

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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Leaders Search for Answers to Violence

A Data News Weekly Special Editorial

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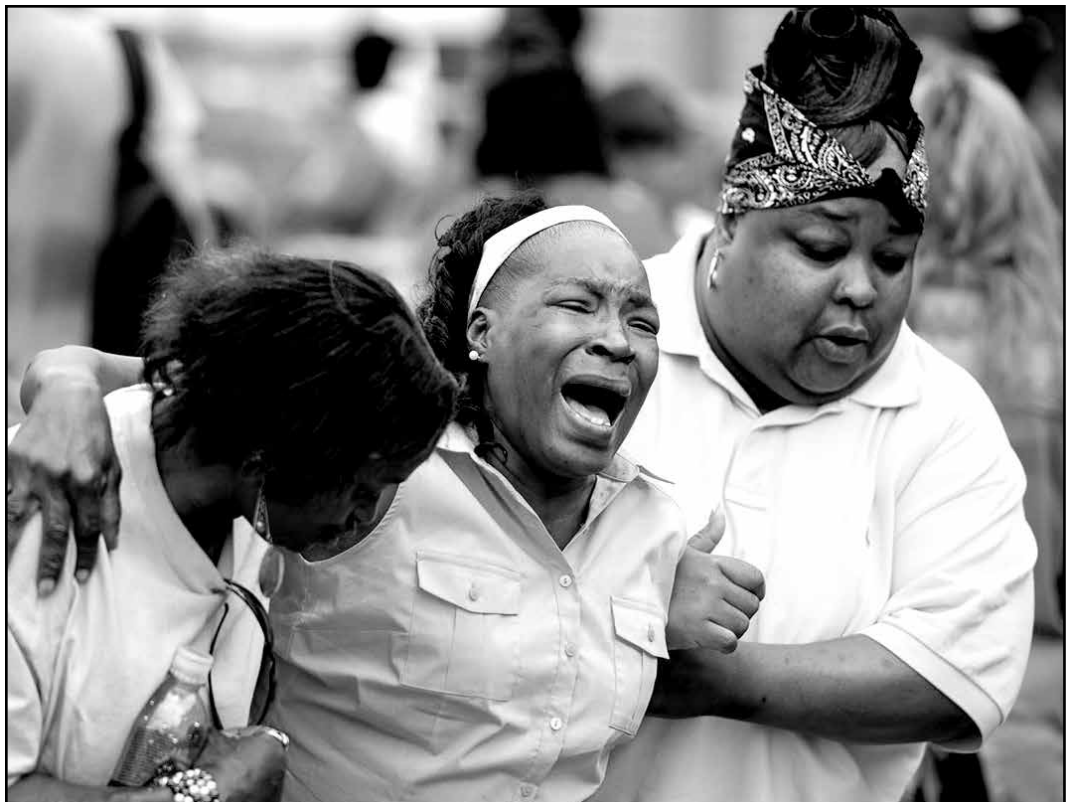
**Pipeline
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Mass Shooting Brings Citizens Together to Fight Against Violence

New Orleans; a City Fighting Against Violence



Above and on the Cover - On Monday night, 100 to 150 people gathered for a Unity Rally and Peace Vigil in the wake of Sunday's shootings. Many were overcome with grief at the sadness of the event, the heartbreak, sometimes overwhelming, was evident on every face in the crowd.

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

It is a sad day for New Orleanians. While celebrating Mother's Day, the sounds of the music of the second line, the heartbeat of us all pumped and the crowd following passed by in joyous lockstep. This glorious tradition was shattered, by unthinkable violence. Someone

decided to pierce that heartbeat, by committing a mass shooting that would leave 19 people wounded, struck by an array of bullets, which can only be described as utter madness. As we have witnessed a recent spate of violence, mass shootings and bombings I ask the question what is going on in our society where resorting to violence has for some, become the norm and their way of resolving conflicts.

Even for a City known for violence people are in disbelief as this has become a regular occurrence and no day is sacred where it is absent from the violence that plagues our City. After the shooting Mayor Landrieu held a press conference where he talked about the problem saying this is a tragic day and it doesn't matter whether it is MLK, a day reserved for peace and reflection, it seems noth-

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Community Leader and Activist Fred Johnson addresses the audience at the Unity Rally and Peace Vigil at the sight of the horrific shootings.



Video released early Monday shows a crowd gathered for a parade suddenly scattering in all directions, with some falling to the ground. Two children were among those wounded. The suspected shooter shown in the video Akein Scott, was apprehended Wednesday night shortly before 11 p.m. in the Little Woods neighborhood of eastern New Orleans, was booked on 20 counts of attempted second-degree murder.

ing stops the relentless drumbeat of violence on the streets of New Orleans.

As the City faces the unquestionable issue of violence, it is undeniable that New Orleans continues to be one of the world's capitals of hosting large events and people come from around the globe to experience our rich cultural heritage. New Orleans is a City that continues to fight with being its best and worse self with the daily violence rearing its ugly head from time to time giving the City the infamous distinction as being deemed one of the most dangerous and violent cities in America. With this as a normal occurrence of everyday life in our City some have become immune to seeing violence among young Black men on the daily basis whether they are the perpetrators or victims of violent crime. And while today the spotlight is on our City for the shooting on Mother's Day, this is a problem that is not unique to New Orleans but is happening all over the country and the time has come for people to come together to combat this type of violence.

Dispelling Myths about New Orleans, Violence and the 1 Percent

After the shooting, the next day elected leaders and concerned citizens from various walks of life gathered on the corner of Frenchmen and North Villere, the scene of the shootings for a common cause, and

that is to demand a stop to the violence in the City of New Orleans. Many of the speakers from the community echoed the same ideas, that more resources must be dedicated to educating the young people of New Orleans, so they don't fall victim to the trap of criminal activity.

The mainstream media sometimes paint pictures of young Black males as armed and dangerous, and the City of New Orleans as not a safe place. Black Men of Labor Founder and Chief Executive of the Neighborhood Development Foundation and longtime Activist Fred Johnson dispelled these myths saying as reported by the Times Picayune, "We have a scenario where we have out of 100 percent, we have 99 percent," he said. There is 1 percent that we have to fix."

Community Unity is Key

While we are in search of solutions to many of the issues that plague our communities there are some essential things that must be addressed if we are to have safety. One thing in particular is how to repair the rift between some in the African-American community and the contentious relationship with those in law enforcement that inhibits cooperation. So it is time for our community to begin to forge a new relationship with those in law enforcement building bridges of understanding so in the future citizens do not stand idly by while criminals run free in our neighborhoods.

In the aftermath of this shooting it is refreshing to see the Mayor, community activists, the police chief and concerned citizens working together and this should not be a one-time thing, this is something that needs to be a regular occurrence, because it is all of us who suffer when our fellow citizens are victims of the violence that occur on our streets.

Nurturing and Protecting Our Future

Everyone that was shot and every life over the years we've loss is important. But when I think of this latest shooting I can't help but to think of the young boy shot the other day Ka'Nard Allen. All of ten years old whose had to endure seeing his 5 year old cousin Briana Allen killed when three gunman opened fire at his birthday party last year where he was struck in the neck and leg by gunfire, and also losing his father and other close relatives to a violent death. And this is something that stings my heart as I say this as a father of two children close in age to Ka'Nard and his cousin Briana. I wonder what must be going on in the mind of this child who should be enjoying a carefree childhood, not nursing bullet wounds, witnessing deadly shootings, or thinking about am I going to live or die.

District E Councilman James Gray was at attendance at the rally, and he is someone who has spent much of his adult life mentoring young people as a

track coach and giving at-risk youth a different perspective on their life chances. He said at the rally that we as a community need to do a better job letting some of our young people know that they have a future. And that they are a person of value, but when they don't value themselves, what happened at the Mother's Day second line where reportedly three young men fired into a crowd and in so many instances of violence is the result.

In our outrage over what went on, we must remember that with so many of these shootings, these young men are somebody's sons, fathers, uncles and brothers. And the question becomes what can we do as a community to prevent these types of things from happening? What is it that we can do to give our young people a reason to live and make better decisions that may help them not choose to pull a trigger thinking that will solve their problems, but help them realize it may cause them more problems.

S.O.S (Saving our Sons)

S.O.S. is a distress signal for ships at sea, and this is something we have on the land that is New Orleans and in too many communities around our nation. Too many young men have given up before life has even started, making bad choices that not only affect them but the entire community. Today in our local vernacular S.O.S. has come to mean something else Save Our Sons, an ini-

tiative by Mayor Landrieu to address issues of crime and violence and helping save the lives of our young men. While this is a laudable, it is going to take more than just a government initiative to accomplish this feat. It is something that can be accomplished if we are to work in the spirit of unity that happened the other day where many who are often at odds came together to speak with a unified voice against violence. Something Mayor Landrieu spoke of during press conference following the shooting and echoed during the rally and his radio call in the press conference where he said, we must do something about the culture of violence and we as a community untied have got to do this that means everyone has to be involved.

While this sounds great and most are in agreement this must be followed up with continued action. This hopefully is a clarion call for citizens to not simply mobilize but to organize; what must happen in this unified effort are our churches, schools and families, particularly fathers must do a better job at making sure our young men can become armed with the drive to strive and thrive, not just survive and stay alive. And when we think of the future of our City and nation I feel we all should think of young men like Ke'Nard and work to stop gun violence and give him and so many others like him a chance to live his life where the sky is the limit and he can reach his full potential.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

An Evening of Life, Laughter, and Love.

Photos provided by Eric D. Griggs, MD

Divine Care Hospice & ISB Foundation hosted an elegant gala last week at the Hyatt Regency Hotel's Celestin Ballroom on Saturday May 11, 2013. The event titled, "An Evening of Life, Laughter, and Love." was hosted by: Mrs. Danielle J. Griggs, BSN and attended by New Orleans' finest, and of course, Data was there!



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Turnaround Arts Fundraiser Highlights

Photos by Terry Jones

On May 8, 2013, New Orleans South Africa Connection (NOSACONN), ReNew Charter Management Organization and the White House Turnaround Arts Initiative held the first Turnaround Arts Fundraiser, called Artists Shining a Light on

Arts Education at the Juneau Penthouse in the Ritz Carlton. The purpose of this event was to raise money that will help sustain the arts education program (visual arts, film, cultural arts, written and spoken word, etc.) at Batiste.

Actress Alfre Woodard and the Rodrigue Foundation hosted the event. An evening filled with sounds from Rebirth Brass Band, The Brassaholics, Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. and performances by Batistes' marching band and student performers.



Pipeline to the People The Unspeakable and Remarkable Cleveland Kidnapping Case

Question: What do you think about the Cleveland kidnapping case and would this much media coverage be given if the victims were of color?

By Corey Anderson
Data News Weekly Columnist

Is anyone familiar with anyone who doesn't want to feel safe in their own residence? Anyone who doesn't want to be able to wake up, go to school/work, eat out with friends, or even just watch the sunset? We do these activities and more on a daily basis and hardly ever think about being raped, battered, bruised, scorned, or even tortured instead of pursuing open opportunities. For Amanda Berry, Georgina "Gina" DeJesus, and Michelle Knight, this was an all too familiar life-style, which no one should become accustomed to. For 10 years, this was the life they lead, along with Michelle's daughter (six years old) who was born into and as a result of these unspeakable conditions. Kidnapping and rape were the charges brought against the suspect, Ariel Castro. However, we want to know what do you think: is this enough? Are there others, including neighbors who need to be charged as accessories with not speaking up?



Jasmine Saulsby

"I definitely think that when there are victims of color in the media they get the minimal amount of coverage. For example, the African-American teacher who has been missing and is still missing. They did an airing on her twice since the first day and that was it. They still do commercials and print media looking for who murdered Jon Benet Ramsey, a little Caucasian girl that's been dead over 20 years now. Unfortunately, this is a problem that most media officials won't even discuss or acknowledge. Hopefully, with the assistance of new forthcoming media officials they will find a way to bring light to the situation or resolve it altogether."



Odell Isaacs

"It's amazing that the 3 young women have been found. Especially when considering it has been 10 years, and the probability of finding victims alive decreases to nearly 1% after the first 48 hrs. Situations are different when it's a victim of color though, as they receive a tenth of the media coverage. Just look at Nancy Grace; every week she's doing missing children and rarely are they Black."



Gerald Yumul

"I'm glad they were saved and I feel bad they had to go through that horrible and crazy experience. I thought there was enough coverage through the news, radio talk shows, and social media. It seemed like I always heard something about it last week, but no matter what color or race, nobody should go through that experience."

Honoring All Mothers

Photos by Glenn Summers

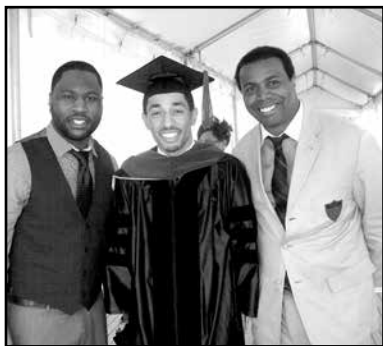
Guitar Slim, Jr. Performs a Soulful Mother's Day Tribute at Bertha's Place and Data was there!



Xavier University Commencement Exercises

Photos by Eric Connerly

Recently, Xavier University held its 2013 Graduation in its new Convocation Center. The commencement Speaker was U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin. It was a joyous event with family, friends and well-wishers coming out to celebrate Xavier University, an institute of higher learning that continues to be a great example of excellence with its graduates making a positive impact on the City, state and nation.



First NBC Bank Holding Company Announces Pricing of Its Initial Public Offering



First NBC Bank Board Vice Chairman Dr. Charles Teamer, Member Dale Atkins and others along with Bank President Ashton J. Ryan were on Wall Street this morning as the local Bank's stock goes Public.

First NBC Bank Holding Company ("First NBC"), the holding company for First NBC Bank, announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 4,166,667 shares of common stock at a price to the public of \$24.00 per share.

The common stock has been approved for listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market began trading on May 10, 2013, under the symbol "NBCB." The offering is expected to close on May 15, 2013.

The underwriters have a 30-day option to purchase up to an additional 625,000 shares from First NBC at the initial public offering price, less the underwriting discount to cover over-allotments, if any.

Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P. and Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. are serving as joint bookrunning managers, and Sterne, Agee & Leach, Inc., FIG Partners, LLC and Monroe Financial Partners, Inc. are serving as co-managers for the offering. The offering is being made only by means of a prospectus. Copies of the prospectus may be obtained by contacting: Sandler O'Neill + Partners, L.P. at toll-free 1-866-805-4128 or by emailing syndicate@sandleroneill.com or Keefe, Bruyette & Woods at capital-marketsequity@kbw.com.

A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and was declared effective by the SEC on May 9, 2013.

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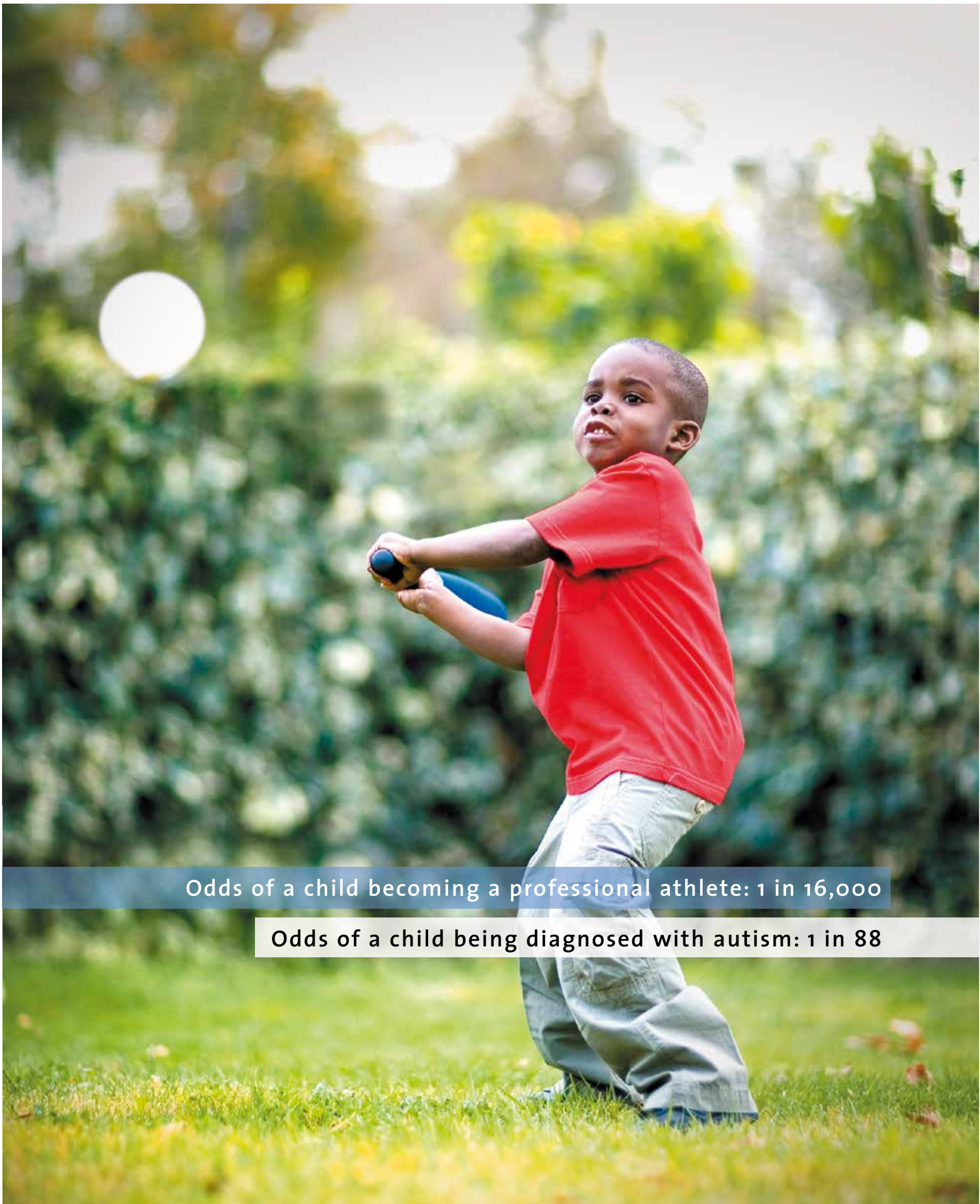
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Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 88

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No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.



To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org



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