

# Writers in Residence

A black and white photograph of a plant, possibly a pea plant, with a single flower in bloom and several buds. The plant is in the foreground, and the background is a blurred mix of green and brown, suggesting a garden or field setting.

Fall 2021  
Heidelberg University Cohort

**In the US, over 48,000 youth are confined in juvenile or criminal justice facilities. In Ohio, about 2,200 youth are held in juvenile or criminal justice facilities.**

**They have been separated and isolated from family, friends, and members of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Many of them feel forgotten, alone, & scared.**

**This is for them.**

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## Teach



We teach creative writing to youth who are incarcerated.



We empower our residents' voices.

## Empower

We assist in their re-entry



## Assist

**JUSTICE.** We believe in creating an environment where justice becomes visible, where restoration from wrong is possible, where people are seen as more than their worst moments, where people can create a future not doomed to repeat the past.

**EMPOWERMENT.** We believe that our residents can build their self-esteem, resilience, and power through working on their writing, their reflection, their communication, through the creative writing workshop experience.

**DIGNITY.** We believe that our residents deserve to discover and recognize their own dignity and self-worth through our creative writing workshops. We also believe that if we respect ourselves, our residents, and our student volunteers then we successfully lead by example.

**COMMUNITY.** We believe in the power of community. This means that we continually welcome and accept our residents into our communities because they belong to an environment that promotes individuality and empowerment, especially upon re-entry. We also believe in the creation of a collaborative atmosphere that amplifies all voices together in a spirit of mutuality and kindness.

**RELATIONSHIPS.** We believe in fostering genuine, strong, and long-lasting relationships as well as walking with our residents as they navigate the path to re-entry.

"One writes  
out of  
one thing  
only

— James A. Baldwin



We strive to reduce  
the recidivism rates of our  
residents,

and participate  
in the transformation of  
the juvenile justice system.

g

/ \_

one's own  
experience."

# SCHOOLS



- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Capital University      | 6. Marietta College            |
| 2. College of Wooster      | 7. Oberlin College             |
| 3. Heidelberg University   | 8. University of Dayton        |
| 4. Hiram College           | 9. Cleveland State University  |
| 5. John Carroll University | 10. Case Western Reserve Univ. |



**Circleville JCF**

**Montgomery County CAS**

**Seneca County YC**

**Portage Ceauga County JDC**

**Cuyahoga Hills JCF**

**Washington County JC**

**Medina County JDC**

**Cuyahoga County JDC**

**Lorain County JDH**

**Indian River JCF**

**Franklin County JDC**

# **JUVENILE FACILITIES**

# OUTPUT + IMPACT

To clarify how we track our outputs, we take attendance at every session because our service population remains to be extremely transient, generating the total number of residents. However, some of the residents participate in our program more than once, so we averaged the total number of residents from every cohort to produce an approximate number that represents how many residents we engage weekly. We replicated the same calculations for our student volunteers too. The Independent Sector values volunteer time at \$27.20/hour; we multiplied this dollar amount by the total number of service hours for every student volunteer.

This information was last updated on 11/29/21 before our creative writing workshops concluded for the fall season.

Read more about our outputs, outcomes, and impact at [www.writersnresidence.org/impact](http://www.writersnresidence.org/impact)

# IMPACT

FY19-FY21 AVG. YTD

**26**

residents

**7**

student volunteers

**87**

hours

**\$2,242**

fiscal valuation

**39**

artifacts

**82**

chapter books

FY19-FY21 TOTAL YTD

**782**

residents

**159**

student volunteers

**1,908**

hours

**\$50,336**

fiscal valuation

**826**

artifacts

**2,096**

chapter books

## FALL FY21 AVERAGE

**27**  
residents

**5**  
student volunteers

**48.3**  
hours

**\$1,378**  
fiscal valuation

**29**  
artifacts

**50**  
chapter books

## FALL FY21 TOTAL

**192**  
residents

**20**  
student volunteers

**227**  
hours

**\$6,892**  
fiscal valuation

**116**  
artifacts

**50**  
chapter books

## FALL FY20 AVERAGE

**27**  
residents

**9**  
student volunteers

**74**  
hours

**\$1,890**  
fiscal valuation

**39**  
artifacts

**30**  
chapter books

## FALL FY20 TOTAL

**109**  
residents

**18**  
student volunteers

**223**  
hours

**\$5,671**  
fiscal valuation

**39**  
artifacts

**90**  
chapter books



*unravelings  
from the soul*



Dear reader,

As we became more comfortable with the program, we began to love the concept behind the program even more. When we think about this spring season, every moment with our residents was special because the residents would feel comfortable enough to share about their lives. We enjoyed watching the residents grow after each session, becoming leaders among their peers. One of the residents encouraged another youth near him to really open up by sharing his own creative writing and responding to the discussion questions. These were some of our favorite moments because we realized that this program helped the youth.

There are so many residents from very different walks of life that put effort into writing these pieces and it's really beautiful to think about just

how unique each piece really is. We ask that you please keep in mind how much courage it took for these youth to share their work and how personal some of the pieces are. It wasn't easy for them to disclose personal aspects of their life, but we believe that this program helped them all grow and become more confident in their work.

We feel incredibly grateful to participate in this program and to engage with youth from different walks of life than us. This opportunity also really opened our eyes more by forcing us to confront some of our personal biases. We appreciated hearing stories from the youth's perspective and know that this experience was helpful and fun to some of them. Life moves very fast, so it's easy to forget about all the people around you who are different. Hence, the title of our chapbook, "Unravelings from the Soul" that suggests the different types of creative writing included in this chapbook because they're all so different and created by so many different personalities.

Heidelberg University Cohort





# Untitled

PP

My friend and I would  
always ride four-wheelers and have fun outside.  
We also would always work on our ATVs.  
Every time I was at his house, we  
would also go swimming.

Me and my best friend went to New York  
and there were lots of people. We went to  
stay at a place and have a party.

# Untitled

BL

I went to this party and when I opened the door, I  
noticed her first out of everyone that was there,  
and all the fun/great memories came flushing back in  
like no time had passed

She and I went to France and saw the Eiffel tower  
and tried new foods and had a wonderful time  
Like no other

# Untitled

DP

(Lie)

I like being around my little brother, he is always hungry

(Truth)

I wanted to be that kid that grew up with  
his mother and played at the playground

# Untitled

Z

My best friend is good at talking  
to me, like no matter what  
I do she supports it and she  
never gives up on me

My best friend is never  
there for me. She says  
she hates me

# Green Springs, Ohio

PP

I always like summer best

There's fresh cut grass

Animals all over

Nice neighbors

The sound of rain

Neighbors playing music

Family cooking food

Walking barefoot outside in grass

# Hometown

BL

I always liked summer best, spending time with friends and family

Feeling the warm air hug my body like a winter coat

Listening to the cars drive by

On the water flow down the river

Tasting the warm cheese from the pizza roll while sitting outside  
of AJ's

# NW Ohio

EA

I always like summer best because I like the warm weather



# Untitled

DR

I am a mental mystery box.

PTSD settles in fast, then realization.

I was a happy person then.

My past does not define me.

We can have Halloween on Christmas.

Only you can make you happy.

# NW Ohio

NB

I always liked summer  
Best because of the  
Frogs at dawn and the  
Cicadas at night  
It's very peaceful and  
Smells fresh you  
Can hear the coyotes  
At night and see the  
Deer grazing during  
The day you hear  
The chickens clucking  
And the dogs barking  
You hear the trees in  
The wind and smell  
Fresh cut grass while you sit  
Outside enjoying the  
Sunlight on your skin

# Untitled

LC

I am

tall

smart

funny

energetic.

# Untitled

TP

I am strong, positive, friendly, brave, short, into sports,  
a good-listener, respectful.

I am positive every day I wake up 'cause if I'm negative,  
you won't get nowhere.

# **Brown is the Color of my Skin**

AG

Put me in a pan and put the  
ingredients in the pan because I don't remember  
What they are. I can smell it when it's  
Cooking but when I take it out of the oven  
I just want to hurry up and eat it. Once  
I put it in my mouth after it cools down, I  
Get greedy and eat all of it, brownies.

# Untitled

AM

You taste so good when you're juicy and crunchy.

You smell so good when you get served to me on a plate.

You taste so good when you have hot sauce and ranch on top of you when there's smoke coming out of you.

You taste good on Thanksgiving when you're smashed down with gravy on top.

You have an amazing texture in my mouth.

# Fish

MM

The smell odor of the lime tasting,  
Soft, warm flavored. Throw me in the  
Oven like I was a fish in the water. And  
Take me out and look at the masterpiece you've  
Created: Perch Fish



# Marbled Masterpiece

DZ

You fall apart in the mouths of younger kids, and you're covered in rosemary and mushroom. You are top class and you cost a lot, more than your siblings. You have perfectly marbled skin; you give off a scent that brings everyone in a barbeque together. You are so delicate and it's easier for older adults to eat you. You're not too chewy and you have rosemary and mushroom glaze mix with your fat, and you glisten with that glaze pouring over you.

# All Hail CHICKEN

JK

You are cooked in many different forms and styles.

If fried long enough, your breading makes the most

Satisfying crunch when bitten into.

If fried just right, you have the perfect amount

Of juiciness and crunchiness.

You are astonishingly mouthwatering when cooked  
into enchiladas.

When I order you in the form of boneless wings

At bubs, you are the perfect golden brown, if mixed

With parm-garlic sauce, you taste even more amazing

Thank God there's rice with your flavor because

The mixture is like heaven in my mouth

You make tacos even better which says a lot

You are all I order when I go out to eat.

I can never go wrong with ordering you.

# Life

DG

Life is boring, oh no, our table, it's broken

# Ant Hype Up

AG

I'm athletic and smart and people already look up to me even though they have no idea what goes on in my life. I hype myself up when I listen to music or when I get too much energy. I am going to have a great future, but it might take some time. When people tell me I can't do something, I do it anyways!!!

# **You Got This Just-Ice. Rock On**

JK

You are uniquely stunning, you are filled with potential. Don't let anything stop you. You are capable of accomplish whatever you dream. Don't let others drag you down. Get in your zone and block out anything trying to distract you from your goal. Have faith in yourself and believe you can. Optimism and hope go a long way. Stay true to yourself.

# **You Can Do It**

MR

You can do it. No matter how many are doubting you or saying you can't do it, you can do it. You're smart and have potential. Today's going to be a good day, things will get better. Stop being an enemy to yourself, keep your head up and always remember you can do it.

# Frame

MM

Stand in your frame, screw the crowd,

Meaning, be who you want to be, and do what you want to do.

Don't be thinking about what others want or what you think  
other people would do. Stand in your own frame. Screw them.

**“The first function  
of poetry is to tell  
the truth, to learn  
how to do that, to  
find out what you  
really think”**

**— June Jordan**



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to acknowledge the following individuals below for their time, energy, and resources devoted to fulfilling Writers in Residence's mission and vision because without them nothing would be possible:

- Residents
- Community Partners and Juvenile Facilities
- Student Volunteers
- Cohort Advisors and Academic Institutions
- Special Guest Authors and Artists
- Staff and Contractors
- Board of Directors
- Donors and Community Members

We want to thank another integral member of our team, Morgan K., who transcribed almost every resident's handwritten artifact into a digital document so we can publish their poetry and prose.

We also want to express our gratitude for our Graphic Designer, Jordan Mondell, who produced this contemporary, high-quality chapbook that elevates our residents' creative writing.

Finally, we want to recognize the support from the following grantmaking institutions:

- The Cleveland Foundation - Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, Cleveland Black Futures Fund
- The Sisters of Charity Foundation - Ministry Leadership Program
- The Fowler Family Foundation
- The Ohio Arts Council

# By donating to Writers in Residence, you allow us to...

Provide writing materials, technology, personal protective equipment (PPE), snacks, chapbooks, and teaching artists for our creative writing workshops.

Support our residents who are re-entering society with very little or zero access to social services and resources to prevent them from recidivating.

Educate our local communities and government officials about the juvenile justice system's traumatic effect on our youth to enact reforms and alternatives.

**To donate, please visit:  
[writersnresidence.org/donate](https://writersnresidence.org/donate) or scan the code below**



Writers in Residence is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization incorporated in Ohio.