

Detroitier killed less than a month after reaching his goal of receiving GED

Proud graduate dies in shooting

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Randy Spivey, 33, earned his diploma in January at the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Detroit. He was shot to death Feb. 24. / St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center



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Randy Spivey was ready for his bright future.

[The Free Press featured the 33-year-old in December in his quest to get his GED.](#) On Jan. 31, he succeeded.

A week ago, he was killed.

Witnesses and police told Geraldine Smith that her son died defending a woman who was being attacked.

"He basically told me he wanted to get his life straight to help his kids," said Smith, who said her son was considering truck driving and welding. "He tried to do something with his life. He tried to help someone. And he lost his life."

Detroit police spokeswoman Sgt. Eren Stephens would not comment on the case, calling it an active homicide investigation.

Smith said the incident happened around midnight in the Outer Drive and Kentfield area of Detroit's west side, but she had few other details. Spivey was with his girlfriend, she said, visiting her cousin when a fight broke out.

Wayne County spokesman Kevin Byrnes said the medical examiner's report showed Spivey was killed by a single gunshot wound to the chest.

Spokeswoman Maria Miller of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said the agency had not received information about Spivey's case.

News of Spivey's death came as a shock to the people at the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, where he [completed his GED classes](#). Executive Director Diane Renaud said Spivey was among the center's most motivated students.

After he graduated, she said, he returned a couple of weeks later to watch as his photo was added to the center's wall of graduates.

"Every week he'd come in looking up, to see the pictures of those who had done this before him," Renaud said. "He also had inspired two other people to [enroll](#) in the program."

One of those people, Kianna Moore, 30, said she was inspired by Spivey's belief that his GED would change his life.

Spivey had said that he credited his children for inspiring him to get out of his odd-job life. He was looking forward to the steady paycheck he had been missing since he dropped out of school at 16.

"Just when he tried to get it together, it ended," said his mother.

Spivey leaves behind his four children, ages 1 to 11, and two younger sisters. His funeral is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Butler Funeral Home, 12140 Morang Drive. The family hour begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. The viewing is 2-8 p.m. Friday.

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