Date

Name

Address

Dear Name:

Nationally, 60% of our children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse. Forty percent were direct victims of two or more violent acts. Repeated or prolonged exposure to violence and trauma seriously undermines children’s ability to focus, behave appropriately, and learn in school; often leading to school failure, truancy, suspension or expulsion, dropping out or involvement in our juvenile justice system.

I am inviting you to a meeting to introduce you to a new initiative that mitigates the negative effects experienced by children’s exposure to trauma and builds upon the success of proven programs throughout the country.

Thanks to support from the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission, we can implement the **Handle with Care** program in our (city, department or school). Handle with Care enables law enforcement to notify schools if they encounter a child at a traumatic scent, so schools and mental health leaders can provide trauma-sensitive support right away, so children can feel safe and learn.

I urge you to plan to set aside a couple hours on Day, Date, at Time, to attend this meeting at Location of Meeting.

Please let us know of your plans to attend by emailing Coordinator Name or Assistant at Coordinator/Assistant email address so that we may prepare for your participation.

This is a great opportunity to work together to help all our children be safe and achieve at their highest levels despite whatever traumatic circumstances they may have endured.

I look forward to seeing you.

Yours very truly,

Coordinator