

Writers in Residence



Fall 2021
Mixed 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

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



band of brothers

Dear reader,

In a matter of six short weeks, we really can't stop thinking about how quickly we connected with the residents because of their humor that brought our group to life, creating immediate friendships. When the residents genuinely engaged themselves in the activities with us, these were some of our favorite moments, along with everyone's ability to balance serious and silly moments.

We will always be grateful for the opportunity to engage with such a unique community of residents. We feel blessed with being able to

hear the innermost thoughts and reflections they presented in their work as well as the similarities we have found in each other throughout this experience.

Please consider how much hard work, time, and dedication the youth put into their creative writing while you read this chapbook. You should also know that our residents are leaders and writers in each of their own ways, which inspired this collection's title. The residents exhibited such great camaraderie and support in all of our sessions both in the ways in which they seriously contemplated each other's works and made lighthearted jokes throughout our workshop.

Mixed Cohort at the Indian River JCF



Six-word Memoirs

RM

1. I was heartbroken, now I have found true love
2. Money is not hard to make
3. Remember hard times don't last forever
4. School is a way of finding success
5. You can always overcome obstacles.

I Always Like Winter Best When it Snows

RM

And the wind always blows. My girlfriend likes to cuddle
We watch movies under the covers while we snuggle.
The white girl's store don't ever stay busy
All you hear is gun sounds
But it is safe in my city.

Six-words Memoirs

TS

Funny, athletic, tall, chill, articulate, handsome

I can't breathe! I can't breathe!

Life is what you make it

Six-word Memoirs

DB

Confident, athletic, handsome, articulate, strong, funny

Season

DB

I always like summer

Because I smell fresh food

And the flowers bloom

I always like summer

Because I go to the park

And that's when the run starts

I Always Like Spring

ZC

It's a season that brings my friends out more, then the summer comes around the corner. My birthday is here and central is open so now let's get the dirt bikes going.

I always liked the spring, it brings out the waves, hard times don't last even though they treat us like slaves.

Six-Word Memoirs

ZC

Funny, smart, laid back, calm, athletic, handsome

Two Truths and a Lie

RM

Me and my best friend love watching movies

We always go out to eat together

When we're together we always have fun

Two Truths and a Lie

TS

I pay attention to people closely

I have people whose entire soul and presence irritates me

I'm ok

Two Truths and a Lie

SM

My best friend came at six in the morning to pick me up
hours away

My best friend is a piece of poop and doesn't care about any-
one but himself

Two Truths and a Lie

DB

I came back from a different state not having anything and my brother/best friend pulled up and gave me what I needed. I was at my lowest and my brother backstabbed me and took my money when I was out doing something.

Two Truths and a Lie

ZC

Me and my best friend were so close I would let him wear any
of my clothes, I would have let him live with me

We used to go stay the night at our female's house

I shot my best friend and killed him because he snaked me

Ode to Steak

SM

I'm sorry that we kill you to just
Kill you again. I like you better when
My AI's around. They say you're expensive but
To me you're cheap because without you
There would be no me.

Untitled

TS

Thank you peanut butter and jelly for always being there
And being so good and peanutie as well as being
Able to be around for so long.

Untitled

ZC

I love you food, you taste so
Good to me with the brown sugar
And marshmallows and you
Have a pie and I can't wait
To eat you again.

Ode to Cheesecake

DB

You are so good, every time I see you I just
Wanna eat you, you normally come in eight,
And only seen on holidays. If I had the opportunity
I would eat you every day. People like putting
Strawberries and chocolate on you but I like you just
The way you are, you obviously can't talk
But I would imagine your voice to be
Delicate and sweet.

I Moved Out the Trenches Like I Made it

RM

Jump on my wave you gone drown cause you hatin

I swim through my money like it's a lake

When I say that I love you it won't be fake

Untitled

SM

Ya I pray to God

So the devil tryna get even

Traumatized

DB

Traumatized, pain built deep inside, she swore she would
Ride time went on then she left my side, my heart
Went ice, it turned more cold when she said she
Gone, if you love me back then you shouldn't have left
Cause I've been movin on

Affirmation Poem

RM

I am a great person

I am a very hard worker

I have a realistic future

I am a great athlete

Affirmation Poem

ZC

I want to be a great role model

I want to see a better me

Affirmation Poem

DB

This is a temporary time in life

Hard times don't last

You are a strong growing individual that has potential through
the roof

If you had to pick someone for your daughter it would be you,

You could be a star one day,

I would put my trust into you anyday.

I know you would never betray me,

You are a leader, not a follower.

I am a Loving Child and Father

SM

I am a real person

I am not scared and fear nothing around.

Chase your dreams

I am a good looking fellow

Keep it 100

Untitled

DB

I am talented

I am confident

I am self-motivated

Untitled

ZC

I am a caring person

I am a lover boy

I am a hard worker

Untitled

B

I am a caring person

I am helpful

I am positive

Experience is what we name our mistakes

Affirmations About Me

RM

I'm very smart

I'm very athletic

I'm very energetic

Untitled

TS

I am a hard worker

I am mindful

I am a visionary

Most of our days wasted are those in which we have not
laughed

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

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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 or scan the code below**



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