

# THE Voice

ISSUE 18, MAY 2018



## RANDOM ACTS OF WRITING

**ON THE COVER** — BACK ROW: Nathan Gorman, Ammy Purcell, Wesley Roberts; FRONT ROW: John Langer, Brianna Ash, Brandy Warman, Chloe Roberts. Cover photo and inside headshots by John Chiasson.



# THE VOICE LAUNCH 2017



John, Nathan, Kaitlin, Brandy and Ammy



Program founder Andrew Safer



Executive Director Sandy MacDonald



Brandy receives Andrew Safer award



Former Voice participants (Elyse, Amanda & Jaydee) and kids



John presented with award of achievement by Program Director Ammy

*Photos by John Chiasson*



# about the Voice



This year's Voice group with the Youth Voices board of directors and program staff.

## **The Voice**

*John Langer*

*The Voice* taught me responsibility; it taught me respect and determination. Its teachings helped me learn my potential, and the importance of participation.

Efficiency and dedication are things I've come to know, and also I've realized that exhaustion isn't a bad thing. It means you put in your work and put in your energy. *The Voice* showed me how to use my voice, *The Voice* that was silent.

Our work in this magazine speaks for itself — it tells its own story. All our pieces in one. Please enjoy the magazine.

## **Why I come to The Voice**

*Brandy Warman*

I came back for another year at *The Voice* because last year was really good. I had perfect attendance and never missed an assignment — and I received the Andrew Safer award.

Everyone who was involved made me feel important. I was pushed to do my best even when I thought I couldn't. This year I hope to improve my writing, try my best, and make new friends.

## **Why did you come to The Voice?**

*Chloe Roberts*

I first heard about *The Voice* when one of my friends brought it up. I said "oh that seems fun" but I never really thought about it after that — I completely forgot. One day my brother came home and said he was going to a Voice meeting.

Of course, like all people would assume, I thought it was singing. Then I actually remembered what it was about and said "I want to do that too." So the next thing you know I'm at the first meeting.

I came to *The Voice* so I could get out more, meet new people and so I'm not always at home.

What do I want out of this? I want to have more friends, people I can talk to and be at a place I know is safe and welcoming. I also want people to know how bad the system is and how foster kids actually feel.

# Executive director's note

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*Sandy MacDonald*

After ten years steering the Newsletter Project, this will be my last message in *The Voice* as executive director. The time has come to step away and make room for someone new to bring their fresh ideas, insight, and energy to this amazing program.

It has been an incredible journey for me, one I never planned on or prepared for. Along the way, I've met some tremendous people — dozens of young talented kids who have passed through *The Voice*, who all eagerly shared the challenges and joys of their lives.

Back in 2008, after a long career as a newspaper journalist in Halifax, I first came to *The Voice* to lead a workshop about interviewing skills for the participants. I was immediately impressed by the quality of the unique program and the potential it held for improving the lives and opportunities for the youth who were involved.

I began volunteering for a few months, and then the founder and director Andrew Safer announced he was relocating to Newfoundland with his wife Catherine. I took on the director's job in 2008. It was a steep learning curve, but I felt I was embarking on a truly worthwhile path.

Over the past ten years, the program has continued to mature and be refined, as the reputation of *The Voice* spread across the region. We have received awards from the Nova Scotia legal community, as well being recognized by Youth in Care Canada, the national youth in care organization.

Like most small non-profit organizations, our funding is always precarious. Most grants are offered and reconsidered annually, so fundraising is an ongoing effort. But the dedicated commitment of our handful of funding partners has ensured we can offer *The Voice* each year to the many youth in care who can benefit from what we do.

I am indebted to the volunteer board members who contribute their time and expertise to keep *The Voice* running smoothly, particularly former chairs Bill Turpin and Sonya Ferrara and long-serving treasurer John Odenthal.

The one constant in this program over the past 16 years has been Ammy Purcell. She started as a reluctant participant, urged by her social worker to get involved with *The Voice* many years ago. Since then she has steadfastly attended every session, taking on new responsibilities initially as a facilitator helping me out weekly, then embracing the role as program director.

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**“I was immediately impressed  
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and opportunities for the youth  
who were involved.”**

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So special thanks to Ammy for all she's done, and best wishes to her for the next era of *The Voice*.

Finally, I want to thank the scores of young people who have come through this program since the year 2000. They have all shared their struggles and their happiness, have all helped make *The Voice* an innovative and special experience.

I have taken away as much joy and insight from my time with *The Voice* as I may have left behind. My ten years here have changed me and made me a better person.

# Program director's note

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*Ammy Purcell*

Wow! What a great year for *The Voice*!

This year's group was so fantastic in absolutely every way. We welcomed back three of last year's participants as well as three new youths, who fit right in as if they have been around all along. All the youth quickly became friends and I know these relationships will last for years to come.

This was a year of major life changes for almost everyone in our group; from finishing high school and transitioning out of care to siblings being separated by almost a whole province. There were also a lot of difficult decisions made, from choosing to leave care and be self sufficient, to moving away from the city to rekindle a relationship with a parent.

And through all of this, the group was there to support each other with advice, or words of encouragement, or even just to listen to a long venting session during check in. That is what is so special about this Voice group. No matter what was going on, every week, they were all there for each other.

All of these young people are each going through something tough and unique but not one would ever say "you think you got it bad...?" Rather, they listen with open minds and hearts and arms. This is why I know they are special.

In everyday life, people always have something to complain about. Most of the time friends, coworkers and sometimes even family members only half listen, or brush it off and roll their eyes because they have problems of their own. But not this group. Regardless of who is talking or venting, that person's issue or accomplishment becomes the group's issue or accomplishment — it is a truly unique thing to witness.

When one of our participants was moving and leaving *The Voice*, she said she felt like she was leaving her family — our group of people she had only met mere months before, and who meet for only two hours a week. That is something special.

This was also a year of growth for one of our participants. Nathan, our facilitator-in-training, had a chance to plan and run his own session this year. He planned a session around LGBTQ+ pride and what that means.

He invited Gabriel from the Youth Project to lead a discussion around gender identity and sexual orientation. We also discussed the use of proper pronouns and all the proper terminology. It was a very open and honest discussion and very enlightening for the youth as well as the adults in the room. I definitely learned a lot that day. Thank you to Gabriel and The Youth Project and Nathan for this fantastic session.

While I am thanking people, I need to thank our adult volunteer Kaitlin Scott for returning to the program again this year. Her knowledge of support systems available to the youth and her input on session ideas was invaluable.

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**"That is what is so special about this Voice group. No matter what was going on, every week, they were all there for each other."**

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She is so great with the group and I feel that she really bonded with them again this year. Although she has moved outside of the city, I hope she can be involved in some way next year.

As for next year, I can only hope that it will be as great as this one past. We are hoping to add some more greatness, as always, with the addition of new participants. So if you are, or know someone who is a youth in care who would like to be a part of this amazing group of young people please email me — [Ammy.thevoice@yahoo.com](mailto:Ammy.thevoice@yahoo.com)



# Facilitator's note

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*Nathan Gorman*

Seeing that this is my 3rd year with *The Voice*, I returned because I enjoy meeting current or former youth in care. I have been a facilitator in-training for the past year and a half, which has allowed me the opportunity to help co-run sessions and to create my own session. Being a facilitator-in-training has allowed me to advance my leadership skills.

My session was in conjunction with The Youth Project for LGBT people in the community. We asked them to come in and help us find resources to help youth and young adults with identifying who they are and where they fit into society.

We talked about gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, sexual orientation, and what they all mean. It was an interesting session because not only did the youth find a lot of things they didn't know, but even our program director and adult volunteers didn't know. It was eventful because every topic triggered broad friendly group discussions. I am proud of myself because I successfully created and completed a session of my own.

I plan to continue my involvement with *The Voice* as a facilitator into the 2018-2019 year, providing more opportunities to run and assist in planning sessions for future sessions.

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## ADVICE TO OTHERS:

Youth in care seem to act out because they're in a bad situation and they don't think it can get better. If they hold out, they might get something of worth — patience is key.

— *Nathan*

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# about care

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## Why care can be difficult

*Brandy Warman*

Care can be difficult because:

- You have to deal with social workers
- It can be hard to deal with foster care at a young age.
- It's stupid
- It's annoying
- It's stressful
- It's not fun
- It's not easy

Care is difficult because you don't get to see your mom and dad that you love.

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## Living in care

*Wesley Roberts*

Foster care sucks because I usually get disappointed. Some social workers are just better than others. I was in a foster home for about a year but recently got put into a group home. It's a cool place, and I've met some cool kids there.

It's nothing like people said it was. People said that I would get beat up or abused by the kids there, but they were wrong. The staff are all very caring and awesome.

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## Transition from care

*John Langer*

My transition out of care was sort of messy, sort of clean — if that makes any sense. I really didn't understand what was happening and what was going to happen.

Originally I wanted to stay in care and start college in September but unfortunately for me, I turned 19 in January and since I would be out of school between February and August, the cards didn't get played the way I would have liked. Getting hold of my social worker was a bit of an issue but I suppose every person reading this has experienced that exact problem. If you know me, you know I love to complain and that's all I pretty much did the entire month.

Has my life gotten better since being out of care? I think so. I have a career and I can finally have my own income. I'm comfortable with my life as it stands right now, and I'd like to say that I am happy for the most part.

Care was a bumpy ride for me, but there were a ton of upsides. My happier moments in care were taking part in *The Voice*, *The Dream Team*, winning an OYA award and Emceeing the Outstanding Youth Awards with Ammy for two straight years. There's probably a lot more but I can't really think of any and those are the standouts for me.

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## My social worker

*Chloe Roberts*

My social worker takes me out to dinner sometimes, she picks up and takes me for drives, and she's always on time. But I've been asking her and my foster parents since last summer to make me a knee appointment but they haven't yet. I think she should make my doctors' appointments.

My social worker brought me to *The Voice* and that was pretty cool. Sometimes I feel like she takes my foster parents' sides more than mine.

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## My worker

*Brandy Warman*

I could complain about my worker as much as I want, but at the end of the day she has done so many amazing things for me. For example, she takes me to *The Voice*, and she takes me out for dinner every three months. My worker makes sure all of my things are looked after, including my doctor and orthodontist appointments.



## Trauma

*Wesley Roberts*

When my psychiatrist asked me what my most traumatic experience was as a child, I said that it was knowing my father.

The smell of whiskey and beer on his breath made me hate the smell of alcohol forever. It was always seeping through his skin. As he reached for another bottle we just sat there in silence, watching him throw his life away.

Whenever we told him how we felt about his absurd drinking habit and violent outbursts he always acted like the victim. We were just kids, but he always made excuses, and the argument always ended in “but I love you guys!” We believed him for the longest time.

He called it a silly drink, and as a kid I noticed that it made him happier whenever he drank, so it must have been silly. But after a few years he wasn’t so silly anymore — he became outrageous to live with, always angry. And whenever he would promise my mom and my siblings he would stop drinking, I would catch him sneaking another beer he had hidden somewhere in the house.

The worst part of this was that you made me bleed — not only through my skin, but through my heart and everything you made me out of. So tell me, dad, if it was just a silly drink why couldn’t you stop to think that this drink could ruin your life, and maybe make you lose a few people as well.

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## Being an Adult

*John Langer*

Some people asked me “what’s it like finally being at an age where you’ve become a full adult?” I don’t think we as people ever become a “full adult.” The definition for adult is “a person who is fully grown or developed.”

Yes we can become fully grown, but do we ever stop developing? No, we don’t. Can anybody tell me they’ve gone a week without learning something? No? How about a year without developing a new skill or a new way to approach a task? Still no?

There are always new ways in which we learn and grow and if you answered yes to those questions that means you’re stuck in a block of ice. You’ve got to get with the times, my man. It’s 2018. We’ve got new stuff coming out every single day. The day you become an adult does not fall on your birthday. It falls on the day you stop expecting and start respecting.







## Saying goodbye, and hello

*Brianna Ash*

I guess in a way I'm glad I stayed here this long.

I always knew I had to make a choice, and always knew I needed to do what was best for me. I always made sure others were happy before I even got the chance to take care of myself. Even though I'm now saying goodbye to the city, in a way I'm saying hello to another chapter in my life.

It's always sad to leave what you love behind, but you shouldn't wait on things that just won't happen. I think I'm ready and feel fulfilled in what I have accomplished down here in Dartmouth. Even though I lost a lot of my dignity, there wasn't more I could have done to help my situation. Knowing I'll be safe and happy just puts my heart at ease.

I've learned to love myself and be proud of who I am. If I really belong here I'll end up here again, like I always do. I have to remember I'm only young and may not always know what's fully best for me. Still, at this point in my life, being secure is all I need.

I hope whoever reads this understands that you should truly do what's best for yourself. And somewhere there is somebody who really cares for you.

## Human....kind?

*Wesley Roberts*

This world is a filthy place; it's a filthy horror show. I want to go somewhere clean and kind. Away from all the piss and the vomit that runs through the streets. This world is ugly and filled with greed.

We're not humans, we're monsters. Everyone is a demon waiting to snatch you up and drag you straight to hell. We're set out to kill and wreak havoc and anarchy. We're demons that prey on the weak and unexpected.

We're here to ruin the lives of others. We wait in the dark and grab you. We take your soul to refuel us of our empty ones.

We know your deepest darkest fears and we become your new one. We prowl the streets without you even knowing it. We may look like human beings, but we're what is under your bed and what you hide from underneath your covers at night, waiting until you get up to get a glass of water, or put your foot out from under the covers.

We're the reason you sleep with a light on at all times.

And we're waiting, just hoping it will go out because we hate the light. We are just like you, and one day, you will become one of us.

## Free write

*Chloe Roberts*

The smell of alcohol lingers on your breath as you slur your words. You yell, throw and put me down. The car sped as you pushed the gas and my tears escaped as I gasped.

Next thing I knew we collided with the building in our driveway. You laughed like nothing happened. Drink after drink, you got madder and madder but what we said didn't matter.

Come morning light you can hardly get up. You need two coffees just to get up. You drink to forget your past but little do you know you're destroying your future. After years of drinking you lost your kids. Even after losing them, all you cared about is that one drink.

*The Voice* has a new home on the web! Please check out our new and improved website at [www.TheVoiceNewsletter.ca](http://www.TheVoiceNewsletter.ca).



# Home



*Chloe Roberts*

Home is a loving place with loving people. Home isn't just family, it's friends and people who love you and trust you. Right now I'm with foster parents and I call it my home. They want to help and get me a great education. They want me to do good in life and so does my mom, so to me I have two homes.

*Brandy Warman*

Home is a shelter from the cold, a place where at the end of the day you can be yourself. It is a place where you can feel love like no other place. Home should be the place you run to first; the place where even when you feel like there is nothing left in this world you will still always have a home.

## Freedom

*John Langer*

A dream for some,  
A reality for others,  
A privilege for all.  
A sacrifice from you,  
A sacrifice from me.  
Freedom.

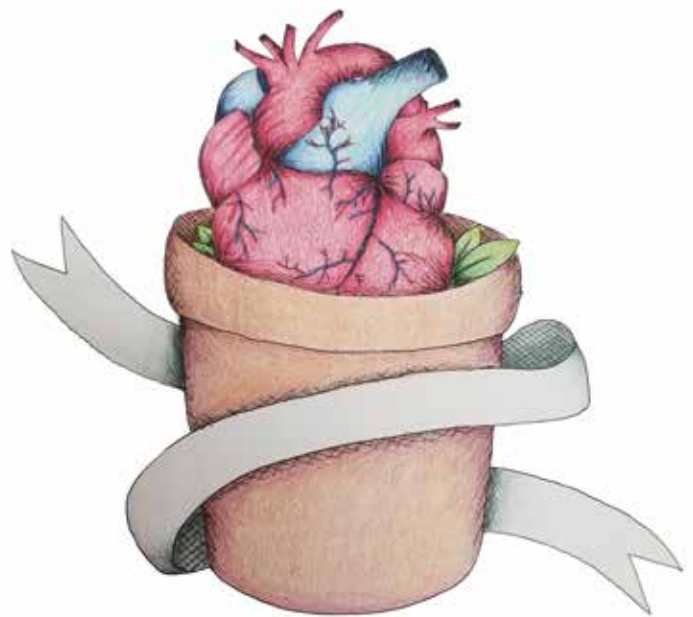
*Nathan Gorman*

I don't know what home really is. I have lived in foster care and group homes. That meant I moved a lot. I had places to call my house, but would never call home.

Recently I moved in with a friend from high school and her family, and they accepted me with open arms. I will always call their house "home." They helped me through a lot of things and treated me like I was part of their family.

Nobody forced them to accept me, even though my social worker attempted to discourage them from letting me move in. My friend's mom and step-dad disregarded the information and created their own opinions of me. I'm grateful they helped me and gave me a leg-up when I really needed it. I will never forget the help they gave me.

Sometimes it's important to cherish those who have assisted you when you really need it.



**Illustration by Brianna**





## Finding my feet

*John Langer*

I had to take another semester of high school this year to make up for lost credits and missed time.

My original plan at the beginning of September was a fraction of what it used to be, and as the year went on and on I realized that time demands need to be met whether you like it or not. January came, and with it, my care terminated. I've never worked an actual job in my life and I didn't really know where to start.

My completion of high school trotted along at the end of January and as February rolled in I was out of work and spending the majority of my time at school even though I wasn't a student.

But, there was hope. Near the end of the month, I attended an orientation and immediately after was part of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Union. The first week of March I started a Formwork course at CMC in Sackville.

As I sit writing this, I'm taking the ferry back to Dartmouth. I just finished a full week of an actual career, and I couldn't be more proud.

## Where do I see myself in 5 years

*Nathan Gorman*

Where do I see myself in 5 years? That is a hard one. I don't always look for the future, I try to be a realist and think in the moment where I can with what I'm given now. I like to live in the moment because it allows me to make mistakes, to learn from them, and learn to adapt to it. If I think toward the future I can preplan things which is smart, but if you dwell too much on the future you'll miss what you have today.

## Starting high school next fall

*Brandy Warman*

I'm looking forward to the new start of going to high school with new people and new teachers, and having a bigger school. I think high school is going to be fun but at the same time I'm really worried about all the change that's going to happen.

I can barely catch up with the work that I'm doing now in junior high. I'm worried that nobody is going to help me with my work in high school. My worker and my nan tell me that the school is going to help me a lot with my high school education. I am scared that I'll get to a point in high school where I just stop caring about my work and start to go down hill. I don't wanna fail.





John and Ammy co-hosting the Outstanding Youth Awards, held in October in Halifax.

## OYA !

*Ammy Purcell*

Once again John Langer and I were honoured to be masters of ceremony of the Outstanding Youth Awards. This fantastic event is always so incredible and inspirational. It is truly outstanding to see so many young people who come from difficult backgrounds doing so exceptionally well in school, extra curricular activities or just life in general.

Celebrating their achievements is so uplifting for everyone involved. Being on the stage looking at all the people who support these young people, bio-parents, foster parents,

social workers, support workers, everyone, just beaming with pride. And the youth, as well they should be, are also beaming.

The smiles on their faces as they each walk to the stage to accept their awards are so big and genuine it warms my soul. I love this event and look forward to being involved in some way again next year. Thank you to Stacey Greenough for inviting me. And thank you to all the youth who received awards for being so awesome! OYA!

# What I love about myself

*Brandy Warman*

I love that I am good at doing makeup. I love that I can express my creativity through art. I love that I can involve other people in this activity. I can apply makeup to my sisters and friends.

*Chloe Roberts*

Well I like that I'm funny. I like how fast I can make friends and I like making people smile. I like that I'm a good friend and can help with most things.

I like that I make my parents proud. I like my smile. I like how tall I am. I like my personality.



## Security guy (a dream)

Wesley Roberts

I waited patiently as Hillary was up on the podium doing her speech.

I work for security and I'm supposed to be with her for the day. After she's done speaking I carefully watch her get down from the stage as she slowly makes her way to me. I walk through the crowd with her close beside me along with a few other security guards.

The car seems so far away and I'm anxious that something could happen in such little time. So I check the rooftop for our snipers who are checking the surrounding area for threats. I take everything in as clearly as I can, carefully shoving the flashing cameras and the paparazzi out of the way. I tell myself to be gentle and calm and that they aren't here to cause any harm to Mrs. Clinton.

We finally reach the car and I sigh with relief. I must have been holding my breath the whole time. She quickly slipped inside, and I asked her "Where would you like to go next Mrs?"

I felt nervous talking to her, but besides keeping her safe, it was a big part of my job. I took her to the waterfront and we got some Beavertails and some key chains at the gift shop.

She said she loved being by the sea and that was as close as we could get to the "Sea" in Halifax.

## The Flowers In The Garden

Brianna Ash

Flowers symbolize numerous things. Death, love, lust, happiness and forgiveness. People seem to find flowers are almost the perfect gift, but I beg to differ. I think we all need to appreciate flowers more, or maybe just appreciate our lives more.

The main issue in the world, I've noticed, is people tend to not think about themselves and never think about their feelings. But in reality, you can only get help if you help yourself.

Negativity and positivity are two completely different things. If one is always old and full of darkness, how is the same individual supposed to be fresh and full of the light? I think the cure is simple.

Do what makes you happy, maybe take a walk and enjoy the flowers. Smile at the polite cashier at the corner store, or even just compliment somebody's shoes.

Live your best life and don't let anybody bring you down into their shadow, we are all equals. Everybody deserves to be full of happiness.

## ALUMNI: JADE BROOKS



I'm not sure if I fully believed in myself at the time that I wrote those quotes in *the Voice*, but the fact that they came to fruition just goes to show how great our ability to manifest what we want is! It haunted me for a while how much I let get in the

way of me chasing my dream of being an author. Now, I can stand proud. Now, I can say I did it! My book, *The Teen Sex Trade: My Story* is the first of many. The Voice was one of my first writing gigs. I'm extremely grateful to have been a part of it.

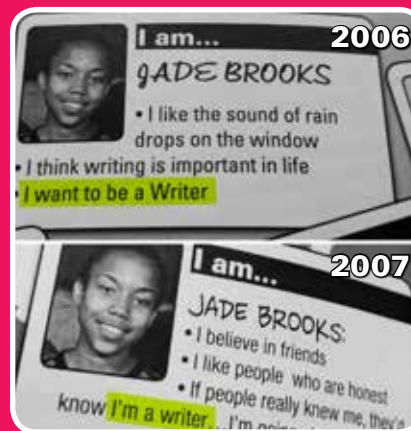


Illustration by Brianna



## Volunteer's note

*Kaitlin Scott*

It was great pleasure to return as an adult volunteer with the 2017/2018 program of *The Voice*. This year we had new and returning members, who brought their unique experiences to the group. I was able to work more closely with returning group members and support them in enhancing their writing and communication skills.

As a graduating social work student, I brought specific skills that allowed me to support group members in their transition out of care. I was able to provide information on resources and services throughout HRM now available to them as an adult. I feel this is an important part of being an adult volunteer, working with the group members during sessions but also providing support with their lives outside the program.

I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to use the skills I was learning in class. Being part of this group allowed me to grow as a social worker, and I learned just as much about myself and how I want to practice in the future as the youth learned from me.

This year at *The Voice*, the program centered around critical thinking about our society and how we live. We had sessions

around poverty, social issues, politics, and LGBTQ+ issues. These sessions allowed the minds of the youth to expand about the world.

This group was able to have in-depth discussions about the issues they are facing, and how they can be resolved. Having important and respectful discussions is an important skill that I believe was learned by this group. In the future I hope the sessions can further enhance the discussion process and then take it one step further to writing what was discussed and what was learned through the discussion.

All in all, I feel this was a very successful year for *The Voice*. The increased numbers, more responsibility given to the group facilitators, and better discussions allowed the group to learn from and support each other through their struggles. I hope that in the future a new adult volunteer will be able to work as closely with the group members as I did, and be able to provide them with additional support when needed.

I had an amazing experience being a volunteer, and I will miss the group dearly. I feel this program has a tremendous impact on the youth that are involved. Being just a little part of this program was a great privilege.



# Social issues

*Nathan Gorman*

Poverty is a big issue in the Maritimes. Everywhere you go you hear of people in shelters, living on the streets, or even couch-surfing.

Jobs are hard to find and if you don't have a stable living situation, it makes it even more difficult. Employers demand a lot of experience that people on the streets struggle to achieve.

Today you can't get a job with the public without customer service experience. This doesn't mean it's paid experience either. People that are homeless find it hard to find work because they're either not in the right mindset to go to work or they're being ridiculed for being homeless.

People don't understand the struggle until they're staring it in the face. I can't say I've been homeless because I have always had a place to lay my head. But when I was 18, I went AWOL (Absent Without Leave) and traveled from London, Ontario to Scarborough. It's approximately 300 km and I hitchhiked and walked the distance in 36 hrs. As I ran I felt like I was on top of the world — I was unstoppable.

The further I ran, the more I realised the group home where I was living wasn't all that bad. There were people there who cared about me, food to eat, and a bed to call my own.

I was in a lot of pain from walking and not sleeping which made me turn to a near-by hospital, and just called the house. One of the staff came in the van and got me. We talked during the car ride back to London, and two weeks later he became my prime worker.

Today I can't walk or drive down Spring Garden Road in Halifax without seeing at least 10 people asking for change or food. Yes, I have walked past them and ignored them but I have also stopped and given them a few bucks.

Shortly after, I'll hear people snicker and say he/she is only going to buy booze or drugs. You know what — just because it's what you think doesn't mean it's true. Everyone is entitled to their beliefs and I'm not going to take that away.

People living in poverty are faced with decisions that people like you and I hope to never go through, such as where they're going to sleep, how long their next \$5 is going to last, and many more decisions.

Just because the panhandler has clothing that is dirty or ripped, just because the homeless man has a scruffy beard, just because you bought them food and they scarfed it down like it's disappearing, doesn't mean you should look

down on them. Maybe they went through a break up and have nowhere to go, maybe he got laid off and can't get another job. Maybe, just maybe, it's something beyond their capabilities.

Please take a moment to think, if you had nothing left to turn to, where would you be?

*Chloe Roberts*

I think the biggest social issue is discrimination. Discrimination against same sex marriage is big, but honestly I think people should be allowed to be happy with whoever they want even if that means a man marrying a man or a woman marrying a woman or a man marrying a woman — they should just be happy.

There's also discrimination against different races. I think it shouldn't matter what colour skin you have or where you come from — we should be treated the same.



Illustration by Brianna

# Thank you!



**Our thanks to the following individuals and organizations for their support of our project this year.**

## *Individuals*

Leigh Daniels — Department of Education  
Clete Deschamps — Board member  
Judy Elliot — Director of Student Services,  
Department Of Education  
Dawn Frail — Board member  
Stacey Greenough — Department of Community  
Services  
Dr. Bill Hart — Halifax Region Children's Aid  
Foundation  
Angeles Hopkins — Book keeper  
Jane Landry — Halifax Region Children Aid  
Foundation  
Kyle MacIsaac — Mathews Dinsdale Clark LLP  
Amanda MacNeill — Board member  
Kilby MacRae — Phoenix Learning and  
Employment Centre  
Sue LaPierre — United Way of Halifax Region  
Sandra McKenzie — Halifax Youth Foundation  
Shaune McKinley — Chair of the Board  
Claire Munroe — Phoenix Learning and  
Employment Centre  
Lisa Neily — graphic designer, website designer  
John Odenthal — board member  
Andrew Safer — advisor, Board member

Paul Schwartz — Facilitation trainer, Board  
member

Kaitlin Scott — Adult volunteer

David Swick — Workshop volunteer

Laura Thornton — Neptune theatre

Kristopher Webster — Minuteman Press

## *Organizations*

Atlantic News — magazines for collages

Minuteman Press — Newsletter printing

Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation —  
funding support

Halifax Youth Foundation — funding support

Heartwood Centre for Community Youth  
Development

Nova Scotia Department of Community  
Services — primary funding support

Nova Scotia Department of Education —  
funding support

Nova Trophy — award plaques

Office of the Ombudsman — Newsletter  
distribution and funding support

Phoenix Learning and Employment Centre —  
meeting venue

United Way of Halifax Region — funding support

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