

Survivor to share story

By Elizabeth Troutman
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VIGIL, WALK TODAY

Who Killed Our Kids is holding a public vigil at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County main location downtown today.

Families of unsolved homicide victims will attend to give short speeches in remembrance of their loved ones.

The vigil begins at 2 p.m. and will be followed with The Truth Will Set you Free Walk at 3 p.m., from the library into Over-the-Rhine.

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Every day Leatrice Bishop looks at a police artist's sketch of her boyfriend's killer.

She has no name of the man, no address, no other details about him. Most of all she has no closure for the death of Dale Little, shot to death as he sat in his car in April outside his sister's apartment complex in Hartwell.

Bishop will tell her story today at a vigil for Little and the other 21 victims of unsolved homicides in Cincinnati this year. It's sponsored by Who Killed Our Kids, an organization that strives to keep public awareness alive of those deaths.

A photo exhibit, "Who Killed Our Kids," put together by the organization has been on display at the library this month.

Bishop, 22, of Bond Hill, sees a reminder of Little every day in Dale Jr., born about a month after his father's death. She is holding to the hope that a witness' vague description of Little's killer - a black man in his early 20s, of medium height - will lead to his apprehension.

But Bishop, who'd dated Little since she was 15, thinks it could be anyone - even a friend.

"I always think people are following me," she said. "Or that they are in the car. I am paranoid because I didn't know who did it. I don't know who to trust - is it one of his friends trying to come see his son? I just don't trust anybody."

Who Killed Our Kids, which ministers to the families of homicide victims of all ages, was started in 2002. It tries to help survivors like Bishop, holding public and private vigils, memorials and walks to remember those who were killed.

Volunteers for the group also are active in promoting neighborhood safety programs.

About 134 of 345 Hamilton County homicides in the past five years have not been solved, including 26 from 2004, said Lucy Logan, who started Who Killed Our Kids in 2002 after her son, Nolan Moi, was killed.

Photographer Chet Sterling took many of the photos for the exhibit at the library. He said he lost his best friend and "soul mate" to a homicide 10 years ago.

"What you will see is a lot of hurt and pain," he said of the exhibit.

Keith Little, a factory worker from Price Hill, said the photos are a reflection of the corruption within the city.

"It's a mess that you have in this area," said Little, who is not related to Dale Little, as he viewed the library exhibit Thursday. "I just don't know why they are shooting each other."

Bishop said people tell her that her life will go on despite the loss of her lover.

"I have my son, but at the same time, he was my best friend," she said of Dale Little. "That was my world. It took my heart right out of me - I don't want to go on with my everyday routine."

Logan, who runs the organization from her home in Madisonville, said about 80 families now participate in it.

Who Killed Our Kids partners with the Cincinnati Police homicide unit and the Crimestoppers program. Logan follows cases and works with police to bring new information to families.

Logan thinks the number of unsolved murders will be reduced when people start coming forward with information.

"Fear, that's really what it is," she said. "If people started coming forward, other people would step up to the plate."

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