

Impact of the Community Cares Campaign

Written by a white transwoman who initially was opposed to Milwaukee's transgender community organizing after the death of an African-American transwoman murdered during a sex trade negotiation. She wrote the following after attending a meeting or two and then a candlelight vigil.

In the spirit of building our community, I attended this [candlelight vigil] event. Chanel was murdered and was a trans woman in Milwaukee. Over the months since Chanel's death something has shifted in my consciousness. At first I did not want to be the victim as a part of all of this. But over time, it has become clear it is not about being a victim. It is about coming together as community. Being there for each other, supporting one another. Indeed we are not victims, but ones who have changed and grown and matured as human beings, as a result of all of this. The trans community, the white community and the black community all came together this evening. We came together in support of each other, and to remember Chanel! We have been considering how to build the trans community. But tonight illustrated it goes far beyond all of that.

Chanel did not die in vain.

When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change. In the past months, I personally have had to grow up, and change my thinking about quite a few things. I have had to take responsibility for my life and my past, and then forgive my past. Now it is time for me to reach out to others, and help build our community. I am available for you. It is truly about helping each other become ourselves.

So the Vigil has helped me shift my focus off of me, onto the well being of others.

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