

Bulletin Insert (copy and paste the text below as suggested into a new document for your bulletin)

Front:

*Thus said the LORD:
A cry is heard in Ramah –
Wailing, bitter weeping –
Rachel weeping for her children.
She refuses to be comforted
For her children, who are gone. (Jer 31:15 TNK)*

Today, we weep for our children who are gone.

We weep for the 20 small children lost in the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

We weep for the 7 children and teens who are killed by guns each and every day in our nation.

Inside left:

A child or teen dies or is injured from guns every half hour.

- **18,270** children and teens **died or were injured** from guns in 2010.
- **50** children and teens died or were injured **every day**
- **351** children and teens died or were injured **every week**

More children and teens die from guns every three days than died in the Newtown massacre.

- **2,694** children and teens **died** from guns in 2010.
 - **1** child or teen died **every 3 hours and 15 minutes**
 - **7** children and teens died **every day**
 - **52** children and teens died **every week**
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- **Between 1979 and 2010, 119,079 children and teens** died from guns. This is more child and teen deaths in 32 years than U.S. soldiers killed in action in the Vietnam (47,434), Korean(33,739), Afghanistan (1,712), and Iraq (3,518) wars combined.

Inside right and continuing on the back:

*Thus said the LORD:
Restrain your voice from weeping,
Your eyes from shedding tears;
For there is a reward for your labor -- declares the LORD:
They shall return from the enemy's land. (Jer 31:16 TNK)*

We can and must labor together, faithfully and persistently, to bring all children home to an experience of peace and safety, security and well-being. What can we do?

Pray: Pray for children and those who would harm them that all may know peace, love, justice, and well-being. Pray that we act to make our lives and our nation reflect the world God intends.

Educate: Share the facts about child gun deaths in this insert. More information is available at www.childrensdefense.org. Talk with children and young people about the glamorization of violence in our culture and how we can uphold values of peaceful conflict resolution and community.

Serve: Contribute your time, talents, and treasure to support local programs that are working for children's safety and well-being, such as after school programs, conflict resolutions programs, family support initiatives and child abuse prevention efforts.

Advocate: Encourage the President, members of Congress and other decision-makers and community leaders to:

- Keep guns out of the hands of children and those who would use them against children through sensible gun safety measures.
- Strengthen support for children facing violence in their communities and families, and for children with unmet mental health needs.
- Offer parents and children the resources, support and tools they need to survive and work against the culture of violence, in which family violence is epidemic, child abuse and neglect are widespread and children are exposed to television, movies and video games that glamorize guns, bloodshed and brutality.

More information on these priorities is available at www.childrensdefense.org