

INFORMATION



The Cradle to Grave Program

About the Cradle to Grave Program

Cradle to Grave offers a rare glimpse into the gritty reality of gun violence by showing young people the bloody and permanent side of violence.

Over the course of two hours, program participants are immersed in the last 15 minutes of the life of someone they can relate to – a 16-year-old boy named Lamont Adams who arrives at Temple University Hospital's ER, his body fatally riddled with 24 gunshot wounds.

This award-winning program starts in a trauma bay similar to the one Lamont was rushed into. Students “meet” Lamont through photographs and recorded family recollections then watch as a doctor places 24 stickers, one by one, across the body of a volunteer who lies in Lamont's place on a gurney. Each sticker represents a bullet wound. They listen to the descriptions of the devastating wounds caused by the bullets, and hear in graphic detail how the trauma surgeons fought to save his life.

From the trauma bay, the students proceed to a classroom where both an educational and introspective component occurs. The issue of inner-city violence, specifically gun violence, is framed. Pictures illustrating the destructive results of firearm injury are displayed. The students are also asked, “Who would you die for?” and “How much is your life worth?”

After much discussion and contemplation, the program concludes in Temple's morgue...Lamont's last stop. Participants are asked to list on toe tags the names of people who would miss them if they were to become the victims of violence.

It is this forum for thought-provoking discussion that sets our program apart. We strive to provide young people with actual strategies they can use to make better decisions, resolve conflicts using non-violent means, and ultimately avoid becoming victims themselves.



Dr. Amy Goldberg, Temple University Hospital's Chief of Trauma Surgery, demonstrating some of the medical interventions commonly performed on gunshot wound patients.