

## **Anita Rowe-Franklin Biography**

Anita Rowe-Franklin, born and raised in Lexington, is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Office of the Fayette County Sheriff and is a nurse. She graduated from Bryan Station Senior High School and attended Eastern Kentucky University. Anita is the proud mother of three grown children, one of whom was an innocent victim of gun violence five years ago at Duncan Park. Her son Antonio Franklin Jr.'s death launched Anita on her current trajectory of advocacy for gun safety and speaking out for the protection of today's youth against gun violence. Her passion is finding solutions to the growing epidemic of gun violence.

Anita's is the founder of the Antonio Franklin, Jr Violence Intervention Program, which organized an annual Peace Walk. She also established the Mr. and Miss Essence of Lexington pageant that allowed children to participate free of charge. She was the host of "Real Talk with Miss Nita," a show that included commentary on education and social issues, on on 93.9 FM, the Lexington community radio station. She was a member of the board of directors for the Historic Charles Young Center. She was a member of the 2019-2020 Lexington Leadership class. She was an active member of Historic Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church.

Anita's work in the Lexington community and in her neighborhood has been recognized both throughout the Commonwealth and on a national level. At the time of her death, she had been appointed to serve on the Attorney General's 2019- 2020 Survivor Council and was a Kentucky Everytown Moms Demand Action Survivor Fellow.

Anita passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 24, 2020, and was honored by many in the community.

Amy Stout, Director of Leadership Development at Commerce Lexington, said Anita was leading her Leadership Lexington class in a project called LexBank Smart, a financial literacy program for at-risk middle- and high-school students.

"Anita was a passionate leader and adored by her Leadership Lexington classmates," said Stout. "In addition to her tireless work in the community to stop gun violence, Anita wanted to provide education and tools for at-risk students to steer them away from violence."

For additional reference:

<https://www.lex18.com/news/city-and-county-leaders-remember-anita-franklin>

<https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Survivors-and-law-enforcement-walk-side-by-side-to-bring-peace-to-Lexington-508555031.html>