



News and Information

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Cincinnati, OH—The spirit and soul of the Young Women Writing for (a) Change® program was fully alive this summer in three week-long summer camp programs for girls and teens! With the largest participation since the summer of 2007, the girls and teens brought a special energy to these camps during the month of June. The programs utilize the art of writing and other modes of artistic expression to enhance self-esteem and build skills in creative self-expression. Participants learn to receive and give honest feedback and encouragement, build community, and identify role models who inspire them.

According to camp director Andrea Nichols, “I watched lasting friendships form. I heard tentative voices become bold, and I listened to girl after girl tell the truth of her life, our society, and our world. I was humbled by their courage, and they taught me as much or more than I taught them. I want to thank our phenomenal teaching team from this summer. Without their depth of leadership, our programs would not have been so successful.” Avery Smith, Liv Linn, and Maddie Henke explored the theme of Friendship with the youngest girls. They wrote about being good friends to each other, but also explored the essential question of what it means to be a good friend to ourselves. Andrea Rotter, Hannah Goldman, and Liv Linn opened up the ideas of growth and expansion for teens, and Andrea Nichols was joined by Mindy Weaver-Flask to write about empowerment and intuition with the oldest young women in the program. Each week also included guest artists, to give the girls a full range of experiences and to show how visual art and movement can inspire writing.

The young women themselves had the following to say about their camp experiences:

“I am taking new insight, new connections, new-found confidence, and courage away from this class”

“I felt so uplifted and empowered throughout this week.”

“From this week, I am taking new writing skills, new friendships, and a renewed sense of pride in myself.”

“... I’m taking the knowledge that I can write about anything and everything, that I can share my writing with others and not feel like my writing isn’t good enough.”