ABOUT

Mother, educator, and co-founder of the national non-profit, Safe and Sound Schools, Michele Gay chose to take action after losing her daughter Josephine Grace on December 14, 2012, in the Sandy Hook School tragedy. Since that time, Michele has built a powerful legacy in her daughter’s honor, and as a nationally recognized advocate for the improved safety and security of schools and communities across our country.

An elementary educator with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Towson University and a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from McDaniel College, Michele taught in the Maryland and Virginia public schools and served as a supervising teacher before moving to the community of Sandy Hook in Newtown, CT with her young family in 2006.

Now a nationally recognized leader, public speaker, school safety advocate, and expert in her own right, Michele teaches and trains diverse audiences and works alongside local stakeholders and national experts from across the disciplines of safety. She regularly serves as a consultant to all levels of community institutions including schools, municipalities, houses of worship, educational and public safety leadership, state and federal leaders, law enforcement agencies and top news media sources. The recipient of numerous national awards, Michele is a regular contributor to print, radio, and television outlets. As the primary author of Safe and Sound’s programs and materials, Michele is recognized as a visionary thought leader in the national policy discussions shaping school safety across the country.

Guided by a strongly held belief in the power of communities working together, Michele unites stakeholders of all disciplines and perspectives around Safe and Sound Schools’ Framework for Comprehensive School Safety, a holistic, community-based approach to support crisis prevention, response, and recovery. An educator, mother, and survivor of tragedy herself, Michele is uniquely positioned as a leader in the field. She has dedicated her life to honoring Josephine’s memory by ensuring that every school, every child, and every community is truly safe and sound.