



*David. J Phillip / AP*

From time to time, while I was hosting [Tell Me More](#) and [Weekend All Things Considered](#), I'd share an essay whenever I had something on my mind.

Old habits linger. Mother's Day is this Sunday, and there's something I just cannot stop thinking about. Specifically, there are some people I can't stop thinking about.

Their names are Sonia Argentina Guzman, Diana Velazquez Alvarado, and Julisa Molina Rivera. They were three of [five people murdered in Cleveland, Texas](#), last month by their neighbor. This man — who also killed Sonia's nine-year-old son — became enraged when her husband, Wilson Garcia, asked him to stop shooting his guns off near their home and scaring their children.

Garcia told CNN that his wife put herself in the shooter's way when he came for them, thinking he wouldn't shoot a woman. One of the other women helped push Garcia out of a window so his children would have one surviving parent. They threw clothing on top of Garcia's other two children to hide them from the killer. Authorities said they were found on top of the kids, shielding them from almost certain death.

Can I just tell you? We like to talk about heroes in this country — unfortunately, we seem to need a lot of them. But when we picture them, we often don't think of ordinary women like Sonia, Diana and Julisa. What happened to them shouldn't happen to anyone. But things would have been even worse without their quick thinking and courage.

Every day, around the world, women do this.

On Mother's Day, we often exalt mothers for what they do without to make a better way for children: a new dress, enough sleep or career dreams. But maybe this year, we could exalt them for what they do: charge ahead, get in the way and be brave.



— [Michel Martin](#), *Morning Edition* Host