

telling it



Arts-based interventions
for change

Parkridge Community
Center Kids

Stories and Poems by the Children of Telling It



SPRING 2019



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2019 PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER KIDS ANTHOLOGY! THIS HAS BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR FOR TELLING IT AT PARKRIDGE WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING OUR WEEKLY SESSIONS.

Starting in the fall of last year, this group of elementary school-age children have been exploring the themes of community, leadership, problem-solving impulse-control, friendship dynamics, identity and gratitude through expressive arts activities such as role-play, visual arts, stories, creative writing and other arts-based media.

Some examples of the children's creative writing can be read in this anthology alongside the beautiful portraits. We are grateful to the Parkridge Community Center administration and staff that support our program each week. It has been a pleasure to get to know the children as they explore the complexities of their lives through the expressive arts.

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 expressive arts so that they can lead safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. The program is trauma-informed, youth-driven, leading from the strengths of the youth so that they can reach their full potential.

We have enjoyed our partnership with Parkridge Community Center since 2014. It has been delightful to learn from and with the children that Parkridge Community Center serves.

Please enjoy this anthology.

With all good wishes,

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel

Telling It Founding Director

Fatu Kamara

Site Leader

Five Senses Poem

KHLOE

I see Brianna, I see Drenaya.
I hear words from Brianna, I hear words from Drenaya.
I touch Drenaya's hair, I touch Brianna's braids.
I smell ice cream and bubble gum.
I feel happy with Drenaya.
I laugh with Brianna.

KIAYANNA

I see Bunny and Me. Bunny is my best friend.
I hear him calling me.
I touch bunny. He is soft.
I taste Ice cream.
I smell ice cream perfume.
I feel good.



ALANZAE

I see Aaliyah.
I hear laughing.
I feel happy.

SAYRA

I see my friend Samira.
I hear Samira calling my name.
I hug her.
I taste pizza.
I smell mac and cheese.
I feel happy.

SHANAE

I see Khole and Drenaya.
I hear them laughing and talking.
I touch her hair.
I taste bubble gum.
I smell perfume.
I feel so great :)

DRENAYA

I see Brianna.
I see Khloe.
I hear laughing.
I touch soft skin.
I taste perfume.
I smell lotion.
I feel happy and loved.

RAYMOND

I see Alanzae.
I hear the bus.
I touch the light.
I taste Pizza.
I smell sweat.
I feel happy.





BARRY

Team Name: Black Panthers

Members: Barry, Carlos

Best at: Football, Basketball

BRIANNA

All Star Team

Team name: The Smart Girls

Members: Fairyn, Brianna, Cierra, Khloe, Drenaya

Skills: Gymnastics, Dancing, Singing

Best at: Working together, being kind and being smart

Children's All-Star Teams

Children created their own team name, decided who would be on their team and identified their team's best skills.

SAMARIA

Team Name: All Stars

Members: Friends- Associates

Skills: Basketball

Best at: Talking, comedy



SANORA

Team name: The Warriors

Members: Khloe, Brianna, Black Panther, Ryan, Beyonce, Jessica Jones, Samaria

Skills: Gymnastics, listening, singing, kicking a ball, funny, strong, having fun.

Best at: Relaxing, laughing, being pretty.





I am...

Acrostic poem using the child's name or the word black.

DESTINE

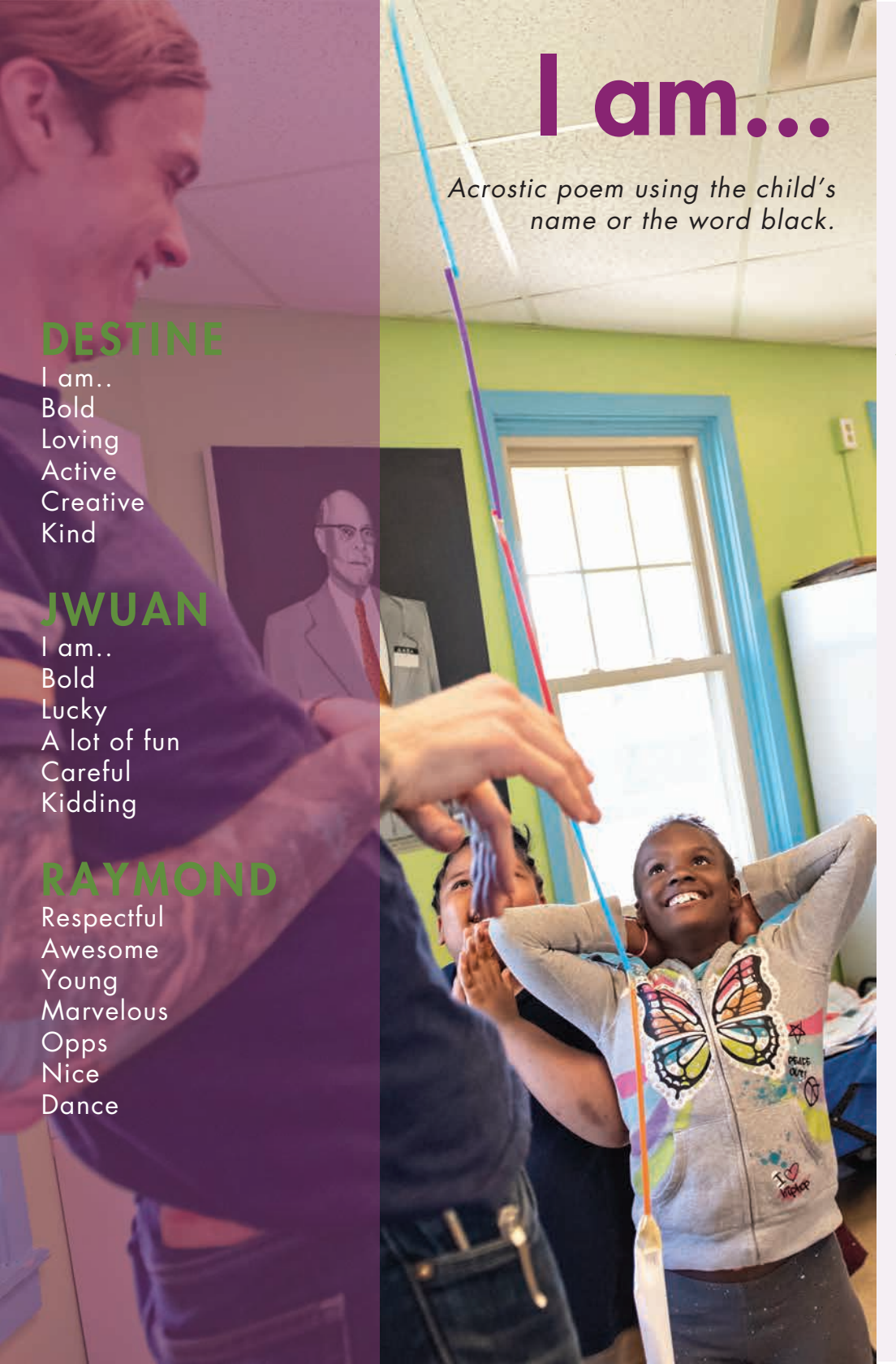
I am..
Bold
Loving
Active
Creative
Kind

JWUAN

I am..
Bold
Lucky
A lot of fun
Careful
Kidding

RAYMOND

Respectful
Awesome
Young
Marvelous
Opps
Nice
Dance



Thankful

AANIYA

I am thankful for my mom and Dad, my sister and food.

I am thankful for T.V, computers, friends, school. holidays and books.

I am thankful for myself.

CARLOS

I am thankful for my phone because I can play on it.

I am thankful for my refrigerator because it keeps my food fresh.

I am thankful for candy because It tastes good.

I am thankful for life because I love life.

I am thankful for my dog because I love my dog.

I am thankful for pencils because I like writing.

I am thankful for wifi because I need It.

I am thankful for Christmas because I love to give gifts.

I am thankful for my bed so I can get sleep and get energized.

DASHON

I am thankful for my Brothers, My mom, food, myself and slime.

MARKELL

I am thankful for food, my life, my family and friends.

RICO

I am thankful for my Dad, mom, food, nice shoes, and my house.

My Kingdom / Queendom

Students wrote their own rules as if they ruled the world.

BRIANNA

1. You have to eat takis, if you don't you have to eat a dirty sock

DASHON

1. Clean up if you make a mess.
2. Only say nice things
3. Only touch things that belong to you
4. Make sure it is a safe environment for everyone.



DAVINCI

1. Help your friends
2. Don't be a bully or name call.
3. You need to be nice because being nice is fun!

JORDAN

1. Be good at school
2. Be kind to friends
3. Love God
4. Love Jesus
5. Be safe
6. Be responsible
7. Follow the rules



I Am Enough!

Poem inspired by the book, I AM ENOUGH!

KHLOE

Like a puppy, I am playful.
Like a crab, I am good.
Like my mom, I am nice.
Like slime, I am stretchy.
I am enough!

TE'JION

Like a fish, my shot is wet.
Like a crab, I am protective.
Like a Ferrari, I am fast.
Like Kyrie Irving, I am shifty.
I am enough!

JAYLA

Like an owl, I see everything.
Like a pizza, I am very tasty.
Like a friend, I am nice.
Like my mom, I am awesome.
I am enough!

ZAKAL'LA

Like a cat, I am soft.
Like pickles, I am crunchy.
Like my outfit, I am colorful.
Like the store Justice, I am all about girly things.
Like slime, I am sticky.
I am Enough!



KENDALL

Like a horse, I run wild.
Like a Lollipop, I am sugary and round.
Like a friend, I am kind.
Like the sun, I am hot and bright.
I am enough!

BRIANNA

Like my mom, I am smart, kind and pretty.
Like my mom, I am a woman.
I am enough!

KHALIL

Like a fish, my shot is wet.
Like a slim jim, I am skinny.
Like Michael Jordan, I am the G.O.A.T.
Like a desert, I am hot.
I am enough!

KYERRE

Like a goat, I am the Greatest Of All Time!
Like a cookie, I am sweet.
Like Michael Jordan, I am the best at basketball.
Like a computer, I am smart.
I am enough!





TELLING IT TEAM

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel *Founding Director*
Fatu Kamara *Site Leader*
Kyle Hunt *Site Leader Trainee*
Kara Williams *Social Worker*
Emily Moore-Marshall *Program Coordinator*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT INTERNS

Fall 2018
Alexis Gonzalez
Julian Hansen
Steven Merl
Kandis Terry
Viraj Tiwari

Winter 2019
Camryn Banks
Carly Cooper
Sania Farooq
Camden King
Will Leal
Sierra Mullins
Jaya Thyagarajan

ARTISTS

Karly Schafer *Graphic Design*
Leisa Thompson *Photography*

PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF

Anthony Williamson *Community
Development Manager*
Cherisa Allen *Asst. Coordinator -
Programs*
WCC and EMU student social work
interns

FUNDING & SUPPORT

U-M Residential College
Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office -
Jerry L. Clayton, Sheriff

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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