

My brother's family has lived in Newtown for nearly 30 years. I only live a couple of towns away so I spend a lot of time there and have attended numerous birthday parties, soccer/basketball/field hockey/lacrosse games and dance recitals for my nieces. I've gotten to know their friends and their friends' families. I've driven a few carloads of girls to various adventures: paintball, concerts, trapeze classes.

I know some of the people who died at Sandy Hook personally. I know the families who lost people who were loved and needed. My 17-year-old niece spent that Friday in lockdown at school and has spent most of the past month trying to be a support for her best friend whose mother was slaughtered: Anne Marie Murphy. This is not the life a High School senior should be living. But we're the lucky ones. I will be working with my brother's family to repair the holes that have been left in these families. We will fail no matter how hard we try nor how good our intentions. The holes just can't be filled.

In college, I used to shoot skeet. It's fun. We didn't need assault weapons. We didn't need multi-clip loads. No one does.

I understand the Principal at Sandy Hook had a gun. She didn't have time to use it and died anyway. There was an armed security guard at Columbine. He wasn't there to use it. More guns will not solve the problem any more than more alcohol solved the problem of drunk driving.

It is well past time to resist the money the gun manufacturers wield and do the right thing for our families. This has become the key issue driving my voting in the years ahead. Take care of the people who elected you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Kingsley