

telling it



Arts-based interventions
for change

Parkridge Community
Center Teens

Stories and Poems by the Youth of Telling It



SPRING 2019



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2019 PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER TEENS ANTHOLOGY!

Starting in the fall of last year, the teens that have attended the bi-weekly sessions have been exploring the themes of community, leadership, personal boundaries, learning styles, social-emotional skills and identity through expressive arts activities such as visual arts, role-play, creative writing and other arts-based media.

Some examples of the teens' writing can be read in this anthology alongside the wonderful portraits and action-packed photography. We are grateful to the Parkridge Community Center administration and staff that weekly support Telling It. It has been a pleasure to get to know the teens 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 teens that Parkridge Community Center serves.

Please enjoy this anthology.

With all good wishes,

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel

Telling It Founding Director

Dominique Hollis

Site Leader

Who Is In Control?

EUMIRA

God is in control of my life.

I make decisions that either follow him

Or go astray.

In a way I control my kids until they are old

Enough to make decisions on their own.

I control my spending.

I control the way I react to things.

I control the way I treat people.

I control what I accept.







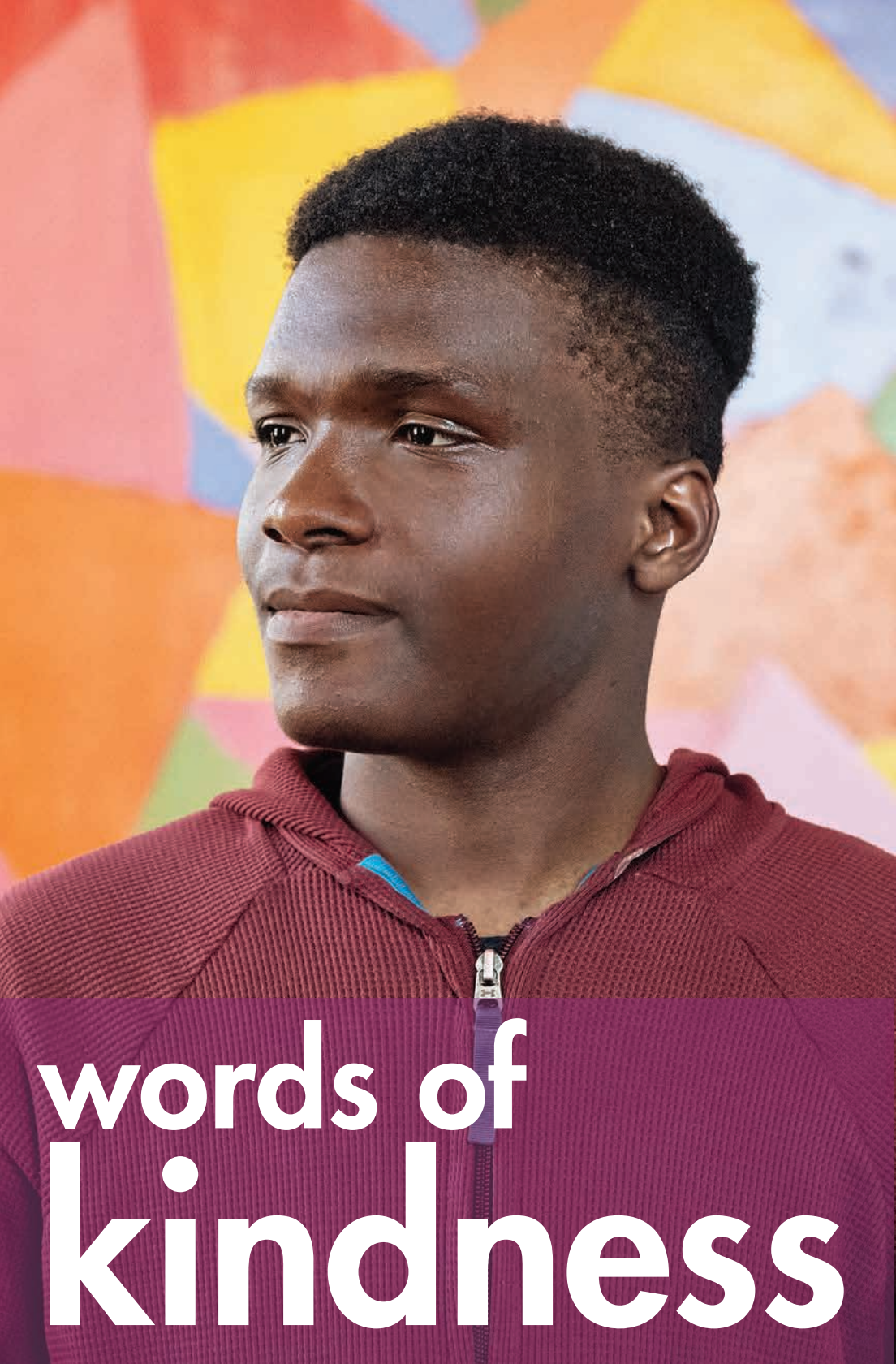


Self-addressed



EUMIRA

"You can succeed at everything and be the best at it. You can do all things through Christ and succeed and be the best at it. And get stronger everyday. Practice makes perfect."



words of
kindness

My Legacy

Group poem



ALEX B.
CAM
JAVONYEA
KAMARI
KEON
NU
PAPI ROSE
STICKS
TAJIA
TERELL
VIK



My family
My songs
My kids whenever I have them
Friends
Money – give to family, friends and charity.
Get rich and give money to fam
I want my kids to never back down from shit!!!
I want my son to retire undefeated in the UFC
Family, money, girls.
Xbox
All my games
All my electronics
My natural born skill for basketball
Money - for my future son.
I will leave my kids some money for college.
Money/House/car.
My wedding ring.
Imma leave all my cheese to the fam
I'ma leave all my friends in the dirt
Join Kansas State
I want to leave behind money for my kids.



TELLING IT TEAM

Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel *Founding Director*
Dominique Hollis *Site Leader*
Brandon Lewis *Site Leader*
Kelly Kundrat *Social Worker*
Emily Moore-Marshall *Program Coordinator*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT INTERNS

Fall 2018
Joeita Macfield
Anu Parchuri
Sarah Saks-Fithian
Radu Tolontan

Winter 2019
Cole Ammerman
Josie Croce
Theo Mourad
Breanna Varner

ARTISTS

Karly Schafer *Graphic Design*
Leisa Thompson *Photography*

PARKRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER

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

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Anna Kreiner

FUNDING & SUPPORT

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

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