



**FAMILIES FOR
SAFE STREETS**
NEW YORK STATE

**ADVOCACY AND
SUPPORT GUIDE**
FALL/WINTER 2023-24



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ABOUT FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS

Families for Safe Streets confronts the preventable epidemic of traffic violence by advocating for life-saving changes and providing support to those who have been impacted by crashes.

Families for Safe Streets was co-founded in New York City in 2014 by the families of loved ones who were killed or injured and now has over twenty chapters across the country, as we continue to reach more of those who have been affected by the epidemic of traffic violence.





**JOIN OUR NEW NATIONAL
ONLINE COMMUNITY ON GENEVA**

YOU ARE NOT ALONE
JOIN THIS ONLINE COMMUNITY WITH
FAMILIES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER
SIGN UP THROUGH THE QR CODE . . .



A NOTE ON SAMMY'S LAW FROM FSS' CHAIRS

Dear FSS Community,

Last session in Albany was a bitter one. As many of you know, even after a major push—including a 100 hour hunger strike—we did not succeed in getting Sammy's Law past its last hurdle in Albany: passage through the New York State Assembly.

In the end, Speaker Heastie shamefully decided to side with the 12 assemblymembers (out of 150) who stood in the way.



Our collective strength, however, was a continued inspiration. Over 50 FSS members got directly involved in the final days of the fight, and many more made calls and sent emails.

It's worth remembering that with partners ranging from AARP-NY to labor unions like DC37, we succeeded in passing a home rule message for Sammy's Law through the NYC Council, while the NYS Senate, Mayor Adams and Governor Hochul vigorously recommitted their support. When we ran into headwinds in the NYS Assembly in June, we organized an intensive public policy push with associated direct actions. This included a **100 hour hunger strike outside of Assembly chambers** and, separately, a **"die-in" in front of the NYC Assembly offices.**

Ultimately, this last session we secured 68 Assembly co-sponsors, which was a 106% increase over the 2021-2022 legislative session. We also heard from many more that they would vote in favor if it came to the floor. Our actions were covered in nearly every major media outlet—earning mention by the New York Times as a “high profile” bill, in addition to securing three separate editorials in support from The Daily News. National and international advocates also weighed in and supported our efforts in huge numbers..

While Albany is broken, it won't break us. And even though we didn't succeed in passing Sammy's Law this year, we cleared a lot of hurdles and grew our strength and support significantly, positioning us well for future efforts.



Thank you to this amazing community for your continued work to make NYC safer. We know that, together, we will succeed.

— Families for Safe Streets Co-Chairs, Amy Cohen and Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio

NYS - FSS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Below is a list of FSS' priorities at the statewide level. We also extensively support Transportation Alternatives in its legislative and policy work at the city level - fighting for street design in communities across the city as well as citywide policy initiatives promoting safe streets.

SPEED LIMITERS FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS

(Sen. Gounardes, AM Gallagher)

- ✗ **Problem:** A small number of repeat speeders cause a disproportionate number of crashes in New York State.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** When people drive drunk, violators are required to implement technology in their car that prevents them from doing that. We should do the same for habitually reckless speeders. This bill would require that the worst of the worst speeders (those with six or more speed safety camera violations in a year, or who accumulate 11 points on their license) have speed limiters implemented on their vehicle for 1 year.

FIGHTING VEHICULAR BLOAT

(Sen. Gounardes, AM Mamdani)

- ✗ **Problem:** Across the country, “vehicle bloat” is an alarming trend that is making our streets more dangerous. For example, from 2000 to 2018, the weight of the average pickup truck rose by 24%.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** This bill would increase registration fees based on vehicle weight, providing a much needed incentive for people to buy smaller, safer vehicles.
 - For every 1,000 pound increase in vehicle weight, there is a 46% increase in motorist fatalities, and a pedestrian struck by an SUV or pickup truck is 41% more likely to die than a pedestrian struck by a sedan at the same speed.
 - Children are eight times more likely to be killed in a crash involving an SUV or pickup truck than in a crash with a sedan
 - With the passage of this bill, New York would be leading the country in the fight against the ever increasing size of vehicles.



2005 Honda Civic vs. 2022 Ford F-150 Lightning
image: carsized.com

LOCAL CONTROL OVER SPEED LIMITS:

SAMMY'S LAW

(Sen. Hoylman, AM Rosenthal)

- ✗ **Problem:** Currently NYS has control over when and where NYC can lower its speed limit. Every street does not deserve the same speed limit of 25mph. Residential streets, streets closed to all but local traffic, school zones – all deserve slower, safer speed limits.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** This bill would give New York City more power to set our own speed limits. Sammy's Law would give us the ability to lower our speed limit on neighborhood streets to 20mph. Similar bills have prevented up to 17% of crashes where they've been implemented.

UNIVERSAL TRUCK SIDE GUARDS

(Sen. Hoylman)

- ✗ **Problem:** In the U.S., 30% of cyclists killed by heavy trucks were hit on the side, along with 10% of pedestrians. These side fatalities would have been reduced with side guards.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** This bill would mandate the use of truck side guards in New York State by all vehicles over 10,000 lbs.
 - In the EU, deaths and serious injuries for vulnerable road users when involved in an incident with heavy vehicles have reduced since the introduction of side guards.
 - For bicyclists, the reduction in the number of killed and seriously injured is substantial: since implementation, there was a 61% reduction for the fatally injured and 12.8% reduction for the seriously injured bicyclist.
 - For pedestrians, a reduction of 20% was noted for the fatally injured, but no reduction was observed for seriously injured pedestrians.

NYS - FSS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

We are active members of the statewide New York State Street Safety Coalition: the coalition's SAFE Act agenda can be found here: www.transalt.org/safe

COMPLETE STREETS MAINTENANCE

(Sen. Kennedy, AM Rivera)

- ✗ **Problem:** Right now, the 2011 Complete Street Act only applies to state roads that are being “constructed, reconstructed, or rehabilitated”—which means it can be applied only to a relatively small number of major projects.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** The Complete Street Maintenance bill would lower the project size threshold for applicable projects going forward.
 - The main roads of many smaller cities and villages across New York State are state roads, thus making Complete Street implementation along key corridors by local or county authorities impossible.
 - The road work undertaken on these main streets is often less intensive than “construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation” standards—so the Complete Street Act of 2011 does not apply to them. Nevertheless, these are the roads that deeply impact many communities across the state, and local people desperately want to make them safer.
 - The passage of this bill would give towns and villages an ability to weigh-in and successfully advocate for Complete Street design improvements when their main roads—which may also be state roads—undergo more frequently undertaken work projects.

GRIEVING FAMILIES ACT

(Sen. Hoylman, AM Weinstein)

- ✗ **Problem:** Currently, when someone dies in a crash, there are laws that determine how much that person was “worth” when someone pursues a wrongful death lawsuit in civil court and limits on who can recover them. For example, if a young child is killed, they are not deemed to be worth much in a wrongful death suit because he/she was not yet earning a salary.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** The Grieving Families Act aims to help families who lost someone by giving them what their loved one was worth and not what they earned. The bill would allow surviving close family members to sue for grief or anguish and loss of love—not just for financial loss.

CRASH VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS

(Sen. Holyman, AM Glick)

- ✗ **Problem:** Those seriously injured in a crash and the family members of those killed rarely have a voice in legal proceedings or have access to the safety net made available to victims of crimes. Far too many fall through the cracks and fail to achieve the accountability deserved.
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** The Crash Victim Bill of Rights will guarantee family members a voice in all legal proceedings, ensure they get timely access to police reports, and mandate that a study be conducted to determine how resources and services can be extended to crash victims even when the driver is not charged.



RED LIGHT CAMERA REAUTHORIZATION

- ✗ **Problem:** The current authorization for red light cameras is set to expire in December 2024. Failing to reauthorize red light cameras would make our streets less safe
- ✓ **Policy Solution:** Since the red light camera program began in 1994, the average daily number of red light running violations has declined by over 77%. We must reauthorize and expand the use of Red Light Cameras in New York City.

GET INVOLVED: JOIN A COMMITTEE

Families for Safe Streets works through volunteer committees that our members can participate in. If you're interested in joining any of them, please don't hesitate to email us at info@familiesforsafestreeets.org.

Even if you have only an hour a month to get involved, that's enough!

Please let us know. The more of us that are getting involved, the more we can do—together.

Policy and Advocacy

Chairs: Julie Huntington and Kate Brockwehl

Vice Chair: Sandra Voss

→ The policy and advocacy committee leads FSS' efforts to identify and fight for streets safety projects and legislation to prevent future crashes. The committee is currently focused on Local Control over New York City Street Speeds (Sammy's Law), Speed Limiters for Repeat Reckless Drivers (Intelligent Speed Assistance), and Universal Truck Side Guards as well as the rest of the SAFE Streets Act Agenda.



Julie Huntington, Chair

Julie Huntington is a Queens-based educator and activist who enjoys walking, running, and cycling around New York City. She became a member of Families for Safe Streets (FSS) in 2019 after her father Kim (forever 65) was senselessly killed in a crash. He was mortally wounded by falling debris after a man driving an illegally overheight commercial truck sheared off the underdressing of a bridge construction project. Julie puts her pain to purpose as a member of FSS in loving memory of her dad and in the hopes that the day will come when no one will suffer the pain and devastation of losing a loved one to traffic violence.

Kate Brockwehl, Chair

I was seriously injured as a pedestrian on December 31, 2017 and found FSS more than a year later after some random Google searches when I couldn't sleep. I was looking for people who'd "get it". At the crash scene and when I found out my injuries were serious enough that I had no choice but to hire a lawyer, I'd said that since I couldn't have done anything to prevent my being hit, what I wanted was for it to be less likely that I or someone I love would be hit again -- it felt really obvious to me but was to nobody else around me.



Three of my great grandmothers were killed by vehicles, before I had a chance to meet them, and my mom has a lot of anxiety about driving, but I wasn't raised with these facts being discussed. Advocacy work comes more naturally to me, and that's where I've chosen to devote most of my FSS energy, but I've also found the support events and being a peer mentor incredibly fulfilling.

Sandra Voss, Vice Chair

I became a member of Families for Safe Streets in 2020 after my amazing brother-in-law Charlie was killed while riding his bike outside Boston. I volunteer with FSS in hopes of preventing other families from experiencing such a devastating loss, and in order to channel my grief and anger into something good. As a bicyclist and pedestrian in NYC, every day I'm aware of the need for safer streets. Each time I see a driver speeding or running a red light, or when I witness unsafe infrastructure or lacking policies, I'm reminded of the importance of our work. I believe that everyone has the right to enjoy fun, eco-friendly transit modes -- like Charlie did -- without fearing for their safety or that of their loved ones.



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Outreach

Chairs: Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio and Monique Williams

→ The outreach committee works to create relationships and initiatives to ensure that those who are affected by traffic violence are aware of Families for Safe Streets. The committee is currently working on forming connections with institutions and a project to place posters at the sites of fatal crashes to raise awareness about FSS.



Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio, Chair

My name is Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio. My 5-year-old son Bryan was one of the 100 Americans killed on October 31st 2006. He was the most precious gift ever. Just before he died, he had the opportunity to travel to Mexico to meet my parents and also the town where I was born. I never thought it would be his only trip to Mexico.

Mi nombre es Fabiola Mendieta-Cuapio. Mi hijo Bryan de 5 años fue uno de los 100 ciudadanos de Estados Unidos que murieron el 31 de Octubre del 2006. El ha sido el regalo más precioso en mi vida. Justo antes de morir, él tuvo la oportunidad de viajar a México a conocer a mis padres y el pueblo donde yo nació. Nunca pensé que iba a ser su único viaje a México.

Monique Williams, Chair

Monique became a member of Families for Safe Streets after her father Jerry Spriggs was killed in a hit-run car crash in 2020.

Advocacy work for Families for Safe Streets has strengthened her mentally and emotionally to aid other families members to turn their pain into purpose and lobby for Safe Streets to reduce speeding and save lives.



Fundraising and national growth

Chair: Amy Cohen

→ The fundraising and national expansion committee develops initiatives to raise financial support for FSS' current efforts and to enable us to reach others who have been affected by the epidemic of traffic violence throughout the country.

Amy Cohen, Chair

After her 12-year-old son Sammy was killed in 2013, Amy Cohen joined with others and helped found Families for Safe Streets. She led the initial campaign to lower NYC's speed limit as well as the recent fight to do so again named after her son.

Now that FSS is expanding outside of NYC, she is helping lead this growing national movement. Amy is a social worker and was previously an administrator of a large social service agency.



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Communication

Chair: Devan Sipher

Vice Chairs: David Sheppard and Dan Levinsohn

→ The communication committee ensures that FSS members are informed of what is happening within the organization and the safe streets movement, as well as enabling connections between members. To achieve this, the committee is leading the shift to a new online community platform (Geneva), fostering an environment where members can easily engage with one another.



Devan Sipher, Chair

Devan Sipher is an author and former New York Times reporter. In 2015 he was run over by a double-decker tour bus while crossing the street in Manhattan.

He spent three months in the ICU and had numerous surgeries over the next two years. Although he was told it was unlikely he would ever walk unassisted, he hiked 200 miles of the Camino de Santiago in 2019. He's determined to use his painful experience and his ongoing challenges as an opportunity to improve the safety of our streets and our society.

David Sheppard, Vice Chair

David Sheppard was born on July 26, 1964, in Newark, NJ. He attended Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ where he matriculated through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and served proudly in the United States Army Reserves. David is married and has two adult children. He is employed as an IT Systems administrator and has worked in this field for 20 years.



Presently he serves as a Deacon at Union Baptist Church in Elizabeth, NJ, sings on the male chorus and is also a member of the Baptist Deacons association of NJ. In November of 2009 Dave's fiancée (Sonya Powell) was killed while crossing the street in the Baychester section of the Bronx. Since this time Dave has worked with Transportation Alternatives to make the streets of New York safe for all pedestrians.



Dan Levinsohn, Vice Chair

Dan Levinsohn was struck in a crosswalk between Brooklyn's Classon and Flushing Avenues on Labor Day, 2017; the crash shattered his shoulder and resulted in ten fractures. He joined Families for Safe Streets the following summer.

Through FSS, Dan has met with then-Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams to discuss traffic safety, traveled to Albany to advocate for Sammy's Law, and wants to ensure all publicly funded schools in New York offer driver's education classes.

A digital editorial producer now based in Los Angeles, Dan works with the organization's digital and support committees. He is always willing to lend an ear.

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Support

Chair: Judy Kottick

Vice Chair: Rita Barravecchio

→ The support committee fosters connections between members by creating space for those affected by traffic violence to come together in a loving environment to support and be supported by others. The committee facilitates our peer mentorship program, monthly support groups, and events throughout the year that are dedicated to ensure all our members know that they are not alone as they navigate the horror and trauma of losing a loved one or surviving a serious injury.



Judy Kottick, Chair

Walking home from the subway on a cold January night, Judy Kottick's 23-year-old daughter, Ella Bandes, was killed by a distracted bus driver outside of the Myrtle Wyckoff subway station on the border of Brooklyn and Queens. Ella was a talented artist, dancer and humanitarian and her death crushed everyone who knew her.

Almost a year later, Judy and her husband, Ken Bandes, discovered others who had lost loved ones or were seriously injured in NYC traffic violence, and they joined together to form Families for Safe Streets in 2014.

Judy has been instrumental in developing the FSS support community and peer mentor program, which give our members, first in New York and now across the country, a safe space to connect with others who fully understand. No one should go through this nightmare alone.

Rita Barravecchio, Vice Chair

My name is Rita Barravecchio. My happiest times are spent with my 4 incredible children and loving husband. I am a passionate middle school science teacher who teaches my students not only content but what it means to be a positive member of the community.

I became a member of FSS in June 2018 when my amazing 17 year old niece was killed by a reckless driver. My niece's death is my reason to fight for change in the culture of driving and to support people whose lives have been broken into pieces because of reckless drivers.



OUR NEW TOOLKITS & SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Fighting for safe streets is difficult work, and we want our community to be empowered with tools, resources, and know-how to make change. Take these steps with us to boost your advocacy know-how and power:

✓ **Sign up for our new online community hub on Geneva - the gateway to getting involved**

- Communication is the core of community building and organizing for change. This new, user-friendly hub will be a convening place for FSS members in NYC—and across the country—to meet, support one another, share upcoming events, advocacy opportunities and strategies. In addition to in-person events, we will also be hosting regular member events and outside speakers that will only be accessible on the online hub.

✓ **Attend our Monthly Activist Trainings**

- Starting in October 2023, FSS will be hosting monthly *Your City, Your Voice* activist trainings online. Learn advocacy skills and connect with other members.

✓ **Watch our new video training series (only on Geneva)**

- While FSS hosts trainings on a regular basis, we know the meeting times don't always sync with your schedules. We have prepared an online video training series that you can take on a schedule that works for you.

✓ **Share Your Story in the Digital Memorial Map**

- Memorializing our loved ones is important for both personal reasons, and for reminding decisionmakers about the costs of inaction. This new tool will allow us to share stories that connect on a deeply personal level, while also painting a picture of the wider societal crisis. The map provides a form that will guide you to sharing your story.

✓ **Share the National Post-Crash Resource Guide**

- For those who may know others impacted outside of NYS, we have updated our resource guide to be more broadly applicable across the United States.

✓ **Volunteer as Part of the NYC Crash Poster Response Program**

- Over 250 people are killed in crashes in NYC every year, and we have started a project to build awareness for each one—but we will need volunteers to support this effort.
- We are building a volunteer support network across the five boroughs. If you have even a few hours each month to support, we could use your help. Email bobby@FamiliesforSafeStreets.org

✓ **Learn From Our Safe Streets Speaker Series (only on Geneva)**

- Every month we will invite a speaker of interest to connect with FSS members through the Geneva platform.

SCAN THE CODE OR CLICK TO SIGN UP FOR GENEVA, OUR NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY HUB



SIX-MONTH SUPPORT EVENT CALENDAR

OCT.-NOV.
2023

**FSS COMMUNITY
READING GROUP**

This new FSS event gathers the FSS community around art and culture that touches on traffic violence. For our first “Read” we will discuss James Agee’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *A Death in the Family*. Published in 1957, this autobiographical account chronicles the crash that killed the author’s father and its searing impact. Discussion is on Zoom, five consecutive Mondays in October and November. We will provide a reader’s guide and weekly discussion prompts, as well as ongoing conversation on the Geneva platform.

RSVP: aly@familiesforsafestreeets.org

OCTOBER
2023

**COLIN CAMPBELL:
GRIEF: A ONE MAN
SH*T SHOW**

October 4, 2023 6:30 pm EST / 3:30 PST
People’s Forum, New York City

FSS and Evermore co-host a live (NYC) and streaming event with Academy Award-nominated director, author, and playwright, Colin Campbell, whose children Ruby and Hart were killed by a drunk driver in 2019. Campbell will perform excerpts from his acclaimed play, *Grief: A One-Man Sh*t Show*. Interview, audience conversation, and book signing following the event.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSColinCampbell

NOVEMBER
2023

**WDOR, POST-EVENT
CANDLE LIGHTING**

Our annual post-WDoR candle lighting and slideshow gathers FSS community members across the country to highlight their events and share insights from this meaningful yet painful day.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSCandleLighting

JANUARY
2024

PET THERAPY

We know that the company of animals makes us feel good. Extensive research proves it. Pets have the ability to relieve stress and anxiety, lower blood pressure, and elevate endorphin levels. We’ll share conversation and also resources for pet therapy and other resources.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSPetTherapy

FEBRUARY
2024

SHOW-AND-TELL

Articles, possessions, photos, objects and memories can help tell a story about loved ones we’ve lost. These treasures can hold significant meaning that helps us to share stories and feel close to our loved ones and to the community that supports us.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSShowAndTell

MARCH
2024

**POETRY READING
AND DISCUSSION**

Poetry has a unique ability to unlock and express emotions - providing imagery and words to help us understand our own feelings around pain and loss, and share this with others. Join community members to connect, reflect, and support each other using poetry as our medium. We will create a bibliography of favorite poems, lyrics, and more.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSPoetry

SIX-MONTH SUPPORT EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL
2024

SURVIVORS' GROUP: SOMATIC MOVEMENT THERAPY

The Parasympathetic or 'unconscious' nervous system allows us to 'rest and digest,' while the sympathetic nervous system (the one we're more familiar with) drives our fight-or-flight response to stress and pain. This workshop will guide people to access the parasympathetic nervous system through simple movements and awareness building. The benefits include slowing heart and breathing rates, lowering blood pressure, and promoting digestion and other functions.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSSomatic

MAY
2024

SURVIVING HOLIDAYS

Holidays can be stressful and exhausting even in the best of times. After the sudden loss of a loved one, holidays can be the time when we miss our loved ones most. This is also the time when we most need support from others who understand. Community members share strategies for remembering loved ones during holidays, creating new traditions, and finding solace at a difficult time.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSSurvivingHolidays

JUNE
2024

LOVED ONE'S BELONGINGS

After a loved one has died - and especially after a traumatic and sudden loss, everyday things like clothing, keepsakes, even kitchenware become emblems of the life they lived, and bring up associated memories and emotions. It's human nature to attach to these. Grief makes this attachment more intense and can make discarding our loved one's things a painful struggle. This is an opportunity to share how you've navigated this process, and gain perspective and insights from others who have been through a similar loss.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/FSSLovedOnesBelongings

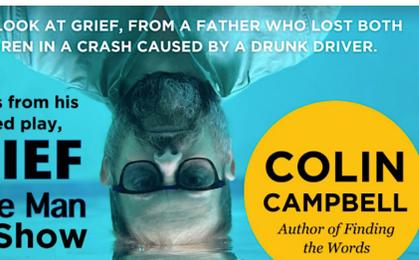
TBD

MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

Men face unique challenges in the face of grief and trauma, including loneliness and unrealistic expectations - in fact men's mental health and wellbeing is often called a 'silent epidemic.' This support initiative is an opportunity to build the community so essential to processing and addressing difficult emotions.

A DARK LOOK AT GRIEF, FROM A FATHER WHO LOST BOTH CHILDREN IN A CRASH CAUSED BY A DRUNK DRIVER.

Excerpts from his acclaimed play,
GRIEF
A One Man Sh*tShow



COLIN CAMPBELL
Author of *Finding the Words*

COLIN CAMPBELL:
GRIEF: A ONE MAN SH*T SHOW
OCTOBER 4, 2023
6:30 PM EST / 3:30 PST

[SCAN OR CLICK TO RSVP](#)



PEER-SUPPORT INFORMATION

The work of advocacy is critical - yet for those who have lived through traffic violence, sharing stories for change can be painful and challenging. This is why Families for Safe Streets has built a peer mentor initiative.

Mentors are trained FSS community members who offer a listening ear, compassion, and partnership to those who need it. Because difficult emotions can show up anytime, mentors support both newly affected and long-time members.

FSS mentors are all individuals who have been through traffic violence and are dedicated to helping others survive these life-altering tragedies.

We provide quarterly peer mentor training, and FSS social workers and staff offer ongoing support and guidance for mentors. This program continues to build and strengthen our community by supporting people when they need it most.

We match trained mentors and mentees on an ongoing basis. If you'd like to be a peer mentor or be matched with one, please reach out to ana@familiesforsafestreeets.org or bobby@familiesforsafestreeets.org.

You can sign up to join the next quarterly peer-support training and find ongoing trainings listed in our calendar of support events.

“THE TRAINING WAS MEANINGFUL TO ME. IT CLEARLY DEFINED AND CLARIFIED THE ROLE AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE MENTOR. THIS IS INCREDIBLY HELPFUL...AND ENCOURAGES ONE TO KNOW HOW TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS NEW ROLE.”

**- SHERRI ARRINGTON,
FAMILIES FOR SAFE STREETS
MEMBER**

GRIEF: A ONE MAN SH*T SHOW

On October 4th, 6:30 pm, at New York's People's Forum, FSS and Evermore will host Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, author, and playwright Colin Cambell for a live and streaming performance of excerpts from his acclaimed one-man play.

A DARK LOOK AT GRIEF, FROM A FATHER WHO LOST BOTH CHILDREN IN A CRASH CAUSED BY A DRUNK DRIVER.

Excerpts from his acclaimed play,
GRIEF
A One Man Sh*t Show

October 4
Live & Stream

Coffee & book signing following the event

COLIN CAMPBELL
Author of *Finding the Words*

Academy Awards Nominee
SERGIO
Best Short Film

Wednesday, October 4th
6:30-8:30 pm EST/3:30-5:30 pm PST
Live at People's Forum 320 West 37th Street, New York, NY

Get your tickets here

Book talk and Q&A following the show
Friends and family encouraged to attend



SCAN OR CLICK
TO RSVP

Colin and his wife Gayle lost their children, Ruby and Hart when a drunk driver crashed into the family's car. His acclaimed one-man play, *Grief, a One-Man Sh*tShow* channels his shock, anguish, and rage into a tragic-comic exploration of our culture's challenges with talking about grief. Colin will perform excerpts from the play, followed by an interview and audience conversation facilitated by bereavement advocate Joyal Mulheron and Families for Safe Streets founding member, Judy Kottick. Colin is also the author of *Finding the Words: Working Through Profound Loss with Hope*—a straightforward guide to supporting someone who has suffered traumatic loss. Reception and book signing following the event.

SPOTLIGHT: ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR



JULIANE WILLIAMS

I am a proud activist with Families For Safe Streets. My passion in activism and empowerment was obligatory and stems from the injustices of others and a personal injustice where I was forced to bear pain and suffering after the tragedy of my twenty one year old daughter Doniqueca Cooke, a York College student who was struck and killed by a reckless driver on the sidewalk while waiting to cross.

Being impacted I was aroused to extend helping hands and support to other bereaved families while confronting the epidemic of traffic violence. I found courage and strength from God through FAITH and pledged my life to continue advocating taking vigorous actions to call widespread attention to TRAFFIC VIOLENCE and to bring radical change and life saving interventions for SAFE STREETS.

My favorite bike route and walking route is Queens Boulevard, transformed from the Boulevard of Death and getting reckless drivers off the road.

Juliane has been with Families for Safe Streets for two years, and has been an activist for safe streets since 2016.



HIGHLIGHT: STORIES FROM A SAFE STREETS FIGHT

Background: The safe streets community in North Brooklyn built a years-long campaign to redesign the terrifying McGuinness Boulevard. Over the summer, the plan was unexpectedly put in jeopardy due to intense lobbying by a local business interest. FSS member Emilie Gossiaux joined a meeting with senior city leaders, side-by-side with local safe streets leaders, calling for the implementation of the safety plan.

Q: Can you share your story with us of how you became a member of Families for Safe Streets?

A: I was seriously injured while riding my bike in Brooklyn on October 8, 2010 while traveling to work near McGuinness Blvd. I was struck by an 18-wheeler semi truck. I learned about Families for Safe Streets through my mom, Susan, who was invited to join by Amy Cohen after my crash, and I remember going to a Vision Zero protest in Union Square in 2014. I believe it is a really important cause because I am a survivor of traffic violence, and I think New York City can be a better place to live if a greater importance was placed on pedestrian and bicyclist safety.



Photo: Gabriele Holtermann



AT THE BEGINNING I WASN'T SURE IF MY WORDS WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT ALL, BUT BY THE END I FELT SO EMPOWERED BY MY ANGER AND GRIEF



Q: This was your first time getting active in FSS advocacy. What made you decide to get involved in the Make McGuinness Safe campaign?

A: This was the first time I chose to share the story of my bicycle crash since I interviewed on Radiolab in 2011. I chose to do it because my crash happened really close to McGuinness Blvd in Greenpoint. I know it is a dangerous street for pedestrians and bicyclists, and I hoped that by sharing my story that I could make a positive change for everyone who lives and travels in that area.

Q: What was this experience like for you?

A: It was frustrating and infuriating to hear the group fighting against making McGuinness Blvd safe. I was completely baffled by their lack of humanity. At the beginning I wasn't sure if my words would make a difference at all, but by the end I felt so empowered by my anger and grief. I wanted to make them listen. I was grateful that the commissioner [Department of Transportation Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez] and the Mayor's staff listened to my story, and were moved by it. It gave me the desire to keep fighting and standing up for what's right.

Q: Do you have any reflections you would like to share with other members of Families for Safe Streets who are considering taking action in the fight for safe streets?

A: It took me a lot of courage and humility to agree to share my story, because I never want to be defined by my crash. But I think everyone's story is important, and the more we share our stories, the more people will realize how easily it could happen to themselves, or someone they love, and how easy it is to take action and make a real difference in safer street design for everyone.

WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



The third Sunday of November is World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. This is a day to honor those lost or injured in traffic violence while taking action to raise awareness and prevent future crashes, and usually the biggest event of the year for Families for Safe Streets.

The WDOR Committee is responsible for planning and organizing this year's event, which will be held on **Sunday, November 19, 2023**.

If you are interested in helping to plan, please let us know.
Email us at info@familiesforsafestreets.org.

With deep gratitude to World Day of Remembrance Organizing Task Force leaders, Debbie Marks Kahn, Irma Rosenblatt, Robin Middleman Filepp.

FSS ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

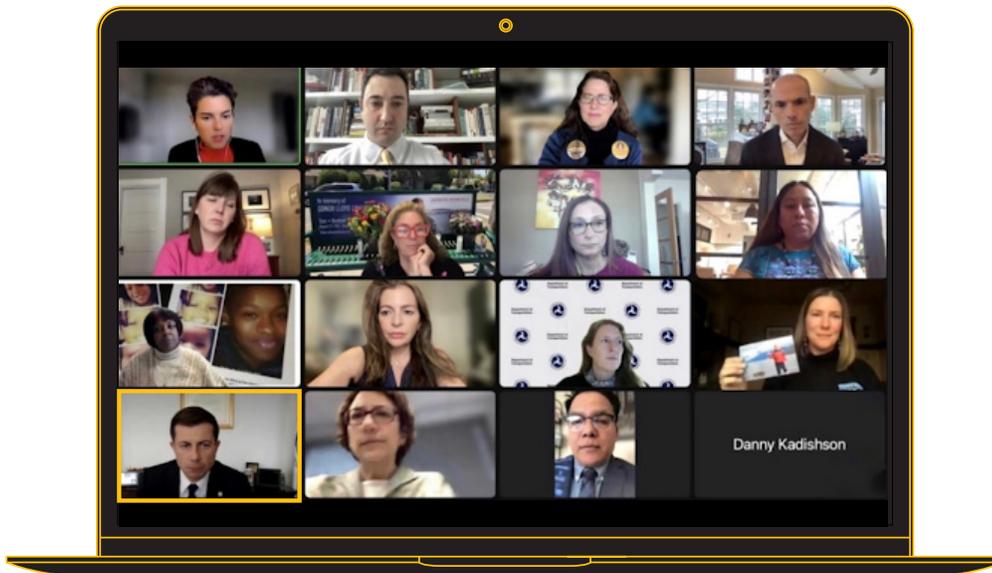
When FSS met with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, we laid out our national agenda:

1. Safety regulations for large trucks and SUVs to protect people *outside* of the car (Intelligent Speed Assistance, Automated Emergency Braking, & hood/bumper design standards).

Find our national petition on Change.org, hosted by FSS Member Jessica Riestter Hart from the Northern Virginia Chapter
2. Mandatory side guards for large trucks. The EU, Japan and many other countries have long mandated side guards. Research shows these can reduce bicyclist fatalities by 50-74%
3. Change the way speed limits are set. Did you know that current US speed limit setting practice is to raise the speed limit when more than 15% of drivers are driving faster than posted signs?
4. Street design standards that prioritize safety of all road users (not just drivers). So many of our loved ones would still be with us if our roads were designed better, with narrower lanes, raised crosswalks, physical barriers between cars and pedestrians/bicycle riders etc.



**SCAN OR CLICK
TO SIGN THE
PETITION**



SUPPORT FSS GROWTH

While we wish we didn't have to grow, as long as people are injured and killed on our roads we have to organize for change. That means growing our movement.

Help support Families for Safe Streets by undertaking a "peer to peer" fundraiser to mark the anniversary or birthday of your loved one. For many members, your friends and family often want to know what they can do to help.

Five of our members piloted raising funds for FSS this way on Father's Day and we raised almost \$5,000. This funding went to support a national crash poster response program.

We have everything you need and will help you set-up your page, share your request with friends, family and colleagues, and more. For some members, taking such a concrete action on these painful days can help bring meaning to a very painful day.

Email: Amy@familiesforsafestreeets.org

QUESTIONNAIRE

You may have noticed some changes to our governance and committee structure over the past year, please reach out to info@familiesforsafestreeets.org to get access to our anonymous questionnaire to let us know your thoughts.