



We See

What We See Changes Who We Are

WITNESS Project Youth Page is made possible by the Margaret Clemons Foundation and The Ministry of Education



University of Guyana Student and WITNESS Project Youth, Chantel Lewis installing posters on the walls of the National Library - eyes of children looking out saying to adults we see you and we expect you to do better.

My Mental Ignition, My Biggest Inspiration, My Grandmother

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Throughout my life of eighteen years to the present, my grandmother has always been an inspiration to me. When I was about five years old and finding my words, I would talk to her as she worked on her Singer’s sewing machine, about what, I can’t even remember. When I was a little older I had to recite my multiplications table, from 2 to whichever number I was told to learn in school, before I could watch four o’clock cartoons on channel 28. Over all the noise that machine made, I knew she heard me from the looks she gave me, and from the pauses in her sewing. (Or at least I think she heard me. Granny’s a pretty good actress.)

Many times when something happened to me and I tried to explain myself, or after hearing what happened, Granny would be

the one to make sense of it to everyone, even myself. Anytime anything at all needed fixing, as long as it didn’t need a specific tool or skill that we didn’t have, my grandmother would improvise in ways, and with means, that I think deserve a Nobel Prize. One day it had a fault, the next it was fixed.

By being such a good person, my Granny has proven many things to me, but the three most important things that inspired me are: “Where there is a will, there is a way - sometimes you just have to look to find it,” “Children are people too; don’t underestimate them,” and to “Think Big.” These three things have guided me and will continue to guide me on my quest to reach the finish line of life, happily and healthily.

A Restless Soul

By WITNESS Youth Staff

In my life I’ve seen many things, both horrible and glorious, but where I live it’s mostly horrible things. I’ve seen a woman get beaten numerous times (at least two times a week). In the nights I would often see the woman running away from her husband and most of the time she got caught and was beaten severely. The husband would often use a steel pipe to beat her about her body. The people in the village would watch and laugh, but I always felt sorry for her. Each time he did it, she seemed to love him more and more because every day I would still see her, looking happy with this man who has damaged her

life. Day and night I would hear her cries for help, but I could do nothing since I’m a child and there are plenty of older people who could have stopped this madness. One day she tried to fight back, but that was a mistake. She got beaten even more severely while others stood and watched! When he was finished, her teeth were broken, face battered, and her life destroyed. This is just one of the uncountable acts of violence. As for the woman, she still lives with her abuser; an unhappy life.

It seems like people have no love for one another. I would like to see that change.

“WE ARE WITNESSES”

By WITNESS Youth Staff

We hear these unusual words every day and night,
Daddy please stop hitting mommy, she’s in pain
I’m feeling it
Stop, because I can’t stand it no more.
We are children growing up to become:
A doctor, a pilot, and in society to achieve our goals
Because you are supposed to be role models to us, mom and dad
We are the future
We are witnesses of what you do in front of us
When we talk to you, you get vexed and take your anger out on us and it needs to stop
So let’s hold hands and come together as one, mommy and daddy
You can make a change for all of us
So stop the violence!
Stop hitting at each other and make a difference for all the children out there
Who are witnesses to domestic violence.

REMEMBER: “what we see changes who we are” - JR



After the installation on the walls of the National Library.

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.

WITNESS Project Youth Reporters

- Kwesi Archer
- Haresh Bhagwan
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- Reanna Douglas
- Daisha Henry
- Verney Henry
- Shakera Hoosain
- Danita Jaundoo
- Kevon Jones
- Linda-Deyi Lin

- Chantel Lewis
- Fiona Maughn
- Teriq Mohammad
- Krissy Morgan
- Kimberly Morgan
- Kaesia Munroe
- Nakasi Noel
- Marcel Persaud
- Rajendra Ramesh
- Devi Sankar
- Anthony Vishnu

"what we see changes who we are" - JR