



Ruth Rollins

Founder/Executive Director, We Are Better Together: The Warren Daniel Hairston Project

In 2007, Ruth Rollins lost her 21-year-old son Warren Daniel Hairston to a senseless killing with a gun in Boston. As a result of her personal loss and violence in the community, Ruth became an early architect of Operation LIPSTICK, a nationally recognized organization that addresses the crisis of gun trafficking and straw buying of firearms in urban communities, and she served as its first

Program Director

In 2016, Ruth founded *We Are Better Together: The Warren Daniel Hairston Project* to educate, support, and serve families on both sides of the gun violence problem to break cycles of violence and victimization. The program was founded with the recognition that families of victims and families of offenders are traumatized by gun violence and that families on both sides experience anger, guilt, shame, and fear that their loved ones will eventually end up dead or in prison. Through the Warren Daniel Hairston Project, Ruth and courageous mothers like her are working to end cycles of violence and victimization in our community.

- **Leadership Superpower:** Facilitation and compassion: with my experience, I understand how to read a room and build from participants in the room. I know how to bring people together to organize and connect on shared or relatable experiences. I understand and can help others turn their pain into purpose through expert guidance and mentorship in their healing journey.
- **What brings her joy:** Family, community, seeing others heal and walk into their truth, and making a difference.
- **Theme Song:** "I'll Fight" by Jennifer Hudson