

**Speakers:**

Edward “Obbie” Wilson & Eric Barreras..... 1-2  
Reyma McCoy Hyten..... 3  
Tanaya Winder..... 4  
Lisa Jenkins..... 5  
Heather Martin..... 6  
Judy Shepard..... 7

**Keynote: Edward “Obbie” Wilson and Eric Barreras**



**Edward Wilson**, stage name Obbie West is a native of Los Angeles, a retiree from the United States Army. Aside from serving his country, he is an International Spoken Word artist, an Advocate and Author of a Poetry book entitled Blossom.

Obbie’s life with Poetry began in 2011 in Killeen, TX under the tutoring of the Killeen Poetry Slam and has thrived ever since. He travels the world as a guest speaker, presenting life depicting Poetry on a variety of topics. In 2016, he altered his concentration to sexual violence. His discussion, Poetic delivery, and awareness focuses on prevention of disruptive behaviors. He is an avid sexual violence prevention advocate and is committed to promoting awareness through training and education. He is also a social activist motivating individuals through Poetry. Edward has invested a personal and sincere interest in bringing awareness to and changing the climate surrounding sexual assault and harassment throughout the U.S. Military, universities, and communities at large.

Edward offers Poetry presentations from a unique and captivating angle. His uncut, straight forward approach is thought provoking and serves as a call-for-action for all in attendance. His signature Poem, "The Perpetrator's Perspective", was recognized by Department of the Army, MG Keith L. Ware Communications Award, 1st Place; Long Form Production Video. The widely known Poem has been incorporated into sexual assault training throughout the military. By using this modernized method of speaking he has creatively designed a training outline that is impactful and attractive to all audiences, assurance to reach younger generations.

Edward Wilson is the owner of Words of West, LLC. and is known primarily by his stage name “Obbie West.”

**Eric Barreras** is Founder of Difference Makers (10 Strong), a group of collaborative violence prevention experts whose primary goal is to address various forms of sexual and domestic

violence around the globe. In addition, he serves as a Victim Advocate Program Specialist for the U.S. Coast Guard Sexual Assault Response and Recovery Program.

Mr. Barreras previously served in the New Mexico Army National Guard in the mid-nineties and subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Army. He eventually became a Chief Warrant Officer and Criminal Investigation Command (CID) Special Agent conducting and/or supervising a wide variety of sexual assault investigations across the nation. After a brief retirement, Mr. Barreras transitioned back into CID, where he served as a SA/DV subject matter expert for the Department of the Army and managed the Special Victims Unit at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 2015, he accepted a position with the U.S. Air Force as a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Specialist. While serving in that role, his team earned the 2015 Department of Defense Innovation Award and the 2017 Air Education and Training Command SAPR Team Award. In addition, he was hand selected by the Headquarters Air Force SAPR Operations Staff to assist with restructuring the Air Force's SAPR training curriculum for all Sexual Assault Response Coordinators. Mr. Barreras subsequently transitioned to a position as a SARC with the U.S. Coast Guard, where he managed the SAPRR program for District 11. In 2018, Eric was recognized by the Department of Defense as the SARC of the Year for the U.S. Coast Guard and was the recipient of the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation award for creating innovative and collaborative community prevention and awareness activities during Sexual Assault and Awareness Prevention Month.

In 2019, Mr. Barreras accepted a position as a Training Manager for the U.S. Center for SafeSport, where he developed abuse prevention/response curriculum for sports programs around the nation. In that span, he also spearheaded the organization of the Center's Bi-Annual Summit and assisted with the development of Athlete Safety Coordinator training standards, which were both established to provide abuse prevention/response best practices and education to the National Governing Bodies affiliated with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic movement. In 2021, he accepted a position with the YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley as their Learning and Development Manager, responsible for the facilitation of advocacy certification training for all staff/volunteers operating in the Bay area, which primarily involved the organization and delivery of their 75-Hour Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Sexual Assault Counselor/Advocate certification course.

Mr. Barreras has a bachelor's degree in Sociology with a special emphasis in Criminal Justice and is a few credits shy of completing his graduate studies in Organizational Management with special emphasis in Organizational Leadership. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the Monterey County Rape Crisis Center and End Violence Against Women International. Most recently, he was hand-selected to provide subject matter expertise to the Independent Review Commission to Address Sexual Assaults in the Military and is currently serving as a Board Member for the National Organization for Victim Assistance. Most notably, Eric grew up in a domestic violence household and is a sexual assault survivor. He has made it his life's mission to utilize his personal and professional experiences with abuse and violence to change culture and bring awareness to difficult topics surrounding various forms of abuse and its impact on individuals and communities.

## Keynote: *Reyma McCoy Hyten*



**Reyma McCoy Hyten**, the first Black woman to ever serve as the US Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner for the Administration on Disabilities, is now devoting her full time and attention to supporting the creation of just and verdant communities for all in the US- and beyond. She is an Antiracism Convening Fellow with the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University and was the recipient of a 2019 AT&T Humanity of Connection award. Additionally, her 2018 run for office was endorsed by the Working Families Party. Her work has been featured in Vice, TIME , The Guardian, and USA Today. After a twenty year career as a helping professional, her vocation has shifted

from serving marginalized people to addressing, through her signature approach to identifying and confronting the root causes of oppression, how systems create marginalization in the first place.

Reyma lives at MisFit Farm, a ten-acre sanctuary for unwanted creatures in rural Kansas, with her wife, Ami, their daughter, and seven cats.

## Closing Ceremony: *Tanaya Winder*



**Tanaya Winder** is a poet, singer/songwriter, and motivational speaker. She comes from an intertribal heritage of Southern Ute, Pyramid Lake Paiute, and Duckwater Shoshone Nations where she is an enrolled citizen. She holds a BA in English from Stanford University and an MFA in creative writing from the University of New Mexico. Her poetry collections include *Words Like Love* and *Why Storms are Named After People* and *Bullets Remain Nameless*. Tanaya’s performances and talks emphasize “heartwork” – the life path one is meant to follow by using their gifts and passions. She blends storytelling, singing, and spoken word to teach about different expressions of love. Her specialties include youth empowerment and healing trauma through art.

## Survivor Testimony: *Lisa Jenkins*



**Lisa Jenkins's** story reads like an epic tale filled with near misses, struggle, strength, courage, and triumph - From her life's experiences she has uncovered her life's purpose, discovered the power that lies within and recovered her spiritual self and she has emerged as a living testament to God's Prevailing Peace, Power, and Presence.

Lisa received a bachelor's degree in Social Work at Limestone College in 2006. She also completed her master's degree in Adult Education in 2011. She is currently writing a book on her life and how she overcame her struggles. She is happily married to

George Jenkins of 15 years who is an army retired veteran. She is the mother of 7 children and bonus mom to 1 and 4 amazing grandchildren.

Lisa founded Kingdom Builder's Family Life Center in April of 2013 and in August of 2018, she became the 1st full-time paid employee of the organization as Executive Director, and as of 2021 because of the growth of the organization that title has changed to Chief Executive Officer.

Lisa's goal is to open a state-of-the-art domestic violence transitional housing for women and their children as well as a Home Away from Home safe house for children that have left unsafe and often violent homes these living conditions. These services will provide a haven as well as a variety of support measures that will allow women and children to break the cycle of domestic violence in their lives. Also, to start a Christian charter school it is our purpose to give students a solid academic foundation while emphasizing Christian character and patriotism.

## Survivor Testimony: *Heather Martin*



**Heather Martin** is co-founder and Executive Director of The Rebels Project, named after the Columbine mascot, that supports survivors of trauma resulting from school shootings and other traumatic incidents. Heather was two days away from her 18th birthday when the shooting occurred during her senior year at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. After barricading in a small office for three hours, a SWAT group rescued her and the other students. Heather returned home physically uninjured, but the effects of the trauma she experienced that day continued to impact her in the following years.

With The Rebels Project, Heather has traveled to impacted communities to connect with survivors and help provide insight into the journey toward recovery and healing, and The Rebels Project hosts an annual Survivor Retreat where survivors from around the country come together for a long weekend of healing and connection. As a national speaker, she advocates for informed responses to traumatic events from the perspective of a survivor and currently resides in Colorado where she teaches high school English in Aurora, CO.

## Survivor Testimony: *Judy Shepard*



In October 1998, **Judy and Dennis Shepard** lost their 21-year-old son, Matthew, to a murder motivated by anti-gay hate. Matthew's death moved many thousands of people around the world to attend vigils and rallies in his memory. Determined to prevent others from suffering their son's fate, Judy and Dennis decided to turn their grief into action and established the Matthew Shepard Foundation to carry on Matthew's legacy. The Foundation is dedicated to working toward the causes championed by Matthew during his life: social justice, diversity awareness & education, and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

Judy Shepard is the founding president of the Matthew Shepard Foundation Board of Directors, and served as its first executive director as well, from 1999 to 2009. In her continuing role as board president, she travels across the nation speaking to audiences about what they can do as individuals and communities to make this world a more accepting place for everyone, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity and expression, or sexual orientation. Speaking from a mother's perspective, Judy also authored a 2009 memoir, "The Meaning of Matthew," exploring the family's journey through the prosecution of Matthew's assailants, the ensuing media coverage, and their continuing work to advance civil rights. Originally trained as a teacher, Mrs. Shepard holds a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Secondary Education from the University of Wyoming where she later pursued some post-graduate studies. She and Dennis continue to make their home in Casper, Wyoming.