ALPHA EDUCATIONAL & LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

# KOYA FACT SHEET #1

KEEP OUR YOUTH ALIVE / OCTOBER 2026



## Protect lives. Open doors. Build the village.

A special initiative of AELF

**+29.4%**

**2018–2023**

Increase in the suicide rate among non-Hispanic Black people ages 10–24 in the U.S., while the overall rate for all people ages 10–24 fell 7.0%.

**SOURCE CDC MMWR (2025) [1]**

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Young men need consistent mentors, places to belong, educational opportunity, practical safety skills, and adults who will listen and respond. KOYA connects prevention with possibility.

### 01 MENTOR

Show up for ARA, ALPHA, and AMA scholars; help with learning, character, and leadership.

### 02 PARTNER

GML, N.O.B.L.E., Leon County Sheriff's Office, Homeland Security, and Kairos Wellness support the work.

### 03 SUSTAIN

Give monthly or once to support scholarships, programming, and safety education.

### REMEMBER NOLAN WELLS

Nolan Wells, 18, died in Mississippi in July 2026. A September grand jury brought no charges and found no evidence of criminal conduct; his family's counsel continues to seek answers. We honor his life without treating unproven claims as fact. [2, 3]

### READ • ACT • SUPPORT

KOYA mission + news keepouryouthalive.org

Campaign + programs keepouryouthalive.org/campaign

Give + subscribe keepouryouthalive.org/donate

AELF campaign aelfoundation.org/special-initiatives/keep-our-youth-alive

Hotlines + alerts keepouryouthalive.org/hotlines

### SOURCES

[1] CDC MMWR, Sept. 18, 2025 [2] NPR, Sept. 22, 2026

[3] Mississippi Free Press, Sept. 23, 2026. Links are active in this PDF.

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# VIOLATIONS IN THE VILLAGE

Remembering Our Fallen Youth

## Six lives. Different circumstances. One obligation to care.

Recent cases | Dates are deaths or discovery dates | Updated October 4, 2026

### 01 Nolan Xavier Wells [1]

18 • Mississippi • July 4–6, 2026

Went missing after a July 4 island outing; found July 6. A September grand jury found no evidence of criminal conduct and issued no indictment. Cause and manner were undetermined; family counsel continues to seek answers.

### 02 Tasia Fortune [2]

29 • Jackson, Mississippi • August 3, 2026

Her body was found hanging behind an abandoned home. Authorities ruled her death a homicide and said the hanging was staged after death. Three men have been charged; guilt has not been established.

### 03 Demartravion “Trey” Reed [3]

21 • Cleveland, Mississippi • September 15, 2025

The Delta State student was found hanging on campus. The state medical examiner ruled his death a suicide; his family raised questions. Honor his life without treating an unverified allegation as a finding.

### 04 Jayla McGee [4]

19 • Belle Glade, Florida • July 5, 2026

The Black transgender young woman was shot and killed. Authorities were investigating her death as a homicide; no motive or suspect had been identified in the cited report.

### 05 Anthoneil Williams II [5]

17 • Austin, Texas • July 24, 2026

Police fatally shot the unarmed teen after a 911 call placed from his phone. Authorities said the circumstances remained under investigation; no firearm was found.

### 06 Aubrey “AJ” Jackson [6]

18 • Chicago, Illinois • October 2, 2026

The high school senior was shot while walking to school. Chicago police were investigating; the cited report said no one was in custody at the time.

### THE RESPONSE IS A VILLAGE

Mentor a young person. Support family wellness and crisis response. Ask for complete facts, fair investigation, and compassion for every family. Keep Our Youth Alive through AELF programs.

### SOURCES & SUPPORT

Tap [1]–[6] beside each name for the underlying reporting. Stories reflect sources as of Oct. 4, 2026.

**If you or someone you know needs immediate emotional support, call or text 988.**

keepouryouthalive.org • aelfoundation.org/special-initiatives/keep-our-youth-alive