



2022 Silent Witness Project Stories

These names stand out as “Silent Witnesses” in the state of Arkansas to the dangers of domestic abuse and the impact it can have on families, communities, and our state. Each of these individuals was killed by someone who should have loved and cared for them instead.

The Northwest Arkansas Women’s Shelter uses a list compiled and provided by the [Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) for the names and details to recognize those who were killed. We do additional research (as information is available) to add to each individual’s story, as we believe it is more important to honor the person who was killed than to share the details of how they were killed or the person who killed them. Red, life-sized silhouettes bearing these names and stories will be located at businesses and other organizations throughout Northwest Arkansas throughout the month of October. Each day we will also share stories at noon on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

According to the ACADV, there were 42 deaths in 2021 (23 Women, 14 Men, 5 Children), with 21 of those being intimate partner violence related deaths.

Tammie**Age 51****February 24, 2021****Elkins, Arkansas**

Tammie, along with her daughter and husband, was killed by her son during an argument. Tammie was known by family and friends for being kind and caring and for her love for God. She left behind two daughters, three sons, and 12 grandchildren.

James**Age 59****February 24, 2021****Elkins, Arkansas**

James was murdered by his step-son after his wife and daughter were also killed. He was beloved by his family and his children felt he would always be there for them when they needed him. He was active at his church and was an army veteran. He left behind a son, three daughters, mother, and four sisters and brothers along with other family members.

Cheyenne**Age 26****February 24, 2021****Elkins, Arkansas**

Cheyenne was killed the same day as her mother and step-father by her brother. Family shared that she had a beautiful singing voice and was “sweet, bubbly, cantankerous, and always fun to be around.” She leaves behind a son whom Cheyenne loved dearly as well as two sisters, three brothers, grandparents, and six nieces & nephews.

Akilia**Age 20s**

March 4, 2021

Helena-West Helena, Arkansas

Akilia was killed by her boyfriend who knocked down her door before shooting her and turning the gun on himself. He had previously been arrested for attacking her.

Ronald

Age 64

March 9, 2021

Mountain View, Arkansas

Ronald was killed at home by his son. He was survived by his mother, brother, son, granddaughter, grandson, and many other family members and friends.

Brandy

Age 40

March 9, 2021

Mountain View, Arkansas

Brandy loved music, travel, and spending time with her family. She left behind her grandmother, parents, two brothers, a sister, three sons, and an unborn grandson she never got to meet in addition to other family and friends. She “had a big heart full of love”. Brandy was killed by her boyfriend alongside his father in a double homicide.

Christina

Age 32

March 7, 2021

North Little Rock, Arkansas

Christina’s sister said “she had a heart of gold” and “would try and help anybody.” She loved to keep up with fashion and fast exotic cars. She left behind her parents, 11 siblings, a best friend, and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces & nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Christina was killed during an argument while celebrating her girlfriend’s son’s birthday by the boy’s father.

Kayla

Age 20

March 17, 2021

Texarkana, Arkansas

Kayla was always smiling and laughing. She was shot and killed by her boyfriend while she lay in bed. She left behind her baby girl, mother, a grandmother, brother, sister, five uncles, aunts, and many cousins, friends, and other relatives.

Tera’Lynn

Age 30

March 17, 2021

Little Rock, Arkansas

Tera’lynn was shot in a domestic incident and died. She left behind 4 children ages 2-10 and was pregnant with her fifth child at the time of her death. She was known to be loving and kindhearted.

Debbi

Age 63

March 24, 2021

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Debbi was a CPA and a longtime member of her church. She enjoyed travel and adventure and being outdoors to hike, kayak, and backpack. She was a great friend and she adored her daughter and grandchildren. She was shot and killed by her husband in an apparent murder suicide.

Dominic

Age 15

March 27, 2021

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dominic loved to dance, rap, play football and basketball. Family remembered him as being respectful and how much he loved his family and friends. Police say he was shot and killed by his mother.

Richard

Age 55

April 6, 2021

Paris, Arkansas

Richard was shot and killed in his home in a murder-suicide.

Jessica

Age 32

April 9, 2021

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Jessica was a mom to five daughters and four sons who she left behind in addition to her mother, two sisters, and four brothers. Friends say she was fun to be around and always had a smile. She was shot and killed by her boyfriend who is also the father of one of her children.

Paiden

Age 23

April 18, 2021

Van Buren, Arkansas

Paiden was a mom to an active 2 year old boy and in her third trimester of pregnancy when she, along with her son, was shot and killed by her husband. She worked as a CNA and loved to sing and participate in pageants. Paiden loved her son dearly as well as her grandparents. She was survived by one brother, her parents, and her grandparents.

Grayson

Age 2

April 18, 2021

Van Buren, Arkansas

Grayson was killed alongside his mom by his step-father. He left behind his father and all his grandparents. He was known as a sweet kid who loved candy and was adored by his mom. He had curly hair and a laugh and smile that were unforgettable.

Sheila

Age 50

April 20, 2021

El Dorado, Arkansas

Sheila cared a lot about her family and was known for being kind, loving, and quick to respond when someone needed her. She especially loved her grandchildren. She left behind three sons and four grandchildren. Sheila was kidnapped at gunpoint while visiting her son at his business

and later killed by her estranged husband. They had been separated for a couple of weeks prior to her death.

Kenneth

Age 29

April 21, 2021

Magnolia, Arkansas

Kenneth grew up in Magnolia. In addition to his son, Kenneth left behind his mother and stepfather, six siblings and step-siblings, and several aunts and cousins. He was stabbed and killed by his half-brother 5 years after a similar incident with his half-brother that also resulted in injuries and his half-brother's arrest.

Mary

Age 65

May 1, 2021

Huntsville, Arkansas

Mary enjoyed "shopping with her grandchildren, gardening, traveling, and reading the bible." She had worked at Walmart and loved her family dearly. She left behind her husband, two children, six grandchildren, her mother, and six siblings, along with great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews. She was shot by her son in a dispute in which her husband and brother-in-law were also attacked.

Mark

Age 66

May 1, 2021

Huntsville, Arkansas

Mark spent 21 years in the Marine Corp before retiring. Afterwards, he was a cook for 20 years at the Huntsville High School where he was loved by the students, and an active member of his church. He loved helping others and was a wonderful husband and father. He left behind his wife, two children, four grandchildren, five siblings, and many nieces and nephews. He was killed by his nephew in a shooting incident that also involved his brother and sister-in-law.

Earnest

Age 40

May 25, 2021

Texarkana, Arkansas

Earnest was originally from Chicago and had been a veteran. While in Chicago, he had coached many underprivileged youth and worked with the organizations run by Jesse Jackson Sr. Family called him a "true God-fearing man who loved his African American heritage, as well as the people he loved." He was shot and killed by his ex-girlfriend shortly after their relationship ended.

Amber

Age 36

May 28, 2021

Fayetteville, Arkansas

Amber was a hard-working hairstylist who managed two different salons. She was known as a kind soul, positive person and always smile. She left behind a son, whom she loved dearly, her parents and stepparents, grandmothers, seven siblings and stepsiblings, and many other friends and relatives. She was shot and killed by her husband.

Trisha

Age 44

June 20, 2021

Texarkana, Arkansas

Trisha was shot and killed by her husband of less than 1 year during an argument. There was a history of domestic abuse in their relationship.

Rebekah

Age 19

June 24, 2021

Monticello, Arkansas

Rebekah was pregnant with her first child when she was killed by her fiancée's stepfather in a shooting rampage. Her fiancée and unborn child also did not survive. She loved animals and especially loved being around where she enjoyed swimming, boating, and other activities. She left behind her parents, brothers, maternal grandmother, best friend, and many other family members and friends.

Harley

Age 21

June 24, 2021

Monticello, Arkansas

Harley was killed while trying to defend his mother and fiancée from his stepfather in a shooting rampage. He was preparing to enter the Arkansas National Guard and expecting a baby with his fiancée when he was killed. He loved animals, riding motorcycles, and being in nature. He left behind his mother, three sisters, brother, and 11 nieces and nephews along with other friends and relatives.

Heyward

Age 43

July 5, 2021

Camden, Arkansas

Heyward, known as "Gingy", was all about making money and loved his job at a local tire service company. He left behind four children, one brother, four nieces and nephews, and many other aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. He was killed by his girlfriend in a domestic incident.

Joshua

Age 34

July 7, 2021

Cabot, Arkansas

Joshua was shot and killed by his girlfriend. He left behind his adopted father, mother, three children, and wife in addition to several grandparents, four sisters, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

Stephanie

Age 46

July 16, 2021

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Stephanie was shot and killed by her husband in a murder-suicide. She left behind four children, her mother, father, sister, and many other friends and relatives.

Me'Akel

Age 21

July 17, 2021

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Me' Akel was shot and killed by his brother in a dispute that also resulted in his mother's injury. He left behind four daughters, parents, seven siblings, and two grandparents.

Bengie

Age 56

July 31, 2021

Texarkana, Arkansas

Bengie was a manager at a restaurant. She left behind four sons, two daughters, her mother, five brothers, one sister, 29 grandchildren and many other family members and friends. She was shot and killed by her husband.

Brenda

Age 54

August 3, 2021

Marion, Arkansas

Brenda was killed at the hotel where she worked by a man she was in a relationship with who had several previous arrests for abuse toward Brenda. She was the mother of four children and had three grandchildren. Family said she was the sweetest person in the world.

Pamela

Age 65

August 6, 2021

Bald Knob, Arkansas

Pamela and her husband were attacked by their son. Pam did not survive though her husband did. She loved taking care of her dogs and working in her yard, even quipping that "mowing was good therapy." Pam also was a very active member of her church and in her faith, always looking to encourage others. In addition to her husband, she also left behind two children, her father, three brothers, one sister, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Shunterris

Age 32

September 15, 2021

Little Rock, Arkansas

"Terry" was known as the life of the party with her infectious smile and spontaneity in having fun defining her personality. She, along with her 8 year old son, was shot and killed by her estranged boyfriend during an argument two days after breaking things off with him. She left behind a daughter, her mother, two sisters, two brothers, her grandfather, and many other family and friends.

JaMichael

Age 8

September 15, 2021

Little Rock, Arkansas

"JT" was killed after watching his mother's murder at the hands of her estranged boyfriend. He was known as a peacemaker, great dancer, and a comedian just like his mom. He was a leader with his little cousins and left a mark on those he knew at school. In addition, his family knew him as a "Nerf Gun king". JT left behind two sisters, two brothers, his father, grandparents, and many other aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

James

Age 43

October 11, 2021

Mountain Home, Arkansas

James was an Arkansas native who loved the outdoors and spending time with his family and friends, especially his two sons. He like to hunt and fish and even volunteered as a coach for a local trap team. He was shot and killed by his wife in a murder suicide. He left behind his two sons, a sister and brother, nieces, nephews, and an aunt.

Nakina

Age 43

October 12, 2021

Marion, Arkansas

Nakina was murdered by her ex-husband, who also shot and killed her 5 year-old son before turning the gun on himself. Nakina's family stated that they saw warning signs of domestic violence, and since her death they have worked to raise awareness about domestic violence. Nakina was a loving and devoted mother of four, and her sons described their mother as compassionate, sweet, and with a persistent ability to always see the brighter side.

Austin

Age 5

October 12, 2021

Marion, Arkansas

Austin was murdered by his father, who then shot and killed Austin's mother before turning the gun on himself. Austin's family have worked to raise awareness about domestic violence following the deaths of him and his mother, and state that there were warning signs prior to their murder. Austin was survived by three older brothers, who remember him as funny, persistent, and full of energy.

Joe

Age 48

October 31, 2021

Helena-West Helena, Arkansas

Joe was murdered by his brother-in-law. Joe was described by his family as a person full of laughter and love. Joe was survived by his three sons, and eleven loving siblings. He loved to spend time outdoors, grilling with his family, and loved playing cards and gardening.

Richard

November 10, 2021

Age 50

Holiday Island, Arkansas

Richard was killed by his son during an argument at Richard's Holiday Island home, which he had bought earlier in the year in order to retire. There was an active no-contact order in place at the time Richard was killed, and his son had been released on bond only a month prior after being charged with assault of a family member. Richard was an engineer, an Army veteran who served two tours in Iraq, and had recently began a job that he loved working with people to overcome addiction.

Kelsey

Age 32

November 20, 2021

Cave City, Arkansas

Kelsey was shot and killed by her husband during an argument, who then turned the gun on himself. She leaves behind a loving family and her two young sons and daughter, who were sadly present in the home when their mother was murdered.

Sabrina

Age 42

November 21, 2021

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Sabrina died following being strangled by her fiancée during an argument. Sabrina was a mother, and left behind a son and two daughters. She was also part of large and loving family, and left behind her parents, grandparents, and seven siblings.

Hatcher

Age 5 months

December 17, 2021

Hot Springs, Arkansas

Hatcher was killed following physical abuse at the hands of his father at only 5 months of age. He is survived by his loving mother, grandparents, as well as his older sister Harper who was often seen lovingly doting on her baby brother. Hatcher's family described him as a happy baby who always seemed to be smiling, and only just began to laugh.

Lane

Age 25

December 24, 2021

Rogers, Arkansas

Lane was murdered by his girlfriend on Christmas Eve, who then turned the gun on herself. Lane left behind his loving brother, sister, and parents who were shocked by the loss of their young son. He was described by those who loved him as incredibly kind-hearted, and he had a passion for sports, animals, and spending time with his family.