My Healing Journey
by Tony Hicks

Freedom. It’s something that so many people in the U.S. take for granted; I am not one of them. I had spent the past 24 years in prison for what I admit most people would deem an unforgivable act: I took the life of Tariq Khamisa.

Sleep came slowly and fitfully the night of April 8, 2019. I was scheduled for release from prison the next day. I had already been forgiven by the Khamisa family, who actually had embraced me as a son and brother. Nonetheless, fear took hold of me. Was it possible that this day had finally come and I would freely walk out of this prison? It was all so surreal. Would I wake up at any moment?

It wasn’t until I got into my grandfathers’ car, where my mother was waiting in the back seat, that I could breathe out all the anxiety and doubt that I had about my freedom.

My transition since then has not been an easy one, although I never thought it would be.

I’ve had to temper my expectations while rediscovering a changed world. Trying to find work and being turned away, adjusting to the fear of learning to drive a car, reconnecting with family and society in general. Yes, I am one of the fortunate ones. I have an amazing support system that has made my adjustment easier than most. I was able to find work after two months, and obtain my drivers license.

I am grateful and excited for all visible signs of my progress and the second chances that I have been given. Now, I look forward to helping others make their own right decisions from the start, and I smile at the knowledge that when an unexpected obstacle comes into view I have the support to face it.
In 2019

TKF partnered with the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office to assist in the development of the Power League mentoring programming.

TKF continued its replication of TKF’s programming with educators at Newtown Elementary School located in Newtown, PA and began developing a relationship with two additional PA school districts. TKF presented the Peacemaker Assembly to Maple Point Middle, in the Neshaminy District, in April 2019 and Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle, in the Bristol Township District, in September 2019.

In May and November

TKF tested its new Restorative Parenting Workshop with two cohorts of parents at Integrity Charter School in English and Spanish.

In July

TKF presented at the 2019 National Conference for the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice hosted in Denver, CO.

In November

TKF presented at the 2019 National Conference for the Association for Middle Level Educators hosted in Nashville, TN.

TKF in the News

Newly free from prison, a man who killed at age 14 atones for his past and looks to his future

San Diego Union-Tribune

Annual breakfast draws 1,500 to honor MLK’s life, legacy

San Diego Union-Tribune

The friendship born of murder

How the father of a victim became buddies with the killer’s family.

BBC

TKF Events

TK Day: March 6, 2019

Donor Recognition Reception: June 6, 2019
Creating Safer Schools and Communities

- **Peacemaker Assembly**: 36 presentations at 17 schools across 6 school districts
- **Restorative Workshop**: 75 classes facilitated in 7 schools across 6 school districts
- **Mentoring**: Mentors placed in 7 schools
- **Restorative Parent Workshop**: 48 parents and guardians participated in pilot program.

11,689 students impacted by TKF

Where the Money Comes From

- Donations: 43%
- Grants: 27%
- Fundraisers: 10%
- School Contracts: 19%
- Events: 1%
- School Contracts: 19%

Where the Money Goes

- Programs: 80%
- Development: 11%
- Administration: 9%
- Fundraisers: 10%
- Donations: 43%
- Grants: 27%
- Events: 1%
- School Contracts: 19%

Total Raised $529,434

Thank you for your support!
A message of thanks!

As the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) enters into our 25th year, I am truly grateful for the support of the TKF family that continues to inspire me. We thank you for your support, wisdom and guidance. We would not be where we are today without our hard working staff, our passionate board, our dedicated volunteers and most importantly the resources provided by our partners who enable us to perform our mission.

The year 2019 was very meaningful for TKF as our restorative justice journey came full circle with the release of Tony Hicks from prison this past April. TKF stands strong in our advocacy of second chances. We have experienced first hand the power of forgiveness and restorative justice. When we are courageous in our own journey of healing, we have the capacity to show up for ourselves in healthy ways, which allows us to serve the greater good. In the forefront is always our desire to help others heal, to build their resilience and to provide them the strength and tools necessary to overcome their own challenges in order to lead healthy lives.

This is true for my own personal journey of forgiveness. Twenty-five years ago, my father Azim Khamisa provided me the inspiration that continues to fuel and inspire me to this day.

I will continue to fight the good fight, to support our youth by helping them to heal from their own pain and to find peace within themselves.

I am committed to building a generation of peacebuilders who create safer schools and communities. I am blessed to have two brothers by my side, Tariq always guiding me with his spiritual light and wisdom; and Tony, my soul brother, who is now present as we continue to spread the power of second chances in Tariq’s name.

In Peace,
Tasreen Khamisa
Executive Director

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