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Kristina Anderson is a survivor of the Virginia Tech tragedy and the founder of Koshka Foundation for Safe Schools, a non-profit which creates resources and content for raising the level of awareness toward campus safety for students, parents and educators. The foundation also works to provide resources and support for survivors of trauma.

Kristina started the non-profit after surviving the worst school shooting committed by a single perpetrator on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Kristina was shot 3 times during the Virginia Tech shooting – twice in her back and once in her toe - while attending an Intermediate French class. She became one of the most critically injured survivors with the largest number of casualties in her classroom.

Thanks to a genius surgeon, strong family, and an immense outpouring of support, Kristina made a full recovery and proudly returned to Virginia Tech to finish her degree in International Studies and Foreign Languages.

As her perspective on life has significantly changed, Kristina travels extensively for trainings and presentations on emergency preparedness, safety, and motivational speaking with law enforcement and corporate audiences.

Ms. Anderson is also co-founder of LiveSafe, a personal safety mobile application that promotes a crowd sourced approach in preventing crime.

*The name of Kristina's foundation (pronounced co-shhh-ca) translates to "Little Kitten" in Russian, a nod to her Russian mother's nickname for her growing up.*



Kristina Anderson was a sophomore at Virginia Tech when she became one of the injured victims of the shooting tragedy of April 16th, 2007.

Working to continue the memory of her classmates and spark positive influence on campus, Kristina founded Students for Non-Violence (SNV), the student-led component of the Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention at Virginia Tech. Building SNV's foundation and initial philanthropy, Kristina first learned how to activate student campaigns and inspire action towards violence prevention on her campus.

In late 2007, Kristina launched the Koshka Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to improving campus safety, educating students, and building a comprehensive network of survivors. By engaging students in the "Dear Future" essay project, Kristina hopes to raise student awareness around school safety and promote safer learning environments year round.

As an advocate for survivors of violence, Kristina formed the Immediate Help Fund in April 2012 to provide critical financial aid to victims of school violence and their families. One of her ultimate goals is to establish April 17th as National Survivor's Day in recognition of individuals who overcome adversity.

A frequent speaker, Kristina works to raise awareness on the importance of school safety and violence prevention through sharing her significant encounter with gun violence, as well as working and meeting others affected by irrational acts of aggression.