

Writers in Residence

**IF I SEE IT,
CAN I CATCH IT?**



**Hiram College Cohort
Spring 2023**

FOR the 49,000 juveniles
confined in detention centers in the US.

For **THE** 2,000 youth
confined in juvenile facilities in Ohio.

For the **WRITERS**
in residence this spring.

Many feel invisible,
voiceless, **AND** misunderstood.

May **THEIR** creative **WRITING** rewrite
the preexisting narrative
and **FREE** their voices from incarceration.

And for those no longer with us
but remain in **OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.**

This is **FOR THEM.**

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VISION & MISSION VALUES

We strive to reduce the recidivism rates of our residents and participate in the transformation of the juvenile justice system.

teach.

WE TEACH CREATIVE WRITING
TO YOUTH WHO ARE INCARCERATED.

empower.

WE EMPOWER
OUR RESIDENTS' VOICES.

assist.

WE ASSIST
IN THEIR RE-ENTRY.

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.

RELATIONSHIP

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.

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. We continually welcome and accept our residents into our communities to promote 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.



SCHOOLS & FACILITIES

ACTIVE (SCHOOLS)

1. Case Western Reserve and John Carroll Universities
2. Oberlin College
3. Hiram College
4. Heidelberg Univ.
5. Baldwin Wallace Univ.

ACTIVE (FACILITIES)

- 1a. Cuyahoga County JDC
- 2b. Lorain County JDH
- 3c. Portage-Geauga County JDC
- 4d. Seneca County YC
- 5e. Medina County JDC

INACTIVE (SCHOOLS)

- Bowling Green State Univ.
- Capital Univ.
- Cleveland State Univ.
- College of Wooster
- Marietta College
- Ohio Univ.
- The Ohio State Univ.
- Univ. of Toledo

INACTIVE (FACILITIES)

- Circleville JCF
- Cuyahoga Hills JCF
- Franklin County JDC
- Hocking Valley CC
- Indian River JCF
- Lucas County JDC
- Washington County JC
- Wood County JDC

IMPACT

We compiled these creative writing artifacts and designed this chapbook through April of 2023 to ensure its delivery at the final workshop rested in the hands of every resident published inside. As a result, the outputs reported only reflect a fraction of this cohort's and the organization's net impact from this spring program season. We survey our residents before and after each creative writing workshop to understand our outcomes. These surveys give us quantitative and qualitative data so we can maintain a high-quality program experience.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
writersnresidence.org/impact!



FOREWORD

Dear reader,

At the intersection of the arts, higher education, and the justice system, sits Writers in Residence, the only nonprofit in Ohio dedicated to creating space and time for youth in detention to reflect on their lives and express their feelings through poetry and prose during Creative Writing Workshops (CWWs). This original idea continues to anchor and propel us forward since our first pilot CWW in 2016 at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center with the support of the Carroll Ballers.

We facilitate our weekly, in-person, or remote CWWs in the spring and fall seasons for 10-15 youth inside juvenile facilities. Every workshop lasts for 3 months and each session runs for 1-1.5 hours. We contract local teaching artists to educate our residents on different writing techniques, texts, and themes from authors that identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, or Midwestern with a preference for Ohioians. We involve 5-10 undergraduate volunteers from the nearby college or university to participate alongside the residents as writers in the same experience.



Our CWWs accomplish these primary goals:

- Increase our residents' literacy levels and writing dispositions
- Build our residents' self-esteem, self-efficacy, and self-awareness
- Provide our residents with positive peer mentorship
- Publish our residents' creative writing into chapbooks to showcase and distribute within juvenile facilities, on campuses, and throughout the local communities
- Advocate for our residents by raising awareness and educating our communities about the justice system

Although our purpose, history, program model, and goals remain clear, the implementation of our CWWs for our youth persists with limitations and variables. Take, for example, the short amount of time in which our residents have to write, leaving few opportunities for revisions. The youth's creative writing artifacts that we publish exist unfinished oftentimes even though they would take advantage of the chance to edit their work if provided, especially as first-time writers. Finally, the juvenile facilities that we partner with operate in rural and urban communities, under strict and lenient supervision, and with staff shortages to name a few variables that affect our CWWs.

By overcoming these constraints and factors, we still empower our residents' voices. And for those reasons, I'm proud to present this chapbook: proof that freedom is possible and necessary.

Zachary Thomas
Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE COHORT

Dear reader,

For eight semesters, our cohort has worked with residents at a juvenile detention center in Northeast Ohio. In this time, we've developed routines and relationships, navigated a pandemic, said goodbyes, said hellos - and we got comfortable. This spring, we were grateful to have this comfort challenged. In our workshops, we ask a lot of questions. Our residents ask better ones. We met a group of strong individuals who wanted to work, but not without asking *why*.

*Why am I asking questions?
Why can't we breathe underwater?
Why can't we express ourselves?*

Every week, they filled their writing with questions.

*What would it be like to be somebody else?
What causes love?
What am I asking questions about?*

Questions about their lives, our world, and our workshops.

*When will we run out of water?
When am I going home?
What did y'all do today?*

We ask them questions, too. Our weekly surveys ask them things like

**What did you learn?
What would you like to learn?
Do you have any questions for us?**

And we get great responses - but survey answers are typically sparse. But they're answering them still, sometimes you just have to read between the lines.

*Are we cold or warm blooded?
Will I get to see France?
Will the judge give me a 2nd chance?
What will these questions do for me?
What will they do for you?*

Our residents are smart, and inquisitive. They're funny and honest, and sometimes petty. They're goofy. We thank them always for what they put into our workshops. The chance to work with our residents brightens our days and we cherish the opportunity to answer all their questions.

Thank you to the juvenile facility staff for working with us this semester, and every semester, to facilitate these classes.

Thank you to Zach, for the endless work you've done for the organization and our cohort. Thank you for joining us this semester as our teaching artist, and being an advocate for us and residents.

Hiram College Cohort



untitled

Advice:

- Don't fall in love
- Don't be so open with your feelings or life
- Don't trust so easy

D.C.

untitled

I like eating chocolate chip cookies
Get me out of this Place

C.P.

untitled

he's the love of my life, we are 4lifers the end.

T.B.

us 4 ever & always

We are like the Sun and Rain.

He is the Sun, The butterfly feeling
When I feel his rays wrap around me.

I am the rain. When I cry, he evaporates
My tears with the warmth of his heart.

Our love creates a beautiful rainbow!
We can beat the negative, and celebrate the positive.

N.M.

untitled

Live every day to the fullest
Who came up with peanut butter and mayonnaise?
It takes progress to achieve your dreams
Cold or warm blooded?

R.R.

facts of life

Life: Snakes in the grass watch who you trust.

Love: Love never fails, if it does it wasn't love.

Food: Churches. Slap.

Advice: Who said you've to fail to succeed

Questions: CVS or Walgreens

C.K.

tiktok stopwatch

Why did Jesus die for our sin knowing
we were gonna sin over and over again?
Why don't we know things we want to know?
Why do we live just to die?
What's the meaning of life?
Why can humans be hurt so easily?/killed
Why does money = Power?
Why don't the rich give back to the People in need?
Why hasn't god come back?
Why does math have letters in it!
I'll go back in time and fight the person who did that!

R.H.

helltown

I come from hell me and the devil is cousins
We used to do drills bacc inna day we caught a few bodies,
robbed a few banks, kidnapped a few people
but that's gangnem yu kno I can't wait to see cuzzo.
But im going bacc to hell to haunt all da opps.

D.C.

untitled

Life is hard, do we have a purpose, what in life
is our mission?

Ask me if I got the advice to life or not. Advice is hard to
give so take it with a grain of salt.

Love is not easy it is a multiple step problem.

Food is fun. Food is life but not a stress food.

There is a lot of questions so ask me anything.

Z.T.

home

I come from a place where teachers don't care if you get
an education, they just care about their checks.

I come from a place where someone will do something for
someone to pay off old debts and not out of the kindness of
their own hearts.

I come from a place where blind lead the blind.
People don't tell you what to do or how to do it, they just
criticize you when you do it.

But I'm going to try my best to not be the same way.

R.R.

s.o.l

I came from chicken noodles, bologna sandwiches,
bringing adi carts to home with food, and red tv
dinners is average blue tv means you eat good
but I'm going to succeed by any means.

J.M.²

untitled

I come from a place where being high is normal
I come from a place where being in danger is common
Where I'm always wary about my surroundings
Where I can't trust too many people.

C.P.

the beginning of the end

I come from Kent
I come from separate parents
I come from homeless to not
I come from a mixed family
I come from a busy family
I come from a family who loves food
But I'm going to live a better life when I'm older.

N.M.

the negative place

I come from a garbage neighborhood.
I come from drugs, nicotine, and alcohol.
I come from a place I hate to call home.
I come from a place that makes me doubt there is a god,
but I'm going to make a difference in my life and others.

C.L.

past to future

Life isn't the same as it used to be
So when grown ups lose their ways, etc.
Like for an example: clothes don't matter it
probably wouldn't when you wear baggy
jeans and 10XL tee shirts

J.M.²

untitled

You only think that I can sit and
do nothing,
but I really can do almost anything they
can.
My generation can do nothing right,
but I'm better.
It is false that teens are all bad,
but some are.

C.P.

ravenna high school

I come from an 8am bell
Calm nice mornings
Past A&W, Ravenna library, and Circle K
Sweaty hallways filled with good people
Learning math, science, social studies
Not genuine conversations
But I'm going to be a marine
And learn respect
For others
And yourself

C.S.

untitled

You only think that I can get a job

Pros: independence, learn more, choose your clothes,

Marines

Cons: learn, job, social

C.S.

youngin

I get to be young and turnt

I get to live life

I get to be the Y.I.C.

C.K.

problems of gen z

My generation had two choices in the beginning.

In the country, it's hardies who gets stuff done, get dirty, get a good life and live long and peaceful lives, and the soft who don't do stuff and don't get dirty, sure they get a good dinner and live long, but they don't feel good.

A hardy has more waiting for him from experience, but a softy only has a few choices, like McDonald's or Burger King. A hardy can get to NASA and a mechanic job, what I'm saying here is we took the soft route and we aren't going to make it. If we man up and play dirty with life, we could make it, just trust me and we could live through life and carry the next generation, if there even is one.

Because right now, we are falling down a hole in which we can't crawl out of and we are digging this hole deeper and deeper and less and less are getting out, the soil is soft and it's always ready to be dug deeper and the more we dig the deeper we get to not being able to get out, so here's what I ask of you, will you be a man and try to be a man, one who provides and cares, or will you be a dog, and follow the grave we are still digging?

The choice is yours.

B.R.

untitled

I get to be young and turnt
and enjoy life!

A.T.

snakes are the best animals

I mean food good though,
you know.
Also oxygen is too.

What's human's purpose?

R.H.

feelings

Frustrating.
Emotional.

R.R.

the way they love me

You look Hot!!
When I see you I can't stop smiling
You make my heart go black to Red

You are gorgeous ♥
You have a pretty smile
I'm a baddie point blank period!!
You are worth it
It's ok not to be ok
Just keep going

Don't look back on the past
I have pretty eyes

N.M.

untitled

You are that person that you dreamt of being years ago.
Don't forget that you make your mindset
Remember that your gonna make a comeback
You are the one they want to be, don't ruin that.

C.P.

dino chicken nuggets

You're sexy. I like your teeth, your cut, your clear skin,
you look cool today!, I'm starving, I'm too fit.

R.H.

self love

1. You are working to be the Best you can.
2. Never doubt yourself, you can do it.

R.R.

762 knocc a***** out his shoes

- I love myself
- I ♥ what I do
- I'm the best
- I never give up
- I love Church
- I only trust myself
- I don't care what anyone thinks
- Taking things serious

C.K.

gangnem

CK and I were sliding around in a whip and threw a rock through someone's window, shattered the glass, and ran off. A couple days later their living room window was boarded up.

D.C.

ahhh!

Sometime's when he couldn't go home we stayed out all night and figured out what ya do if it wasnt any thing to do We was out all night down town chillin until sun rise.

We killed eachother.

We were walkin and sum old head started talkin s**t so we come back later that night and threw an firework threw the open window.

R.H.

keke and me

So one day Keke and me kissed at school and let's just say it was a fun day and I ran into a fire thing!

I dated Keke's brother Chris and we are still dating!

N.M.

me and my boy

My best friend and I filled out job applications and took eachother to work when we got our jobs.

My best friend and I break the law and take the easy way in life.

R.R.

me and my dawg

T: My best friend and I get money together and get bad females.

L: My best friend and I haven't been locked up before
#freeus

A.T.

slasher

L: Him and I know how to not make money

T: we make money

C.K.

untitled

My friend and I were trying to start a fire.

I picked up a weed wacker and poured the gas out of it onto some sticks. I didn't know that there were still hot embers and it lit the gas on fire, a big flame shot up and burned off all my arm air and caught the weed wacker on fire. My friend put out the fire on the weed wacker as I was on the ground rolling around. We tried to start a fire 5 minutes after all that happened.

My friend and I went to a school near his house at night, we climbed up to the roof and started yelling and blasting music. The police pulled up and we jumped off the lowest part of the roof and ran 2 miles in the wrong direction trying to get back to his house.

C.P.

risk it all

Jungle boy the gang I started call man man we got a target If we pull up glizzys drawn we gon paint em like an artist.

R.R.

cornballs

Aye big stick, big clip man we slidin wit sum drums yall be hangin out wit rats stay posted wit sum bums man we steady makin bread yall be feedin off the crumbs hol on hol on hol on flip the script brodie tried to run got 223's up in his hip said he clutchin pole ion even see his stick

D.C.

why did you go

Do you remember, when we used to play in the woods. (Why did you go) you sing this lovely song. Tanner did you go home. I miss you 3000 Why did you go?

N.M.

alot of nothing

im emty but im also full of lights, its boring where im at but thats all right; i have alot of friends but not one in sight, im the biggest thing you know but have small things inside thers nothing where im at like a void, but theirs also alot that can bring you joy.

C.D.

disco in space

I'm in space
Stars all around me
My cat comes Floating by
I always knew she always wanted to fly
I feel so free
I'm happy it's just Disco and me.

J.D.

space

Are you real or fake
Are you in or outer space
Do you have your on kind of animal
If so what do you feed them
If I come and throw a rock will it fetch it
If I see it can I catch it
Will I bring it Joy

R.R.

all alone

I'm peaceful
It's quiet, and calming
I'm floating around
I'm doing flips and dances
It's beautiful, it's shocking
I'm in tears, it's joyful
The sun is bright, the place is dark
I see colors, I see stars
The planets are remarkable
I see astronauts, it's waving I'm waving
I close my eyes
It's feel relaxing
It feel like being in the pool, I'm not heavy
I like it here, how about you.

C.M.

hungry hungry space creatures

When I think of space
I think of a big empty black place
Cold and hot in different spots
as the stars are extremely bright
It's still dark and lonely
Weird looking creatures floating around
Living like animals do here
As I arrive I bring the hungry creatures joy.

D.W.

relationship love

- 1 What is love?
- 2 Why do we love?
- 3 What causes love?
- 4 Why might we want to love again?
- 5 Why can it hurt?
- 6 Can you love again?

L.H.²

life

Why is life the way it is?
Why does it seem that the best people I know have it so
hard
I wish I could fix all the life problems
Why do I want things to get better for my loved ones yet
it seems
I'm making everything harder
Why do the most caring people have to go thru the most
Why is life the way it is???

D.W.

underwater

Why can't we breath underwater?
Why fish have gills and we don't?
The closes thing is we can float!
Why can't ever person float?
Or maybe own a boat?
Under the sea I wish I can be
Breathing and happy
as I can be

K.S.

life

What is the point of life?

Why do we live just to die?

Why do we let money control how we live our lives?

If we live to die is there someone or something dying to live?

R.R.

home

Will I be home for Thanksgiving?

Will I get to see France

Will I have water to quench my thirst

Who know?

Only time will tell.

Can I pray enough to make it happen?

Will the judge give me a 2nd chance?

Am I going home the 21st?

Who knows?

Only time.

Only time will answer all my thoughts.

J.D.

untitled

When will we run out of water?

What will earth look like with no oceans

Or lakes or rivers or any bodies of water?

Will humans and all life of every species

be gone by then? Will we be on another

Planet by then? Will earth just be a

lifeless dry ball floating around in space

forever if we run out of water and we all die?

J.G.

thoughts thru life

Why do we have a life just to die?

Why do we go through trauma just to get broken?

Will we ever be the same from before all the trauma?

Is there something to help fix our broken hearts?

Will life get easier before we die? Will we go out

happy? Will there be a life on the other side? Will

we see our family who passed?

L.H.¹

untitled

I listen to the first lyrics
my mind couldn't express
in a sec I was just up moving
Moving up and down
Mind kept tuning
legs kept dancing soon and
later my mind was just blank
I was full of happiness and
joy I couldn't express about
how the way I felt. It kept me
happy when I was down it
Kept me not wanted to cry no
more like how I was supposed to be.
All I could do was just pick up
my airpods and put them in
my ear and kept on tuning
All I wanted to do was go in my
sister room and bother her
with the music and made her get
up and dance.

C.M.

never ask yourself why

Why cant we express ourselves without being
Judged? Why can't we be as perfect in
everyones eyes as a calm stream in nature?
Why cant we be as wild as a waterfall?
Why cant we be as beautiful as a sunset?
Or as sweet as strawberries?
Why can't we glide through our problems
as easily as a snowy owl glides through
a quiet night? Or as a butterfly landing
On a flower?
Why are we all as perfect as a rose,
or as bright as the sun, yet we still
fight eachother?
Why can't we all be us?
Why can't we love ourselves like we should?
don't worry, ill loves you enough for us
both, why? because, you're beautiful.

J.L.

untitled

About what?
Whats it mean?
Why am I asking questions?
What will these questions do for me?
What will they do for you?

L.M.

debbie cakes

When I heard the song I felt great
My chest filled with everything but hate
Me and bro in jail passing 50 cent cakes
I got eyes in the back of my head long like da snakes
Get rich or die trying been on that since I was 8

L.H.²

the right one

When I heard the song I felt shaken
My chest filled with excitement
And my mind felt confused
The song was made of truth and real things
And I felt the message and the point
The artist wanted to get across

R.R.

hype

The song was made of hype
Had to tell my boi so I hopped on Skype
My heart jumped higher than a kite
The song was fire
The type to make a match light
Then you wanna listen to it all night
Song so good that I might

J.M.¹

sweetheart

When I heard the song I felt
Ready to jump towards the
sky and spread my metaphorical
wings and soar through my
pool of happiness this life
brings me
I watch the sunset like its
my last, and love everything
It sheds color upon
Everything is beautiful when
you really look
Now go and get comfortable
in your little nook.

J.L.

untitled

Then I fought Donald Trump
Then I got arrested by a chimpanzee
Then I broke the handcuffs
Then I ran.
Then the chimp hit me with a stick.
Then I met this guy Beckwith.
Then he helped me escape with a banana.
Then I ran to the forest.
Then I fell in the sewer.
Then I met the mutant turtles.
Then I became king of the sewers.

Z.B.

untitled

Sitting here staring at your picture with a slight grin.
Forever only means something some of the time.
Then I broke the handcuffs
It be bussin
Serious issue do you need some tissue
What is relativity relative to?
The he helped me escape with a banana
I punch my grandma up
Feeling like I'm stuck with you
I've never eaten from a silver spoon.
Then I become king.

J.L.

untitled

I love to eat cheesecake
I love my dog
don't talk
I want to be a professor
I think pizza is weird
walk and talk
New Girl is my favorite TV show
Someone once said I look like Summer Rae
Paper clips are weird
I have a lot of homework to do
She ran out and jump on a horse.

J.M.³ and K.R.

untitled

Otherwise I would be free
if the syrup kill it's killing me
Then I hit Tom Brady with a football
but I'm not free!
if I take to much I won't die
Then I forgot to write
but I'm turnt
if they then I die
Then I was in a movie
but I am blind forreal
if I don't die then I get high

J.L.

untitled

If water didn't exist
Then she ate ice
but we dont know
If you could build a rocketship
The he bought a turtle
but who ate the last pizza
If it started raining meatballs
Then she/he ate an apple.
but water can talk
If we wore our hair up everyday
Then she got married to an rhino

J.M.³ and K.R.

untitled

My grandma on demon time
even tho you say you hate me I know you let me f*** again
If the moon needed batteries, who would change them.
Then I ran
best beileve me you done got me on yo tv
you hate talking to the only person that can f*** you.
I see what negativity does to you.
Then I ran to the forest
don't tute you horn and blow your flute.
Which fast and furious movie is this?

D.D.

untitled

Then she jumped out of a balloon
but we like football
If I could breathe fire
Then he did a backflip holding a bat
but I am funny
If socks were worn as mittens
Then they painted there house purple
but the door is pink
If everything was colored pink
Then she got married to a pig
but your hairline bro

J.M.³ and K.R.

untitled

I dont wanna play this game
I can play the flute
Taste the Rainbow
She is pretty (look in the mirror).
its game time now
My favorite game is Uno
I like PB&J but with haysting's pinky
Im looking at you
I need a haircut so bad
I dont know why what, where
Life can be fun

K.R. and J.M.³

untitled

but what if the judge won't let me talk
If we all lived on Mars
Then she ate up left no crumbs
but we can buy flowers
If no one knew how to swim
Then she lost her fingers.
but candy is good
If the world suddenly stopped spinning
Then she got a toe nail clipper.
but we always smile
If we all went to get coffee

K.R. and J.M.³

untitled

If my grandma die the syrup kill
Then I ate an orange
Otherwise I'd have freedom
if they break my heart murder
Then I bought a alligator
but I be young
if I take to little then I'm gon die
Then I went to Madagascar
Otherwise I would be blind
Then I went to bed

D.D.

untitled

I like to eat ice cream
This is funny
Reading is my favorite hobby
KR's hairline
Your pretty
Hershey's is my favorites candy
Happy Pupper Day
People are loved
I read fiction books mostly
I run outside and jump on a horse
I am very sleepy

K.R. and J.M.³

At Writers in Residence, we intend to support our youth from the moment we meet them. As they explore their voice in our CWWs, we also assist them while they prepare for their reentry process.

We launched the Reentry Mentorship Initiative (RMI) in 2022 to help our residents create personal goals, develop valuable life skills, and continue to build their self-esteem. Throughout the 12 weeks of the CWWs, we inform our youth about the RMI, emphasizing that they have the opportunity to engage with an adult mentor from their home community. For residents who express an interest, we coordinate with the juvenile facilities to contact their guardians and then connect them with a mentor.

The youth and their guardians create target goals to pursue over 12-18 months. Then, our mentors work directly with their mentees to build relationships and develop life skills. We have helped residents with school work, acquiring GEDs, practicing driving, applying for and securing jobs, continuing their exploration of writing, and persevering through the challenges of reentry. We believe that a mentor consistently shows up for our residents, walks alongside them, and empowers them to reach goals they want to achieve, and to help them feel confident throughout their reentry process.

GOALS:

- Provide our mentees with positive peer mentorship to cultivate their trust in others and themselves.
- Build our mentees' self-esteem, self-efficacy, and self-awareness.
- Facilitate the design and implementation of our mentees' reentry care plan that details SMART goals for them to be successful.
- Connect our mentees to local social services and community resources including education, employment, housing, transportation, food security, and physical and mental health support systems.
- Create a safe and confidential atmosphere for our mentees to grow and learn alongside their mentor.

To our readers, the stories that appear in this chapbook from our residents are powerful, and as they continue to grow and head back home, those stories don't end. We are always looking for adult volunteers who are passionate about mentoring one of our youth to thrive in their home community. Scan the QR code to apply!

INVOLVEMENT:

- Meeting for 2-4 hours every month with a mentee.
- Reporting on engagements and accomplishments with a mentee.
- Cultivating a relationship with a mentee for 12-18 months.

To our former residents, we want to hear from you and pair you with a mentor who will assist you with whatever services and resources you need through our RMI. We know that the reentry process is difficult and uncertain at times. Mentoring places a trusted and reliable adult in your life so you can become the best version of yourself. A mentor will listen to your perspective, encourage you to discover your voice, figure out your future path, and then work with you to find the tools to achieve your version of success.



Reach out to us at
info@writersnresidence.org,
writersnresidence.org,
 or any social media platform.

And a special thanks to the following:

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to thank the following for their time, energy, and resources devoted to Writers in Residence:

- Residents and Juvenile Facility Staff
- Student Volunteers, Transcribers, Cohort Advisors, and Mentors
- Staff, Teaching Artists, Production Manager, and Printer
- Board of Directors, Community Partners, and Donors

It takes a team to achieve what we do,
so thank you to everyone involved!




Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards*



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FAMILY FOUNDATION



printed in Cleveland at  Outlandish Press

WAYS TO GIVE

**THIS CHAPBOOK IS ONLY AVAILABLE
IN EXCHANGE FOR A DONATION.**

Your support directly benefits our youth
through education and reentry.

\$10 – This gift covers the cost of a chapbook printed by
Outlandish Press in Cleveland, OH.

\$100 – This contribution allows a local teaching artist to
facilitate a creative writing workshop at a juvenile facility.
Or, this gift matches a resident with an adult mentor in their
community.

\$300 – This donation sustains the organization's daily
operations to provide its programs and initiatives.

**Visit writersnresidence.org/donate to give
or scan the code below.**



**Writers in Residence is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and
contributions are tax-deductible.**