



# The Record

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## A Right to Live

By Dr. Jim Haas

Two weeks ago, immediately after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, a resident of Uvalde, Texas legally purchased two assault rifles and 1,600 rounds of ammunition in a local store and posted a photo of them on social media. He shot his grandmother at home, wrecked her vehicle near a school, entered a fourth-grade classroom and massacred 19 students and two teachers and wounded 17 others including three lawmen.

It was the 213<sup>th</sup> mass shooting in the U.S. this year. They happen in grocery stores, theatres, malls, schools, churches, concerts—anywhere that people gather. They happen because of easy access to deadly weapons and ammunition. There are roughly 60 times more mass murders in the U.S than in all the other developed nations of the world combined.

### Why?

In a press conference, Texas Republican Governor Abbott bemoaned the lack of mental health facilities and spoke of fortifying schools. He failed to mention that the U.S. has no greater rate of mental illness than other countries and failed to speak of fortifying groceries, theatres, churches, and the rest. He refused to consider restricting guns. Shortly after another Texas school massacre in 2018, Abbott told the National Rifle Association (NRA), “The problem is not guns. It’s hearts without God.”

Abbott was dead wrong. The problem *is* guns—we’re flooded with 400 million of them and are the only industrialized country without strict gun regulations. This has happened since the

1970s when new NRA leaders began collaborating with lawmakers to make guns symbolize a notion of “freedom” using the Second Amendment.

Follow the money: The firearms industry would increase its profits, the NRA would grow and its leaders get rich, and elected officials would turn campaign cash from the industry and the NRA into votes. They made a pact with the devil. The price would be the safety of innocent Americans.

Consider the Second Amendment: “A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” For 200 years, this was understood by citizens and courts to tie the right to bear arms to state militia service. Numerous gun regulations were enacted including a federal assault-weapons ban, but congress refused to renew it in 2004. Gun murders have since tripled.

In 2008, a 5-4 conservative majority on the Supreme Court threw out two centuries of precedence and ruled that individuals have a right to own guns independent of militia service (*District of Columbia v. Heller*) and two years later applied this logic to state and local gun safety laws as well (*McDonald v. Chicago*). Firearm sales (now about 50,000 per day) and profits exploded, and the NRA accelerated donations to candidates—\$9 million in 2012, \$13 million in 2014, \$50 million in 2016, including \$30 million to the former president’s campaign. Follow the money.

We are hostages of a lobbyiest group that elects enough people to the Senate



to block gun regulations that most Americans want: 88% favor strict background checks on all gun purchases, 67% favor assault weapons and extended magazines bans, and 81% favor “red flag” laws that allow guns to be seized from people deemed dangerous. Two bills that tighten background check and gun sales rules, HR 8 and HR 1446, have passed the House but are blocked by a Senate unwilling to risk their gun lobby campaign money or the votes of the minority who oppose gun regulations.

With a few exceptions, many of our current office holders no longer represent the public. They represent the gun industry and the NRA. They preach about a “right to life” but show no interest in the right to live of innocent school children, grocery shoppers, and others including you and me. Let’s stand up to those whose priority is power, not the public good, and vote them out.

When you vote this year, think of the children and teachers of Uvalde. Then think of guns. Then vote according to which you value more.

## Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

Every time I pass Turner High school, on 55th street, I look at the pond there and it really brings back memories. That pond was a pay lake many years ago. Maybe some of you don't know what a pay lake is so I will tell you. It was loaded with fish and you could pay by the amount of fish you caught. It was so quiet and peaceful there. My mom and I would go there every chance we got. Just mom and me.

The main street was beautiful, so shady, so cool. On a relative hot day, it was so nice to drive through there. Now it isn't shady or cool anymore because all those wonderful shady trees are gone and the pay lake is just a pond.

Just like the caves on Inland drive. On hot days, we would go there and play in the mouth of that cave and throw rocks and holler. Then it changed into a cold storage and finally it got ruined. Things aren't the same anymore. Time goes on, right?

Well just thought I would let you know about some of the "good old days". Take care, keep sake. It is a crazy world out there. Read the Record online: [www.recordnews.com](http://www.recordnews.com). I vy a all, your friend from Argentine, Sue



This is the pond at Turner High School. It has quite a story.

## **AG Derek Schmidt: Ford refunds consumers for exaggerated fuel economy claims**

More than 300 Kansas consumers have received more than \$167,000 in refunds by Ford Motor Company as part of a nationwide settlement over claims Ford falsely advertised real-world fuel economy of certain model trucks, Kansas Attorney General Schmidt said.

The refunds are part of a \$19.2 million multistate settlement with Ford over the marketing of its 2013–2014 C-Max hybrids and the payload capacity of model year 2011–2014 Super Duty pickup trucks. In addition to the \$167,175 shared by 304 Kansas consumers, Kansas will receive \$283,546.98 to provide consumer protection enforcement and education.

"Given the price of new vehicles and rising cost of fuel, consumers expect that the price and claims on the vehicle sticker are valid," Schmidt said. "Kansans expect the honest truth about vehicle features and that they will get what they pay for. This settlement holds Ford accountable for being less than forthcoming about the true performance of their trucks."

A nationwide investigation by state attorneys general found that Ford made misleading representations about the vehicles, including the distance that could be driven on a tank of fuel, comparison to other hybrids on the market, or omitting certain factors that accounted for vehicle weight that would affect fuel mileage. The settlement corrects Ford's deceptive advertising practices, and helps ensure that Ford will not make false or misleading advertising claims about the fuel economy of its vehicles.

More information on safe car buying and avoiding scams is available on the attorney general's consumer protection website at [www.InYourCornerKansas.org](http://www.InYourCornerKansas.org). If you suspect a scam or fraud, or any other violation of Kansas consumer protection laws, you can file a complaint with our Consumer Protection Division online at that website or by calling (800) 432-2310.



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By Sharon Hoover

**M**y heart is broken because of the recent event that took place in the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. Nineteen children and two adults massacred! Nineteen children and two adults! There have 27 school shootings since the first of the year. I am also very angry. What are the

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

odds that an unlocked back door, a resource officer not at his post, and an upset teenager with an assault weapon who argued with his grandmother about a cell phone bill that this could happen? Why was that back door left open, and was this a common practice? Where was the resource office who had to drive to the scene? This school was supposed to have security measures in place, who dropped the ball? What laws are in place in Texas that allow an eighteen year old to buy two of those guns legally or, for that matter why does a civilian need this type of weapon?

It appears that our legislators in Congress cannot agree on the same restrictions on gun control. Shame on them! According to a recent poll, 88% of the population

wants some type of gun control. We need to rid ourselves of our elected officials that have no conscience. There is hope because our younger generation is fed up. They are raising their voices and soon they will be voting. Our elected officials had better wake up or they will be replaced.

It's time to have waiting periods, background checks, and gun registration for all. I am not against people owning handguns for their own protection and rifles for hunting, just the military-style weapons. Cooler heads should prevail when in a conflict arises not a loaded gun. Revenge never serves its purpose.

On that note, the KCKPD will hold its 6 weeks Citizens Academy beginning on Thursday,

June 23, 2022, from 6-8pm at the KCK Police Academy, 7520 State Avenue. The program is designed for residents seeking a better understanding of the basics of law enforcement and policies and procedures of the KCKPD. The graduates are to share their knowledge with their neighbors in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the community and the police. To enroll: contact Ptl. Kevin Sullivan at (919) 573-6254 or ksullivan@kcdkp.org.

Until next time stay safe and be kind to those around you. Please pray for the families of those innocent children, for those who have lost loved ones through sickness, conflicts, and wars, and continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to be free.



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## **Consumer Corner: Be mindful of current financial pitfalls when purchasing a vehicle**

**By Kansas Attorney General  
Derek Schmidt**

Purchasing a new or used vehicle has become more difficult in recent years. Whether it is the in-person shopping limitations brought on by the pandemic, supply-chain disruptions that have limited the production of new vehicles, or the shortage of available used vehicles, Kansans

have had to endure a great deal just to find reliable transportation.

In addition to these challenges, more auto market roadblocks are emerging, adding to the cost and frustration of purchasing new and pre-owned vehicles. We advise consumers looking to purchase a vehicle to be aware of some new circumstances that go well beyond normal sticker shock.

**Yo-yo scams:** A yo-yo scam occurs when a consumer is led to believe, through acts or omissions by a car dealer providing financing, that the loan financing is final when in fact the dealer has not actually finalized the vehicle financing. The dealer allows the consumer to drive off the lot with the car "on

the spot," which is called a "spot delivery" in the auto sales industry. The dealer knows the consumer has not qualified for financing, and sometimes the dealer knows the consumer is not going to qualify. When the financing falls through, the dealer pulls the consumer back to the dealership like a yo-yo on a string. Sometimes the dealer presents a new deal to the consumer to allow them to keep their car – one with a higher interest rate or larger down payment. The frequent excuse is "the lender" has disapproved the application or has changed its mind. Consumers can protect themselves by comparing financing offers from several lenders before shopping for a vehicle, and securing financing before shopping. If consumers choose to finance with the dealer, ask if the deal is final and get that assurance in writing before taking the vehicle home.

**Auto add-ons:** Add-ons are not free. They are extra things consumers buy and finance along with the vehicle. Common add-ons include gap insurance policies, extended warranties and service contracts. It is OK to say no to add-ons, and to ask what they cost. It is not OK for dealers to tuck add-ons into the deal without the consumer's consent or knowledge. Consumers should know exactly what they are buying. We recommend asking the dealer to list the price of any proposed add-on before you arrive at the dealership, so you can see the total cost of the car. Consumers who finance should ask the lender to figure how much the add-ons cost over the life of the loan. Consumers should ask about any limits or conditions the warranties and service contracts may have. They do not always cover what consumers expect. Consumers should feel comfortable saying no to add-ons they do not want, do not need, or do not want to pay for. If you don't want or need it, say no.

**Excessive administrative fees:** In addition to understanding add-ons, consumers should be aware of what they are paying in administrative fees. There are three typical new car fees: the vehicle registration fee, the sales tax, and the documentation fee. The vehicle registration fee

is the amount the state charges to register the vehicle, assign a title to a new vehicle, and cover the cost of license plates. If the dealer provides the service, it saves the consumer a trip to the county tag office. Sales tax on a vehicle includes tax at the state rate, and tax at the county, or even municipality rate. Dealerships charge a documentation fee to cover costs of preparing and filing the contract and other paperwork involved in the sale. Consumers should do their homework. Many counties publish registration charges on their websites. You can look up your local sales tax rate on the Kansas Department of Revenue website at <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/atrladdress.html>. By using a local address and purchase amount, a consumer can calculate the expected sales tax. Similarly, consumers can research the average documentation fee for their area, and be prepared to discuss the fee amount with the dealer.

Similarly, consumers can research the average documentation fee for their area, and be prepared to discuss the fee amount with the dealer. Some dealers write additional fees into the contract and give them official-sounding names, like "PDI" or "dealer prep." Consumers should find out early what fees the dealer charges, and negotiate the price of the vehicle accordingly. Sometimes just telling the dealer the consumer knows the fee is unusual will spur the dealer to remove or reduce it.

**Market adjustment fee:** A common occurrence in 2022 is a "market adjustment fee." Dealerships charge this fee when they consider the type of vehicle to be in short supply, so the dealership raises the price to make more profit. A market adjustment fee can be \$1,000 to \$5,000 or more, depending on the make and model of the vehicle. The dealer should advertise this fee with the price of the car to make consumers aware of the amount the dealer plans to charge. Consumers don't have to pay this fee, but a dealer also is not required to sell a vehicle at the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price. The amount of this fee will differ based on dealership, and there are a number of dealerships that do not charge this fee. Consumers should ask if a vehicle has been "marked up" before visiting a dealership, and be willing to expand the search for a vehicle to get the deal they consider reasonable.

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# Guest Editorial

## Quotes to Ponder

By Tom Valverde

"We oppose the teaching of "Higher Order Thinking Skills and Critical Thinking Skills and all similar programs."

*Written in the 21st Century in Texas as part of the section on Education in the Texas Republican party 2012 platform.*

"The cost of Education is trivial compared to the cost of Ignorance, of leaving Government to the wolves."

Thomas Jefferson

"If a Belief cannot stand up to scrutiny, then we shouldn't believe it; and if it does, we will hold it all the more strongly for the very reason that it withstood our challenge."

John T. Harvey, for Forbes

"Public education is essential and is the "first rung" of a modern Civilization. During the past Administration the Department of Education was headed by a woman

who made a very large political contribution in return for having the president appoint her as Secretary. Her actions in office never were of support to higher public education. It was quite evident that she wanted to dismantle American public education. And these efforts to "dumb down" the American people continues with the Republican platform for 2024 that has adopted the abolition of the Department of Education, in the state that needs it most; Texas.

This is nothing new, in 1996, in a New York Review of Books, a Texas member of the legislature was quoted, offering his argument against the state's responsibility for public education: "Where did this idea come from that everybody deserves free education... free whatever?!" He said it comes from Moscow, from Russia. It comes straight out of the pit of Hell."

Source, Tim Radford, Service Book Club, *The Guardian*

Dr. Carl Sagan foresaw this terrifying trend to "Dumb down" the public when he wrote the following

in his last book, written just before his death:

"The Demon Haunted World---Science as a candle in the dark. I have a foreboding of an America in my children's and grandchildren's time -- when the United States is a service and information economy; when nearly all the manufacturing industries have shipped away to other countries; when awesome technological powers are in the hands of a very few, and no one representing the public interest can even grasp the issues.

"When the people have lost the ability to set their own agenda or knowledgeably question those in authority; when, clutching our crystals and nervously consulting our horoscopes, our critical faculties in decline, unable to distinguish between what feels good and what's true, we slide, almost without noticing, back into superstition and darkness.

The dumbing down of America is most evident in the slow decay of substantive content in the enormously influential media, the 30 second sound bites (now down to 10 seconds or less), lowest common denominator programming, credulous presentations on pseudoscience and superstition, but especially a kind of celebration of

ignorance."

Dr. Sagan also wrote: "The terrifying miseducation of the masses is more apparent than ever in our world. People are voting in favor of their own demise (and to the demise of their own progeny) at an alarming rate."

Too many Americans are skeptical of science while they fully embrace the hogwash of their greedy and incompetent rulers."

This is as true today, 27 years later and it's even more distressing living through this mindless time. It is truly amazing to see just how accurately Sagan foresaw our time.

Importantly, Dr. Sagan perceived that science could deliver to society. Unfortunately, that potential has been squandered by the miseducated masses. Their undying support of a man unfit for almost anything of any import is a real tragedy.

"A candle in the dark" is a Biblically-based book that was published in London in 1656, on the cusp of the Enlightenment by Thomas Ady.

But, here we find ourselves in this unfortunate quagmire with people more eager to believe a baseless outrageous conspiracy theories rather than the truth or anything factual or from science.

## IRS: Taxpayers who haven't filed yet to choose tax preparer wisely

Taxpayers who have not yet filed their 2021 tax return may file electronically when they are ready rather than wait until the October 17, 2022, extension deadline. If they are considering hiring a tax preparer, it's important to choose wisely. Taxpayers are responsible for all the information on their tax return, no matter who prepares it for them or when it's filed.

There are different kinds of tax return preparers, and a taxpayer's needs will determine which kind of preparer is best for them.

Here are some things taxpayers should do when choosing a tax return preparer

- Check the IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers.

This searchable and sortable public directory helps taxpayers find a tax return preparer with specific qualifications.

- Check the preparer's history with the Better Business Bureau. Taxpayers should check for any disciplinary actions for credentialed tax return preparers. For CPAs, check with the State Board of Accountancy. For attorneys, check with the State Bar Association. For enrolled agents, verify the agent's status on IRS.gov.

- Ask about fees. Taxpayers should avoid tax return preparers who base their fees on a percentage of the refund or who offer to deposit all or part of the refund into their own financial accounts. They should

be wary of tax return preparers who claim they can get larger refunds than their competitors.

- Ask if the preparer plans to use IRS e-file. Taxpayers should make sure their preparer offers IRS e-file. The IRS issues most refunds in fewer than 21 days for taxpayers who file electronically and choose direct deposit.

- Make sure the preparer is available. Taxpayers should consider whether the tax return preparer will be around after the filing deadline has passed. Taxpayers should do this because they might need the preparer to answer questions about the preparation of the tax return. Avoid fly-by-night preparers.

- Ensure the preparer signs

and includes their preparer tax identification number. All aid tax return preparers must have a PTIN to prepare tax returns. Preparers must sign returns and include their PTIN.

- Understand the preparer's credentials. Enrolled agents, CPAs, and attorneys have unlimited practice rights and can represent taxpayers on any tax matter before the IRS. Tax return preparers who participate in the IRS Annual Filing Season Program have limited practice rights and may only represent taxpayers whose returns they prepared and signed, and only for exams and for customer service and Taxpayer Advocate Service inquiries.

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## LEGAL PUBLICATION

## LEGAL PUBLICATION

## MBE / WBE INVITATION TO BID

JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding the Grandview C-4 School District – Martin City K8 – Early Package located at 201 E 133rd St., Kansas City, MO 64145 and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. In particular, we are soliciting M/WBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to: Precast Concrete; Roofing, Wall Panels & Sheet Metal; Electrical; Earthwork and Site Demolition; and Site Utilities.

Bidding Documents may be viewed and/or obtained electronically at [www.buildingconnected.com](http://www.buildingconnected.com). Contact Glen Stach to receive an invite to this project via BuildingConnected. Bids must be submitted through BuildingConnected by 2:00 p.m. on 06-14-22.

**PRE-BID CONFERENCE** - A Pre-Bid Conference will be held in the Cafeteria at the Martin City K8 School, 201 E 133rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64145 at 9:00 a.m. on 06-02-22, for the purpose of answering any questions regarding the above scopes of work on the project.

If you have any questions please contact Glen Stach, Project Manager, by phone at 816-292-8766 or by e-mail at [glen.stach@jedunn.com](mailto:glen.stach@jedunn.com).

Bid Opening will start at 2:00 PM. on June 14, 2022 via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to join please call or email Glen Stach or see link in bid documents

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## Tom's Tasty Treats

By Tom Valverde

This week's tasty treat is one I've had on a number of dinners out and is one of my very favorite desserts. It is surprisingly simple to assemble and makes an impressive and delicious end to a special dinner. Hope you will try:

### TOM'S AMAZING DARK CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:

8oz. Dark Chocolate

55-60% cocoa, chopped

1 stick Butter

1 c Sugar

1/4 t Salt

1 t Espresso powder

1 t Vanilla

4 lg. Eggs

3/4 c Dutch process Cocoa, sifted Chocolate Ganache

1 c Semisweet Chocolate chips

1/2 c Heavy Cream

Set oven to 350°. Place rack on lower center of oven. Spray an 8" Springform pan with nonstick spray. Place the chopped chocolate and butter into a heatproof bowl. Place the bowl over simmering water in a saucepan.\* Stir until the butter and chocolate are melted then remove from the stove. \*Be sure that the bowl is above the water and not touching it.

Stir the espresso powder into the hot water and stir until dissolved. Add the salt. Add the sugar, and the espresso mixture to the melted chocolate and whisk until combined. Add the Vanilla. Whisk in the 4 eggs until well mixed in. Stir in the Dutch process cocoa. Make sure that it is well combined. Regular cocoa can be used but it won't be as dark or have the same flavor as the Dutch process cocoa or its dark color. Spoon the batter into the prepared Springform pan.

Bake for 25-30 minutes until a thin crust is formed and it pulls out from the sides of the pan, a little. Remove the cake from the oven and cool in the pan for 15 minutes. Run a sharp knife all around the sides. Then invert onto a plate. The bottom will be the top of the cake. The cake will drop in the center, this is ok. Cool the cake completely.

Note: If making a day ahead, cover cake with foil and prepare the ganache a couple of hours before serving. To make the ganache, heat the heavy cream until it begins to simmer. Pour immediately over the chocolate chips and let stand to melt the chips. Whisk until smooth. If any bits remain, melt for 10 seconds in the microwave. The glaze must be smooth. Top the cooled cake with the ganache. Smooth top with a spatula and allow some to drip over the sides. Chill for 10 minutes to set the chocolate. Cut each slice with a sharp knife that's dipped in hot water and wiped dry. Raspberries make a nice garnish along with some whipped cream. This is a very rich cake and the slices should not be very thick. It's almost like eating a chocolate truffle!

Recipe Note: Dissolve the Espresso powder in 1/4 c Hot water, not the water used to melt the chocolate and butter. It's a flourless cake so it's perfect for persons who don't eat gluten. Expect this scrumptious cake to become your favorite dessert to serve for special family dinners. Also very good with a scoop of Vanilla ice cream! Yum. Enjoy!



### Passings...

By Sue Reich

Robert DeMoss, age 89, passed away on May 16, 2022. Graduate of Argentine High School, class of 1932. Served in the United States Marine Corps.

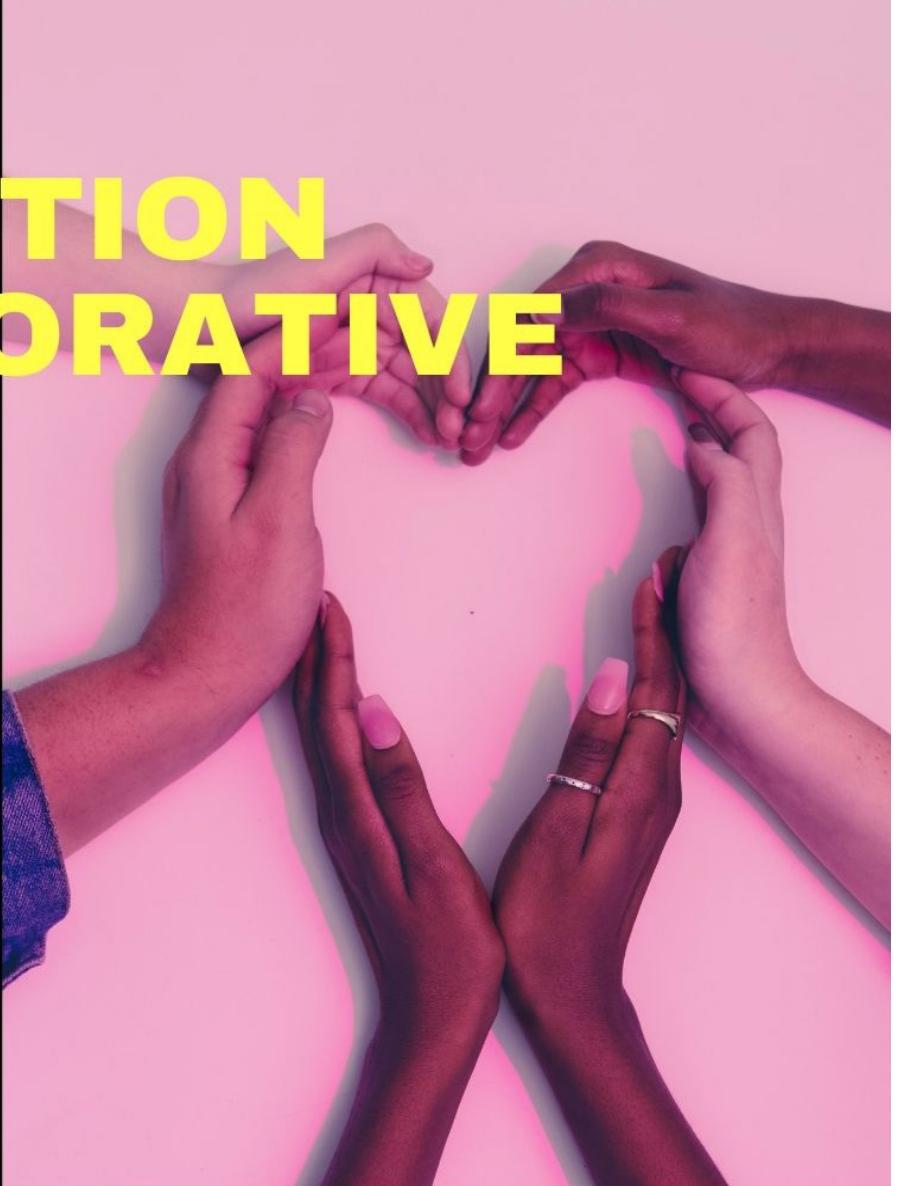


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