Tony Hicks Granted Parole with Support of the Tariq Khamisa Foundation

At the first parole hearing for Tony Hicks, Azim Khamisa and his daughter, Tasreen, did what few other victim’s families have ever done - plea for the release of the person who killed their beloved son and brother, Tariq Khamisa.

In the wake of the murder, Azim Khamisa founded the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) and reached out to Tony’s grandfather, Ples Felix, in the spirit of forgiveness. Both families and the Foundation have pledged their support for Hicks, including a role working with the Foundation.

The parole hearing took place at the California Men’s Colony at San Luis Obispo, where Hicks has been serving his sentence for the last two years.

After serving 23 years of incarceration in California’s prisons for the 1995 murder, Tony Hicks, now 38, was found suitable for parole.

“We are thrilled. Tony has worked hard for this. He earned it,” said Azim Khamisa.

“Now, we have the opportunity to bring Tony into the Foundation. Because he can tell his powerful story firsthand, he will save the lives of thousands of children,” said Khamisa. “We urge the governor to approve his release.”
“TKF’s Restorative Workshops are unlike anything out there. Truly phenomenal! Life changing for kids and the adults working with them.”
— Tammy Cook, National School Partner

“TKF trained its first school team to facilitate our Restorative Workshop Curriculum. TKF trained 8 counselors and teachers at Newtown Elementary School located in Newtown, PA. The school launched its facilitation in October with two hundred 5th and 6th grade students.

In late March TKF presented a workshop on Teaching Students Restorative Principles at the 2019 National Deeper Learning Conference hosted by High Tech Graduate School of Education, San Diego.

TKF attended the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley grantee convening. TKF was selected as a grantee to develop and implement a research-based parenting program to teach families restorative principles. The new program will launch in 2019.

TKF trained teachers from multiple school sites in Sweetwater School District, who began facilitating TKF’s curriculum in 2019.

TKF presented at the 2018 International Restorative Practices Conference hosted in Detroit, MI. Our workshop was on the healing value of forgiveness as a restorative principle.

TKF presented at the regional Rocky Mountain Restorative Conference in Colorado Spring, CO. Our workshop was on the importance of teaching students restorative principles.

TKF entered in a partnership with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office to strategize on strengthening mentoring programs for high-risk children.
Creating Safer Schools and Communities

- **Peacemaker Assembly**
  - 29 presentations at 12 schools across 5 school districts

- **Restorative Workshop**
  - 91 classes facilitated in 7 schools across 3 school districts

- **Peace Educator (Mentor)**
  - Mentors placed in 3 schools

Over 12,000 students impacted by TKF

**Where The Money Comes From**

- **Fundraisers** 8%
- **Events** 16%
- **Corporate Gifts** 4%
- **Public Sector** 1%
- **School Contracts** 18%
- **Donations** 18%
- **Grants** 35%

**Where The Money Goes**

- **Programs** 75%
- **Administration** 10%
- **Development** 15%

Thank you for your support!

Total Raised is $525,080
A message from the Executive Director, Tasreen Khamisa

Dear TKF Family,

2018 was transformative on so many levels as we witnessed the strong need in our country for healing and forgiveness. TKF is committed to being restorative in the way we live our lives and the way we engage with both young and old. Our belief in peacemaking, forgiveness and restorative justice was visible to the entire country as we advocated for the release of Tony Hicks at his first parole hearing on November 28th. Our advocacy served as an example that, if we fill our young people with love and compassion and give them the tools and support they need to succeed, they will become warriors of peace who are change makers for the greater good. I look forward to working alongside Tony Hicks (my soul brother) in the name of my beloved brother, Tariq Khamisa.

The demand for our programs continues to grow. To address this need, TKF has launched a 5-year expansion plan to support the development of the TKF Training Institute, which will allow us to expand our services and impact more children both in San Diego and beyond. As we enter our 24th year, we have become experts in training educators to implement programs rooted in accountability, compassion, forgiveness, and peacemaking in their own schools.

We have raised our voice in the restorative movement, joining national conversations around breaking the school-to-prison pipeline and replacing schools’ punitive, dated practices with restorative principles.

We do this in the name of our children - all of our children - as they are our hope and future and we must give them the tools they need to deal with conflict, challenges, anger and pain in a healthy way.

We can’t do this work alone, and we are immensely grateful for the support from our growing TKF family. Your belief and commitment in TKF inspires us to continue to advocate for our children, to support our educators and parents, and collaborate with our community to create a safer and more peaceful world.

In Peace,
Tasreen Khamisa

Power of Forgiveness Gala

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TKF in the News

HUFFPOST
Why This Man Befriended His Son’s Murderer And His Family

Tony Hicks killed Tariq Khamisa 24 years ago. Then Tariq’s father and Tony’s grandfather forged an unlikely friendship.

The Washington Post
A victim’s father, the killer’s grandfather and a shared mission to protect youths from violence.

San Diego Union-Tribune
California parole panel backs release of inmate serving time for a murder he committed at 14.

For more information about TKF’s expansion plan contact development@tkf.org