

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

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November 19, 2021

Dear Stakeholders and Friends,

Here we are, grief stricken, yet again.

All of us committed to a more just world extend our hearts to the loved ones of Anthony Huber, Joseph Rosenbaum and Gaige Grosskruetz, two people killed and one horribly wounded by a teenager on the cusp of adulthood who decided violence would bring about the world he envisioned. These families join the loved ones of Jacob Blake, and so very many others, who also know too well the deep wounds borne of systems that fail to hold the violent accountable. Indeed, systems rooted in racism and its grotesque, continuing legacy.

Although a jury has found Kyle Rittenhouse not guilty of alleged crimes, let's be clear – there is no finding of innocence. Not for him or anyone who believes vigilantism is just. Vigilantism is the antithesis of justice.

As we wrestle with conflicting stages of grief – shock, denial, guilt, anger, despondency, and even hope - how do we move forward? We all know that public statements do not change behaviors – even though that is what we so desperately need as a community and as a nation. In our mix of emotions, are we willing to address contradicting painful realities?

- Many believe this verdict is understandable.
- Many believe Rittenhouse would not have lived to see trial if he were a person of color.
- Many understand that vigilantism has been legally sanctioned (again).

No matter the specifics facts today, tomorrow we have the same responsibility – to do the hard, daily work to reimagine and transform our communities, to assure our conduct as a community is morally just, not merely legally justified.

Although your hearts are burdened, we invite you to join YWCA Southeast Wisconsin in this work.

Onward in solidarity,



Ginny Finn, President & CEO

P.S. Read YWCA USA's statement on the Rittenhouse Trial [Here](#)

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