

The  
**Avielle**  
Foundation  
Research & Community



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Founder & CEO

The Avielle Foundation

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**The Mission** of the Avielle Foundation is to prevent violence and build compassion through neuroscience research, community engagement, and education. The Avielle Foundation accomplishes this mission by directing efforts and resources in two areas that we feel are really two sides of the same coin. First, we support breakthrough neuroscience research, bridging behavioral and biochemical sciences, and making the neurosciences a prestigious and lucrative life endeavor. But knowing is not enough, we must apply our findings and understanding. Therefore our second area of focus is community engagement and education initiatives that empower youth, parents, teachers, health care providers, and law enforcement – the everyday citizen – to advocate for brain health in themselves and others.

**Avielle Rose Richman** was, at the time, our only daughter and one of 26 children and educators tragically murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. My wife Jennifer and I are infinitely heart broken. In the three years since the murder of our beautiful six year old daughter our heartbreak has been repeated with over 140 school shootings in the United States, not to mention the daily occurrences of homicide and suicide on our streets and in our homes. Violence, in its myriad forms, is an epidemic that plagues our country. We miss Avielle more every day, and like so many of you, we want to bring about changes to stop this epidemic of violence. We want to prevent tragedies like these from happening to any community — ever again.



The Avielle Foundation has been created in honor of our loving daughter — along with all the others who fall victim to violence — to foster an understanding of what leads someone to engage in harmful behavior, the risk factors, and conversely to identify and engender protective factors that lead away from violence and toward compassion, kindness, connection and community.

We're working with world leaders in three areas: Brain health research, community engagement, and education.

### **Objective #1: Research – Making the Invisible Visible**

Brain science is the least explored of all our sciences. As a result there is shame, fear, and stigma associated with the invisible diseases of the brain and people often fail to advocate for themselves or their loved ones when it comes to “mental” illnesses. The fact is, the brain is just another organ and we need to move away from this invisible world of diagnosis based on symptoms and syndromes and toward a visible world of diagnosis based on measurable pathologies. It is the belief of the Avielle Foundation we must understand the biological and environmental risk factors that impact the brain, leading to violence to self or others, and the protective factors that engender compassion and connection. This will give people hope for themselves and their loved ones. It will eliminate the fear of a label, and the idea that there is a character flaw in themselves or their loved ones. Once a deeper understanding has been established, we can apply these insights to educate the everyday citizen about how to identify the signs and symptoms of someone in or nearing a brain health crises and how to responsibly advocate for those at risk of violent behaviors. We must take action to ensure what happened to Avielle does not happen again – we must stop our epidemic of violence. Ultimately, this will be done by **making the invisible visible**.

### **Objective #2: Community Engagement and Education – Knowledge is Power *and* Empowering**

Jennifer and I instilled an open-minded, open-hearted philosophy in Avielle because we know a strong community is one where every member belongs and is a valuable contributor — regardless of ethnicity, beliefs, political views, lifestyle, economics, or social ideologies. In such communities, individuals don't feel ostracized, stigmatized, bullied, or alienated, and the propensity to act in desperate, destructive, or violent ways is diminished or eliminated. We are helping to build communities where all individuals are included, given a contributing role, and kept safe. Most importantly we are educating ourselves and others with our brain health findings in order to dispel fears of seeking help and to facilitate rational and effective treatment interventions. With the proper brain health knowledge and tools, we can develop and put into practice innovative programs to facilitate appropriate preventative and interventional strategies such as counseling, education, and novel therapeutics that result in connection and compassion. We feel that **knowledge is not just power, it is empowering**.



Jeremy Richman, Ph.D.

Handwritten signature of Jeremy Richman, Ph.D.



**Scope:**

The Avielle Foundation was incorporated in January, 2013 and was approved as a tax-exempt nonprofit 501(C)3 in June, 2013. We seek to prevent violence and build empathy with a two-pronged approach:

- Facilitating novel brain health research, education, and policy;
- Fostering community engagement, education, and responsibility.

With these efforts we will: Remove the fear and trepidation that bar people seeking brain health aid; develop the concept of a standard “brain health check-up”; identify behavioral and biochemical diagnostics for early detection of individuals at-risk of violent behaviors and facilitate their responsible use; provide conduits to effective treatments; and strengthen communities, kindness, compassion, and respect.

Funding for our objectives is being procured through private donations, non-profit matching funds from corporations, corporate donations, fundraisers, grant solicitation, and innovative branding. Grass-roots fundraising and organizational development were the focus of the first year of the Foundation and is on-going at this time in conjunction with the active solicitation of funds from potential individual donors and interested entities, as well as community-based fundraisers. The focus of the third year was dissemination of resources to support brain research and community education programs. The Foundation provided a variety of educational lectures, focused on the science of violence and compassion, to parent groups, health care providers, community and Congressional leaders, high school students, teachers, universities, veterans, law enforcement, and other first responders. The focus of 2016, was on building long-term sustainability through the individual revenue streams and building partnerships and collaborations. We recognize now that we need grow and scale our current efforts and for this reason we are going to bring on a Director of Development this year and focus on Foundation growth and sustainability.

The Avielle Foundation Board and Founders have been actively meeting with experts in brain health, leaders in public health and education, policy makers, and community organizers. These include Nobel laureate Dr. Paul Greengard; Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Yale, Dr John Krystal; Secretary of Education; Secretary of Health and Human Services; brain researchers at the world’s premier research institutions, including the UCSF Sandler Neuroscience Center; President Obama and Vice-president Biden; numerous Senators and members of the House of Representatives; numerous psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, neurologists, neuroscientists, pediatricians, therapists, and social workers. The goal of these meetings has been to gain a deeper understanding of what is known and what is not known in the brain health fields, how to remove the fear and trepidation associated with brain illnesses, and how to most effectively prevent violence through brain research initiatives and community education.

Bringing together this financial support and brain health advocacy, the Avielle Foundation has developed a research fellowship and grant selection process for fund distribution. Potential funding recipients are identified and invited to apply based upon past experience and demonstration of excellence. Awardees are chosen in one of three areas: Novel research, focused on understanding the behavioral and biochemical mechanisms of violence, empathy, and compassion; strengthening brain health education; and strengthening and developing public health strategies focused on building compassion and preventing violence. Many of the world’s leaders in the neurosciences, psychiatry, clinical psychology, neurology, and social work have agreed to serve on a selection committee to review and prioritize potential research fellow recipients of the Avielle Foundation funding and grants.

The Avielle Foundation funding of community education, engagement, and responsibility will take on a number of potential forms. These include providing educational lectures and discussions, supporting community centers and other public meeting areas, fostering education groups, Pre-K through grade 12 programs, and community service grants. The goal of the community efforts is to empower youth, parents, teachers, healthcare providers, and law enforcement to advocate for brain health in themselves and others and to foster education and connectivity.

**Founders and Board Members:**

1. Jeremy Richman, PhD, CEO
2. Jennifer Hensel, MS
3. Darren Bishop, CFP
4. Ace Robinson, MPH
5. Linda Degutis, DrPH, IoM
6. Woodie Kessel, MD, MPH
7. Dione Sordi, Treasurer
8. Urvi Sanghvi, RN

**Science Advisory Board:**

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2. James Blair, PhD, NIMH
3. John Krystal, MD, Yale
4. Adrian Raine, PhD, U Penn
5. Kent Kiehl, PhD, MRN
6. Linda Degutis, DrPH, IoM
7. Bruce Jennings, MS, Vanderbilt

**Community Advisory Board:**

1. William Modzeleski
2. Rosalind Wiseman

**The Avielle Foundation, Inc**  
**PO Box 686**  
**Newtown, CT 06470**  
**Phone: 203-304-1733**  
**[www.aviellefoundation.org](http://www.aviellefoundation.org)**  
**EIN: 46-1864791**

To make a donation, **make checks payable to:**

**[The Avielle Foundation](http://www.aviellefoundation.org)**  
**[P.O. Box 686](http://www.aviellefoundation.org)**  
**[Newtown, CT 06470](http://www.aviellefoundation.org)**

Or visit:  
**[www.aviellefoundation.org](http://www.aviellefoundation.org)**

# Delaware

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*The First State*

I, JEFFREY W. BULLOCK, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY "THE AVIELLE FOUNDATION, INC." IS DULY INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE AND IS IN GOOD STANDING AND HAS A LEGAL CORPORATE EXISTENCE SO FAR AS THE RECORDS OF THIS OFFICE SHOW, AS OF THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER, A.D. 2014.

AND I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE FRANCHISE TAXES HAVE BEEN PAID TO DATE.

AND I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE SAID "THE AVIELLE FOUNDATION, INC." WAS INCORPORATED ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D. 2013.

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You may verify this certificate online  
at [corp.delaware.gov/authver.shtml](http://corp.delaware.gov/authver.shtml)

  
Jeffrey W. Bullock, Secretary of State  
AUTHENTICATION: 1782051

DATE: 10-15-14

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date:

JUN 29 2013

THE AVIELLE FOUNDATION INC  
C/O JEREMY RICHMAN  
41 BERKSHIRE RD  
SANDY HOOK, CT 06482

Employer Identification Number:

46-1864791

DLN:

17053091311013

Contact Person:

SHEILA M ROBINSON

ID# 31220

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Accounting Period Ending:

December 31

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Form 990 Required:

Yes

Effective Date of Exemption:

January 24, 2013

Contribution Deductibility:

Yes

Addendum Applies:

No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)