Need for Sustainability."



- *Live 5 News, November 2025: 'MUSC violence intervention program receives \$100,000 grant'*

Christa Green, TTVIP Program Director, was interviewed by Live 5 to share about TTVIP's recently awarded grant from Everytown for Gun Safety's Support Fund, which supports our pediatric early intervention program.



- Kristen Moldenhauer, TTVIP's early intervention client advocate, was recognized as the Department of Surgery's employee of the month in October. Kristen was recognized for her commitment to supporting the development and launch of the early intervention program and dedication to the patients and families she serves. Congratulations, Kristen!



- As a grantee of the Everytown Support Fund, TTVIP is proudly featured in a documentary titled "*Pieces of the Puzzle: A Community-Led Approach to Reducing Gun Violence in America.*" Check out this trailer to get a sneak peek and learn more about the other community violence intervention organizations featured in the film.

MUSC Health **Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program**

TTVIP'S EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES: OCT 2024-DEC 2025

Early intervention services are provided to patients 12-18 years old who are screened and referred to TTVIP by their MUSC Health – Charleston pediatric provider. Those who enroll in TTVIP receive the same long-term wraparound services as our violently injured patients. Our goal is to prevent youth gun violence by addressing social determinants of health and risk factors for violence exposure.

BY THE NUMBERS

| | |
|------------|---|
| 55 | Referrals Received Majority from MUSC's Pediatric Primary Care (PPC) Clinic |
| 15 | Average Age in Years |
| 10 | Eligible Patients agreed to enroll in Wraparound Services |
| 95% | Non-Hispanic Black Race |
| 62% | Males |
| 86% | Medicaid Funded |
| 80% | Live in Charleston County 65% Live in 4 Zip Codes: Downtown Charleston, Upper Neck, West Ashley, North Charleston |

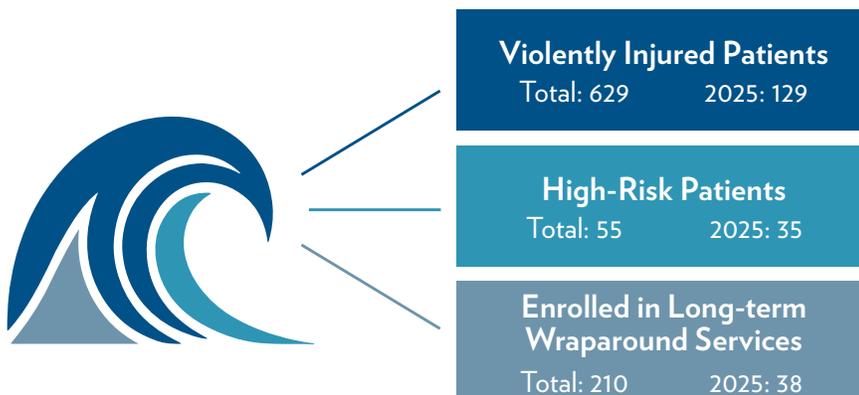
For comparison, about 14% of the PPC Clinic's patient population is 12-18 years old, and predominantly Black (84%) males (51%) on Medicaid (89%).

Most Common Wraparound Services

- Mentorship
- Food Assistance
- Education Advocacy
- Criminal Justice System Advocacy
- Safety Planning
- Transportation Assistance

WE'VE BEEN TURNING THE TIDE AGAINST VIOLENCE SINCE 2021!

Since launching in July 2021, Turning the Tide has directly supported:



TTVIP'S IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

Numbers and statistics help to show the breadth of our reach, but it's important to remember that behind every number is a person whose whole world changed in the blink of an eye. Every patient's life, and those around them, is significantly impacted when they experience gun violence. TTVIP is honored to walk alongside survivors of gun violence from the very beginning of their recovery – physically, emotionally, and so much more. One of our recent patients bravely shared her story of pain and resilience on Page 7.

LEADING WITH EXCELLENCE

CLIENT ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: KRISTEN MOLDENHAUER

If you were wondering who deserves recognition for the reach and impact described on Page 5, meet **Kristen Moldenhauer**, TTVIP's early intervention client advocate. Hired in the fall of 2024, Kristen uniquely serves youth ages 12-18 years old who are screened and referred to TTVIP from MUSC's Pediatric Primary Care Clinic. Kristen brings a diverse range of skills to Turning the Tide, and credits her experience as a mother, former teacher, and local community organizer, for her ability to form meaningful and lasting connections with the patients and families she serves.

Kristen's passion for social justice and equity, where opportunity and support for all members of the community exists, drove her interest in joining Turning the Tide. Kristen shares, "The Charleston community experiences many challenges that are rooted in systemic inequities that can affect healing and trauma resiliency." She goes on to say that she believes her role as an early intervention client advocate creates a bridge between youth who are at risk of experiencing violence and the support and opportunities available to prevent that from happening.

Over the last 15 months of implementing the early intervention program, Kristen has learned the power of humor, comradery and persistence. While navigating broken systems and identifying opportunities for support and services, Kristen's strong relationships with the youth and caregivers are essential to their success. Kristen shares that she relies on her grit, determination, support systems, and importantly, a good sense of humor, to not lose sight of our mission.

When asked what she'd want you to know about this work, Kristen emphasized her unwavering belief in the strength of our community's young people.



"I know my patients to be determined, resilient, and goal oriented. In moments when challenges feel too big to overcome, I will be there to remind them of their strengths and help them reach their goals."

-Kristen Moldenhauer

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: CLAIRE JACOBY

Complex research projects like TTVIP's "Advancing the Evidence for HVIPs in the Southeast: Comprehensive Patient-Centered Outcomes & Stakeholder Insights," which is funded by Kaiser Permanente's Center for Gun Violence Research and Education, require significant organization and coordination. Fortunately, **Claire Jacoby** has served as the research assistant for this study from the start. Joining TTVIP in the fall of 2024 as a recent college graduate, Claire was drawn to the community-based approach of this research project and felt aligned with TTVIP's commitment to culturally competent and trauma-informed care.

Claire's patient- and family-centered approach to implementing research activities, like recruiting and interviewing, are integral to the project's success. "I recognize how intimidating it can be as a research participant to sit down with someone you don't know and share your experience of treatment and recovery as a victim of violence," she shares. At the same time, Claire acknowledges how helpful TTVIP's client advocates have been, who are often supporting the research by facilitating introductions and keeping in touch with participants between study activities. "Patients' openness to participating in our research study and the rich data they're providing is a testament to the relationships and trust they have with our client advocates."



A Survivor's Perspective

“When I turned 18, I thought the biggest surprise was how grown-up I suddenly felt. I had shopping bags in my hands and a smile that wouldn’t leave my face—my mom had taken me on a shopping spree the week before my birthday, spoiling me in ways only a mother can. I remember feeling like life was finally opening up, like the world had just handed me a key and said, “Go live.”

That summer morning, around 11 a.m., the sun was especially bright, almost too bright, the kind that warms your skin before you even notice. I was in the car with my friends, music blasting, windows down, our laughter mixing with the wind. We were young, careless, and convinced that nothing bad could touch us. It felt like one of those moments you replay later, thinking, I didn’t even realize how happy I was.

And then—everything changed.

I remember the sound first, sharp and sudden, cutting through the music. Before I could even turn my head, I felt it—the hot, burning sensation of a bullet ripping through me. My head snapped back violently. Time seemed to slow down, stretching the moment into something too surreal to be real.

I saw bullets flying past me, felt them hitting my body, each impact another shock of fear. I couldn’t think; I could barely breathe. All I knew was pain and panic. I remember screaming, praying, begging for it to stop. My heart was pounding so fast it felt like it was trying to escape my chest.

Then... nothing. Just darkness.

When I opened my eyes again, I was in the hospital. The room was cold, too white, too still. My brother was the first thing I saw—his face tired, eyes red, but full of relief. My mom stood beside him, trying to smile even though fear was written all over her. Seeing them warmed something inside me, even though I was scared, confused, and hurting.

I thought my life would never be the same. And in some ways, I was right.

My brother told me everything—how I’d been on the edge of death, how he stayed by my side for days, refusing to leave even when doctors whispered things they didn’t want him to hear. He told me how he held my hand, how he prayed harder than he ever had in his life, how he refused to believe I wouldn’t wake up.

I lost a part of myself that day—not just physically, but emotionally. There’s a version of me that died in that car, a version that believed nothing bad could ever happen.

But I also gained something.

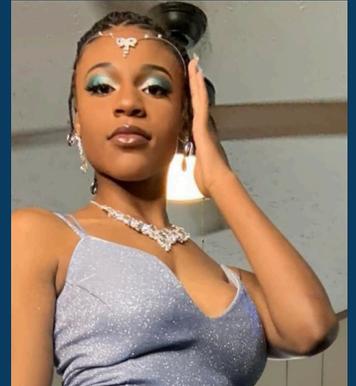
The situation changed me, not for the worse but for the better. It taught me that life is fragile, but it’s also a blessing. That the people who love you will fight for you when you can’t fight for yourself...

That surviving isn’t just breathing—it’s choosing to keep going even when you’re scared.

And even though I almost lost everything that day, I came out with a clearer vision of what truly matters. I came out grateful. I came out stronger.”

—Tihanna Harry, TTVIP Patient

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Tihanna Harry is a survivor of firearm violence. A current student, she hopes to graduate high school and go to college. This is her first published piece of writing.

Gratitude

Your generous support is changing what's possible.

We'd like to give recognition and thanks to recent contributors to the MUSC TTVIP. Their support helps sustain ongoing efforts for violence intervention and victim support in 2026 and beyond:

- Gildan. Based in Charleston, Gildan has generously donated clothing to stock TTVIP's patient wardrobe, which supports patients discharging from the hospital and clients experiencing financial hardship.
- Everytown for Gun Safety's Support Fund. This grant critically sustains the implementation of TTVIP's early intervention program.
- SC Department of Public Health, Community Violence Intervention and Prevention. This grant provides essential ongoing support for TTVIP implementation.
- Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education. This 3-year research grant supports the evaluation of TTVIP with a focus on patient-centered outcomes and impact.
- The Duke Endowment. In partnership with MUSC's College of Nursing, TTVIP is expanding services to include direct mental health care for violently injured patients and families.
- And, to all of our individual donors for their support which allows TTVIP to care for our patients and families!

Thank you. Because of you, the tides are turning!

If you'd like to join our efforts and support the TTVIP that is creating positive change in our community, please visit giving.musc.edu/surgery.

Learn more about how you can support the Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program by contacting Christa Green, MPH, TTVIP Program Director, at greechri@muscc.edu.

Learn more at Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program
muschealth.org/TTVIP

Join Us! Support the MUSC Health TTVIP!