

**Contact:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 7, 2022

**“GUNS TO GARDEN TOOLS: Community Events for Peacemaking”**

*Champaign-Urbana, July 29th-31st, 2022*

Join a variety of faith-based and community organizations for three days of events devoted to ending gun violence and growing community! Together with RAW Tools, an organization that turns guns into garden tools and facilitates community nonviolence training, over 20 local organizations are coming together to call for creative solutions to ending gun violence. The community is invited to participate in the following events:

**RAWTools Guns to Garden Tools Community Gathering to End Gun Violence**

Friday, July 29th - 5pm gather/food; 6pm program begins  
Randolph St. Community Garden (1001 N Randolph St, Champaign, IL 61820)  
Free food (donations welcome). Jewish Shabbat and Muslim Maghrib prayers held.  
*Musical performances by DJ Silkee and Afro D. and Global Soundwaves.*

**Community Circle & Peacemaking Training**

Saturday, July 30th - 10am-11:30am Stratton Elementary  
902 N Randolph St, Champaign, IL 61820  
*All are invited to attend interactive workshops on gun safety, trauma and resilience, peacemaking, and community responses to violence.*

**Afternoon Forge at HVNT Block Party**

Saturday, July 30th - 12pm-4pm Beardsley Park  
1006 N Walnut St, Champaign, IL 61820  
*Live blacksmithing demo at the block party!*

**Self Care Community Repair Wellness Fair**

Sundat, July 31st - 2pm-5pm, Cunningham Township  
205 W, Green St. Urbana, IL 61801 (Rain: UCIMC)

*\*FREE\* activities, food, plants, and garden supplies!*

Come join neighbors, friends, and community members for a chance to hear stories from those directly impacted by gunfire and the creative interventions of those working to imagine a world without violence. All events are free and open to the public!

The events are made possible by collaborative work from the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County; Ministerial Alliance of Champaign-Urbana & Vicinity; Trauma & Resilience Initiative; HVNT; Champaign Community Coalition; City of Champaign; City of Urbana Arts and Culture Program; Prosperity Gardens; Randolph Street Community Gardens; Champaign Church of the Brethren; First Followers; Hessel Park Church, Moms Demand Action, The Urbana Free Library, Sinai Temple of Champaign-Urbana, Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center (CIMIC), Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, and Unit 4 School District.

*For more information about RAWTools, please visit [www.rawtools.org](http://www.rawtools.org).*

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