

# telling it



Arts-based interventions  
for change

Ypsilanti Community  
Middle School

Stories and Poems by the Youth of Telling It



SPRING 2019



# WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2019 YPSILANTI COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL ANTHOLOGY!

Starting in the fall of last year, the 7th grade students that have attended the 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 pre-teens writing can be read in this anthology alongside the beautiful portraits. We are grateful to the Ypsilanti Community Middle School administration, faculty and staff that weekly support Telling It. It has been a pleasure to get to know the students 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 Ypsilanti Community Middle School since 2014. It has been delightful to learn from and with the 7th grade students.

Please enjoy this anthology.

With all good wishes,

*Deb Gordon-Gurfinkel*

Telling It Founding Director

*Dominique Hollis*

Site Leader

# Self

## GODDESS

The flowers represent a different dimension. The flowers represent a peaceful place.





# Portrait







THERE'S NOTHING





# FUTURE SELF PAINTING

*How were you feeling while painting this?*

I felt happy painting this, this is what my happiness looks like. The part that's scribbled is when I got mad. Well a little mad. The scribbling happened at the beginning of my painting, but I got happier afterwards.

# Goal Mind Map

## SHEMAR

"I really love Basketball and to travel. Those are what the basketball and suitcase represent. The side of me that I don't show is that I love watching plays and things like that. I also love to write lyrics and put them together like a Guy named Dax."





## DA'VON

"My cousin played basketball. My brother played basketball at the park with me before he moved away. I don't know what I like about basketball it's just fun to play.

When you're a playing football there are only so many calls you can get. You can kick the ball and carry the ball, you can truck people. That's the fun part about football."





## TELLING IT TEAM

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

## ARTISTS

Karly Schafer *Graphic Design*  
Leisa Thompson *Photography*

## YPSILANTI COMMUNITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Faith Ivey *School Social Worker*  
Dino Parrinello *Teacher*  
Jason White *Asst. Principal*

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Sonia Kraftson  
Maria Samaniego

## FUNDING & SUPPORT

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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