



## **Statement from the Ruszczyk Family**

As a parent looks upon the new born child, the whole wonderful cycle of life has a new beginning and a new importance. We know our child's life will be filled with all manner of events and relationships, with laughter and love, tears and smiles, successes and failures. Perhaps there will be a chance to do some good. Justine made the most of her chance.

Justine should not be dead. There are many other victims who should not be dead because of gun violence. Such deaths are the result of fear and anger. We must find ways to reduce the fear and anger among us. We have to rebuild the trust and respect in our communities, starting with young people.

To do this we must uphold the rule of law, respect the sanctity of life, have civil institutions which serve and support our communities in all their diversity, and have a government which understands its obligations to watch over and maintain standards of behaviour and service in public and private organizations which will benefit us all. If we work at weaving these principles into the fabric of our daily lives there is hope for our communities to grow into the compassionate and civil society of which we all dream.

The Ruszczyk family donates this 2 million dollars to the Minneapolis Foundation's Fund for Safe Communities in the name of Justine Maia Ruszczyk. Justine was special to us and we believe the world is diminished having lost her. We are certain the other families feel the same about the ones they have lost to gun violence.

We are well aware that love is not bulletproof. We must find ways to reduce the threats to the ones we love. We hope these funds will help reinforce successful existing programs and give birth to new ideas and new channels of communication so our communities become safe for everyone.