

telling it



Arts-based interventions
for change

PARKRIDGE TEENS

Stories and Poems by the Youth of Telling It



SPRING 2018



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2018 TELLING IT TEENS ANTHOLOGY! WE HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL YEAR WITH THE TEENAGERS THAT COME TO PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER EVERY MONDAY EVENING TO PARTICIPATE IN TELLING IT.

This selection of the teenagers' writing reflects the themes of identity, safety, belonging, self-regulation and powering forward with a positive vision for the future. We were lucky to have some incredible visitors over the past year. In March, the theatre group, *Maine Inside Out*, led a session focused on the importance of positive choices. This group of formally incarcerated men and women support each other and those that are currently incarcerated. During the month of April, a local video company filmed the teenagers' stories.

The mission of Telling It is to support the healing and learning needs of school-age youth using best practices from social work and education filtered through the arts so they can lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. The program is youth driven, trauma-informed and designed to meet the needs of school-age youth so they can reach their full potential as engaged community members.

I hope you enjoy this collection of writing. It was truly a pleasure to get to know the teenagers and to hear their stories.

With all good wishes,

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel
Founding Director



EUMIRA

SELF-PORTRAIT

I am Eumira.

Son of my mom, Candice Jefferson

Who needs a job to get some money

Who loves my mom

Who sees a lot of things that can or could happen

Who hates when little kids are annoying

Who fears no one but the Lord

Who dreams of being famous

Who hopes to become famous.

A PLACE I'M HAPPY

I was born in Detroit,

Forgot what hospital I was in at the time

But my favorite sport is basketball.

Didn't like it at first

I loved dodge ball

But as I got older

I saw how amazing basketball really is.

QUESTION POEM

Why can't you cheat in basketball?

Where did the basketball games start?

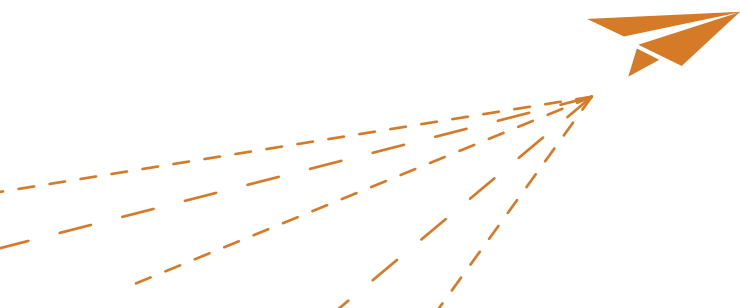
When do we play basketball?

How do you play basketball?

What are those?

What is basketball to people?

Where is my position in basketball?





KEYON

MY NAME

Good at school
Get to class on time
Like to learn
Hang with my friends.
I go to lunch
I like computers
I like to go to the gym
I like to play basketball
I like TV.
I ask questions.
I pay attention
I learn.
I am good at shooting guard.

SELF-PORTRAIT

I am Keyon
Who has a mom and a dad
Who need me
Who loves dad
Who sees family
Who fears me
Who dreams of basketball
Who hopes for a sister or brother.

QUESTION POEM

Who played football?
Where do they play?
When did it happen?
Why is it so hard to play?
Where do they see the games?
When did they start?
Who is that coach?
Why do they wear jerseys?
When are they at practice?
Why do players get tired?
What do they do to get better?
Where do they go?



DA'MARKUS

QUESTION POEM

Who is a basketball player?
Where do you shoot a ball?
When do you shoot a ball?
Who calls out of bounds?
Where is Curry?
Where do ballplayers park?
Why do we have to bounce a ball?
Where do the players have their locker rooms?
What is basketball?
When does the next ball game start?

KAMARI (AKA NO NAME)

QUESTION POEM

Why do we have questions?
Who has a favorite color?
Who uses colors?
When do we use colors?
What are colors?
Where are colors located?
Why do we have colors?
How do you change a color?
What is your favorite color?
Why colors?



KHANTARIA (NUNU)

I AM!!!

I am bright
I am a young woman.
I am blunt
I am Pisces.
I am weird ☺
I am fun.
I am chill
I am upfront.
I am incredible.
I am crazy.
I am independent.
I am funny.
I am awesome.
I am great.

MYA

MY NAME

My name is someone that cares too much.
A joyful person and a goof ball.
Puts someone before myself.

REG

MY NAME

My name is:
Pride, Adventure, Perseverance, Respect, Arrogant,
Athletic, Judgmental (in a good way),
The first time I played basketball I felt:
Scared, Excited, Adrenaline, Brave, Courage.

ANONYMOUS

I AM

I am a house
I'm luxurious
I'm clean, my walls are red
Everything is spotless.
I am a submarine.
I'm wide, I swim through the sea.
The animals love me
I'm on a mission.
I am a garden
I have hoses, I have sunflowers.
My flowers smell good.
I'm very peaceful to be around.
I am Detroit.
I have family.
I have respect
I love my hood.

LOVE

Love is sometimes hard to find.
Love is not easy to find.
Love is special.
Love is like someone you can live with for your whole
life.
Love is not meaningless.
Love is Everything.





TELLING IT TEAM

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FUNDING & SUPPORT

Howard S. Holmes II Charity Golf
Invitational
Parkridge Community Center
Saint Joseph Mercy Chelsea
U-M Residential College
Victory Automotive Group
Washtenaw Co. Sheriff's Office -
Jerry L. Clayton, Sheriff
Ypsilanti Area Community Fund
Zingerman's Community of Businesses

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