



Horizons 2019

**NOTHING IS LOST WHEN YOU SPEAK
YOUR VOICE**

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless thanks
you for attending our annual Horizons event



The American Writers Museum

Tuesday, May 21st, 2019

6-7 PM

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Thank you!

Program Director

Wayne Richard, Director of Organizing at Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). Wayne was a participant in a previous CCH creative writing program, and his work has been published and featured on WBEZ radio and Channel 9 Morning News.

Intern

Julie Miller is a graduate student at Adler University, pursuing her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. She is originally from Miami, Florida.

Adler University Art Therapy

Dr. Jennifer LaCivita

Department Chairperson

Master of Arts in Counseling

Psychology: Art Therapy

The Adler Art Therapy Student Association (AATSA), is a student organization at Adler University that promotes the use of art therapy. "We believe in the power of art therapy to affect positive social change as well as positive change within individuals"

Individuals from the Master of Arts in Counseling: Art Therapy Department, created art responses to poems received through CCH. When one responds artistically to a piece of writing, they are encouraged to explore emotional reactions and strong imagery that is envisioned as a reaction to the writing. An art response serves as a connection between the writer and the artist.

The pieces that were created are dedicated to the original poets to show appreciation for their talents and efforts. The

Art Therapy Department would like to thank CCH for allowing us to collaborate on this project and be part of such an amazing event!

Mission Statement

Horizons is a creative writing workshop program dedicated to helping participants find their creative voices through poetry, expressive writing, and storytelling. Horizons seeks to break down the barriers that often exist between people by bringing them together to explore each other's perspectives. Horizons is about empowerment - both for it's writers and those experiencing their work.

Horizons offers creative writing classes twice a month at several transitional shelters and supportive living programs within the Chicagoland area.

"In the very depths of us all, resides our song. Uniquely crafted from the core of who we are, its tune can only be carried by each individual, to whom it belongs. Our very truth, through our voice, does this song bring

So each and ever day of our lives then, let us sing."

- Wayne Richard

Program Director

"The One"

I AM THE ONE WHO
WOULD GIVE THE SHIRT OFF MY BACK,
FINDING ANOTHER BROTHER IN NEED OF IT.
THE ONE WHO TRIES TO SHOW **COMPASSION**
AND **LOVE** TO ALL PEOPLE,
THE ONE WHO BRINGS FAMILY **TOGETHER**.
THE ONE
THE ONE WHO,
IF I COULD DO ANYTHING RIGHT NOW...
WOULD BE SLEEPING IN MY OWN HOME, IN MY
OWN BED.
GETTING ADEQUATE SLEEP BECAUSE I HAVE
WORK TONIGHT...
BUT, I'M AT THE SHELTER, AND I JUST WOKE
UP.

Written by:
Anonymous





Move on out
They told us
The rents not paid
Parents both lost their jobs
They could go insane

All of our things
On the curb
Carry what I can
Gave me the spur

Too much to carry
One pillow case for
Each of my siblings
None for me
They are first
Always
Where to go
Get on down the street

"Nightmare"

People passing in fine
business suits
As if we aren't here
This life is hard to bare

Beg for a dollar
To buy a meal
For my family, you see
No forks or knife, man
this is crude

The sun is setting, it is
night
My fight has just begun
I pray I won't freeze
before it's through
Although I wish my life
was done.

Written by: *Delaney Mesick*



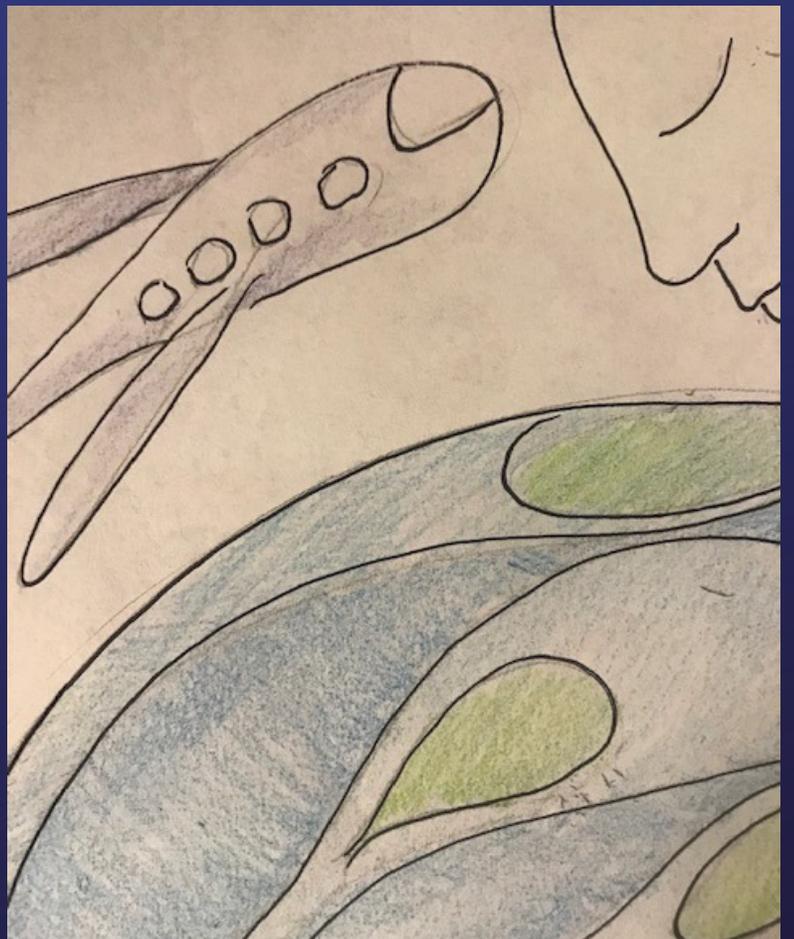
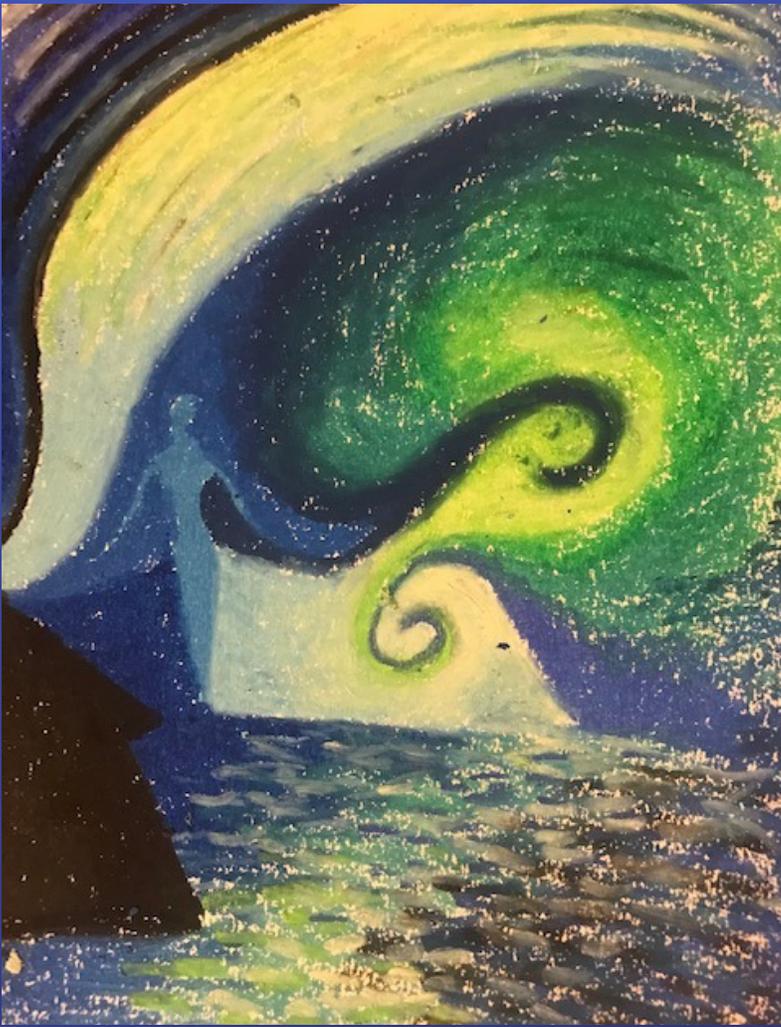
"Choices in a Dream"

**Making my own choice...
Driving race cars,
Or an airplane**

**About the future of the world...
I will keep trying even if others
don't
To be peaceful is all there is**

**As a color,
I would be blue
And I meet my ancestors
Then ... I woke up.**

WRITTEN BY: *HECTOR C*



"Me & My Baby"

I was sleeping on the bench in the park
and Mariah in her stroller sleeping

We became homeless ever since I lost my mom in
the year 1991

I didn't have nobody to turn to

I felt really bad about it and I was trying to protect
my baby from strangers

This man had walked up to me and said is you
alright? I said no because I don't have no place to go
with my baby

At that moment I was feeling real bad about being
homeless with my child

At this moment I am still homeless

My baby is getting older

I want to be there for her every step of the way
And I don't want her to be going place to place and
going to different schools

She's been in 7 schools ever since we've been
homeless

I DON'T WANT TO BE HOMELESS FOREVER

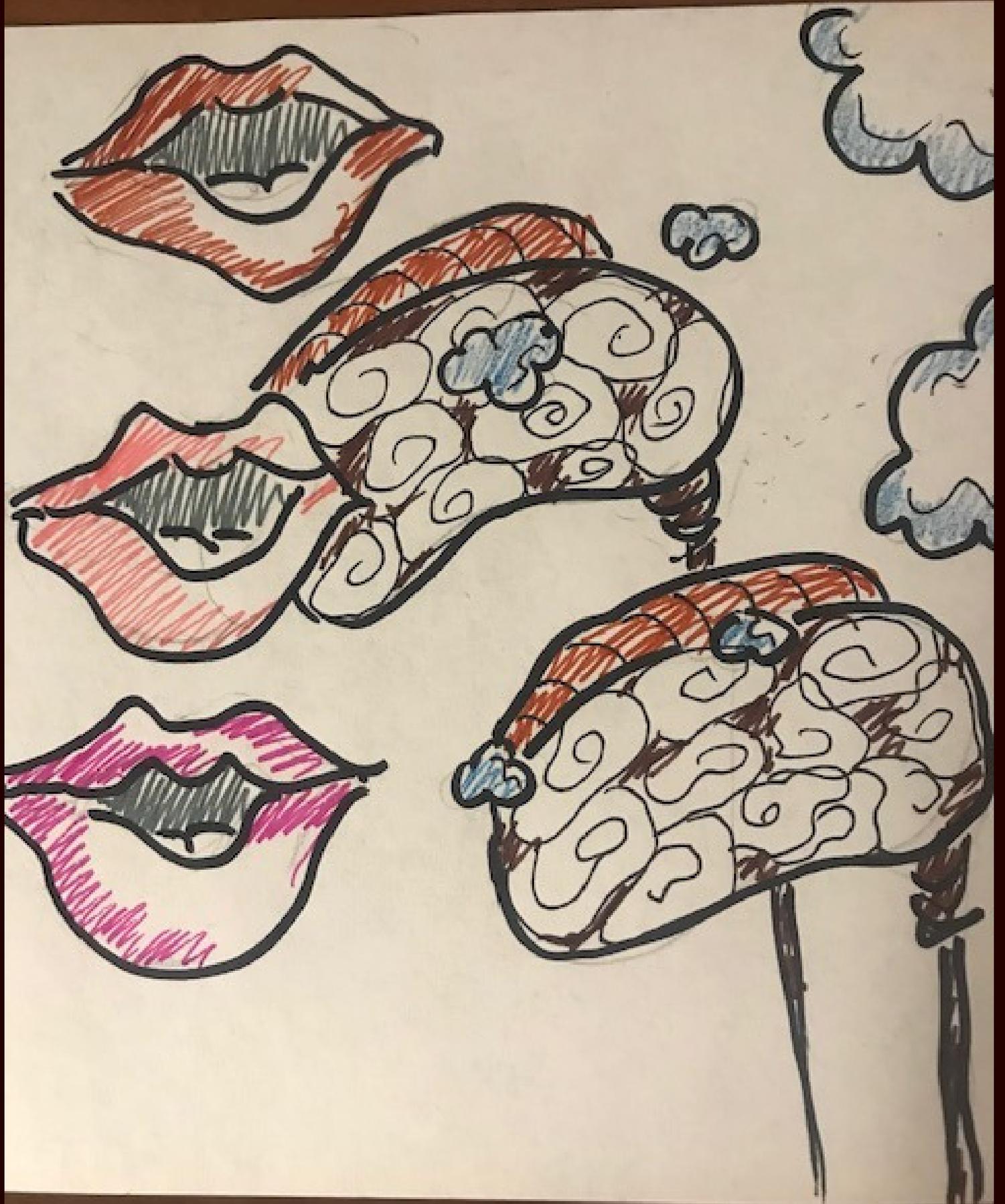
We NEED a home now.



"The Good"

**THE GOOD THING ABOUT ME
IS THAT
I CAN COMMUNICATE WITH
ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE
I STAY FOCUSED
SO THAT I'M NOT
THROWN OFF MY MIND BY PEOPLE
THAT HAS BEEN GOOD
AND HAS HELPED ME
AND THEM
I SEE WHEN I WORK AND MAINTAIN
THAT IT IS PROGRESS
&
GOOD**

Written by: Charles Stephens



"My
Muse"

The homes I've lost
I've lost as a child
Through horrors and loss
Nothing was mild

After my trauma
Nothing was right
Thoughts and learning
Always a fight

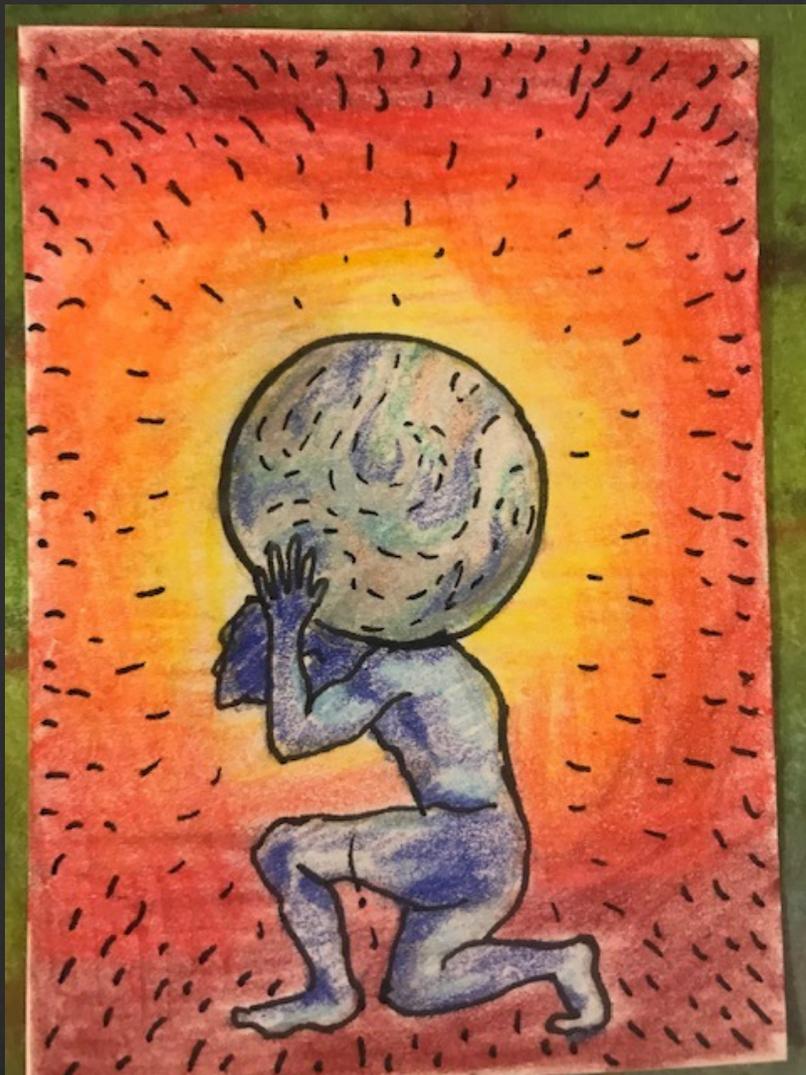
Wasn't educated
Never trained
My life depended
On those who reigned

Social cues
All lost on who I was
Became the problem
Emotions were the cause

My mother was kind
Though, very blind
My only hope
Is a love that binds

My father, never home
Yet, always there
The pain I have
I've learned to bare

The thoughts I have
And left to roam
If only a job
And a place called home.



"9 Months"

It was like the silence of the first trimester

Something was happening

Changes

Emotions were flared

Hanging

It was like the flutter of the second trimester

Somebody was moving

A great loss of oneself

Gotta think of someone else

Imbalanced

Uncomfortable now in the third trimester

Can't get any rest

Body and mind transforming

How will one pass this test?

Passing so many that just need help.

Eating for two

Will someone have mercy, maybe
you?

Feeling blue

Eating from the garbage

Phew.

Suck down that lukewarm drink

Eat that cold food

Don't make no stink, the baby is full

Raging inside like an unsatisfied bull

Trying to be grateful using mental tools

Bladder uncontrollably so

Restaurant nearby

Have mercy house of hope

Let her stay for a while

Eyes close

It's not just her,

He's been here way too long

Chilled to the bone

Wanna go somewhere

Crying out; Where is home?

"9 Months"

A new season

Inside now

New problems arise

Lesser insurance

Limited funds; however, endurance

Back to that old place

New responsibilities; Adjusting

Sleep deprivation trying to
embrace

A forced yet diverse community

Still being called a bum

A program raised up

And just like that, a new plan

Placed wherever the assistance can

They say it's nice

Big enough to expand

Needing other services

More than just paid rent

Mental splint

Hearts dent

Sent

Growing rapidly

Emotionally on the run

It's time now, 9 months have come

Christmas, Labor, Bundle of Joy

Numb

More than one type of cry through
the night

Different personalities; Fight

A summons for personal freedom

Paranoia follows like a needy friend

Hinge

Like a soap opera

This community haven't changed much

Still in the ghetto

No child's motto

Crutch

Standing up now

Giving Testimony, Truth

Gaining momentum

Joined a coalition

Talking about homelessness

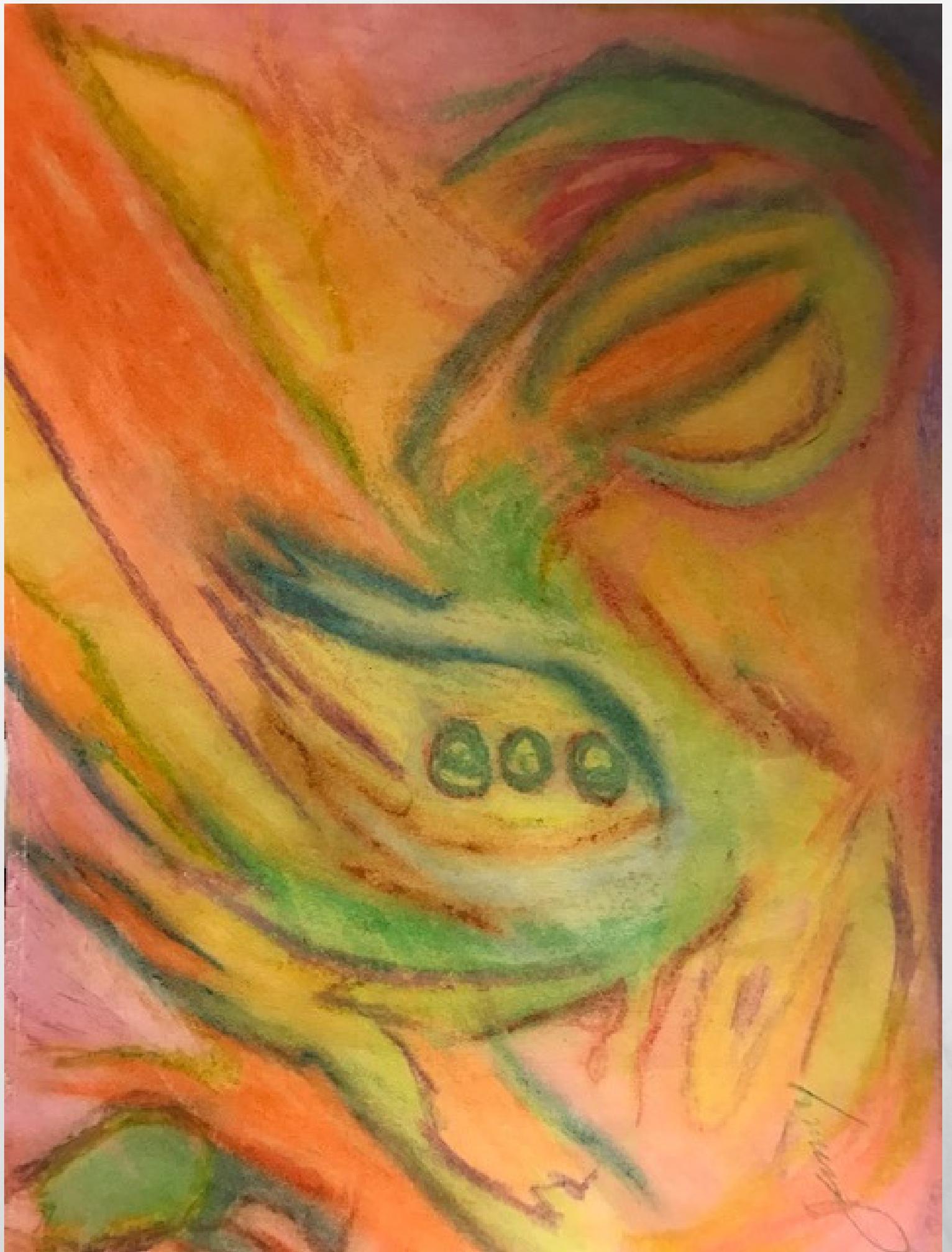
Rights and being that voice

Bring Chicago Home

Choice

Written by: *Rauquaia*

Hale-Wallace





WHERE IS HOME

TRY TO BE CAREFUL
BUNDLE OF JOY
A NEW PLAN

FIRST TRIMESTER
STARTING UP NOW
EMOTION'S

BEING CHILD
OATHING

lots of QUESTIONS

SECOND TRIMESTER

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES
FLUTTER
DIVERSE COMMUNITY
UNBANNED RIGHTS AND BEING

STIVING TESTIMONY

MERCY HOUSE OF HOPE

A COALITION RIGHTS

THAT VOICE
THIRD TRIMESTER

EATING FOR 2
BODY AND MIND TRANSFORM

SHANTON 6 MONTHS

Chicago Stand Up

I stand up for Chicago

I am Chicago

I stand for kids & unborn

I stand up for our rights

I stand up for our community

I stand up for jobs

I stand up for respect

I stand up against homelessness

I stand up for racism

I stand up for help

I stand up for freedom of speech

I stand up for awareness

I stand up for spreading the word throughout the world

I stand up against drug dealers who don't know better or
grew up in it that are scared

I stand up for teachers who don't get paid to teach

I stand up for the movement

I stand up for lower housing

I stand up for funding in Chicago schools

I stand up for benefits who need it most

I stand up for the families that lost their loved ones from
guns and murders

I stand up for the people in the world that are scared to
fight against the power of the government

I stand up for the struggles
I stand up for the family that can't make ends meet
I stand up for everyone to be equal
I stand up for the blind that can't see how the city is
I stand up against the rich that think that all to life is money
and they don't have to care about the rest of the world
I stand up for the father & sons that are in jail doing life for
unbelievable crimes they did not commit, doing 7 to life
I stand up against fear

I stand up for purpose
I stand up for what I believe in
I stand up for wisdom
I stand up against bullying in the world
I stand up for the color of our skin
I stand up for domestic violence

I stand up for blessings
I stand up for self love
I stand up for motivation
I stand up for change
I stand up for social change
I stand up for voting
I stand up for hope
I stand up for trust
I stand up for programs that are going to help the city people
I stand up against the crack heads that need a fix and are
stuck with only one way out
I stand up for the disabled

I stand for single mothers taking care of their kids by themselves,
who don't know if rent is going to get paid or the water is going to
get cut off and if there is going to be food tomorrow. Having to do
things they don't want to do just to get money for their family
I stand up against DCFS. That they can do better when it comes to
our kids. More showing up and making sure everything is good,
asking around about the parent or family member
I stand up for music, some good, some bad, old or new
I stand up for life even if it means standing alone. Some people
care about their life, but stronger people stand up for others
I stand up against harassment

Like 1 kind man said before,
In matters of styles, swim with the current
In matters of principle, stand like a rock
- Thomas Jefferson

I have a dream that one day we all will rise up and become one
- Martin Luther King Jr.

This is our time. Our moment. Don't let things go by
Our city is going to dust, and trashed away, I know we can do our
part

NOW NOW NOW
This is our home, Chicago!

Written by: Leneara Turner







CHICAGO
STAND UP

*Thank you
for coming!*

Horizons would also like to thank:

The participating Family Shelters

Doug Schenkelberg
Executive Director, CCH

Dr. Jennifer LaCivita
Adler University

**Horizons is a project of:
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
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Chicago, Il
60601**

www.chicagohomeless.org