



**Achieve
Hartford!**



Public Insights

[In Memoriam to Shane Oliver, May 2, 1992-October 20, 2012](#)

Nothing is More Devastating than the Loss of One's Child

This past Tuesday evening, more than 100 Hartford-area residents came to 54 Prospect Street, lamenting the death of 20-year-old Shane Oliver, who was shot in the back at that spot just three days earlier.

Street Preacher Rev. Henry Brown and many of his colleagues from Mothers United against Violence conducted the vigil.

Present were at least three other parents whose children died before age 22. One grandmother, whose son was shot on Barbour Street 12 years ago, now raises her son's children. Another mom, Henrietta Beckman, is haunted every day by the shooting death of her son Randy 10 years ago. He would be 31.

Saturday's killing of Shane Oliver in broad daylight hits particularly close to home for all who are concerned about education in Hartford, because his father is Sam Saylor, the passionate community leader whose [words we highlighted just last week](#) in Education Matters! Five years ago, Mr. Saylor also was one of the community leaders who worked on the team that founded Achieve Hartford!

This week, he suffered the devastation of outliving his child. We extend our deepest sympathy to him and his family as they grieve over this senseless, unimaginable loss.

October 25, 2012