



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

WITNESS Project Welcomes New Team Members

Dear Readers:

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Lucy Amon, Sarah Cash, Jim Parsons, Julia Kitlinski-Hong, Adam Hunkapiller and Denise Garcia. These six grad students from Lesley University's Intercultural Relations program in Massachusetts, USA, have joined the WITNESS Project Team in New York, to help with the editing of the Witness Youth Page. Their time and dedication have been invaluable, and a major contributing factor to the continued success of the WITNESS Project Youth Page.

In their own words, each volunteer editor gives us a synopsis of who they are, in relation to their work with the writers of the Witness Youth Page: **Lucy Amon**, in addition to her studies, was influenced to work with the WITNESS Project youths by her work with a non-governmental organization in Delhi, India, where she edited translations of children's stories. **Sarah Cash** recently moved

to Boston to continue her studies in Intercultural Relations, since she is passionate about getting to know other cultures. She loves reading all kinds of stories, and enjoys those written by the talented WITNESS Project writers! **Jim Parsons** has always been interested in learning about, and meeting people from other cultures and wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to interact with students working on the WITNESS Project Youth Page. He also just enjoys writing and likes being able to help the WITNESS Project students relate their experiences and stories to the public. **Julia Kitlinski-Hong** has been writing stories since she was a little girl. Her most recent stories have been about Turkey, where she lived last summer, teaching English. She thinks everyone has unique stories and enjoys helping others find their voice to tell theirs. **Adam Hunkapiller** decided to move to Boston to continue his education after teaching English for three years

in Oman, an Arab state in southwest Asia on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Interested in writing, as well as continuing to work with international students, he saw the WITNESS Project as a perfect marriage of the two. **Denise Garcia** is committed to immigrant rights and social justice work in the Boston metro area. The WITNESS Project is important to Denise because she believes all people should be treated with dignity, and it is an opportunity for justice and healing.

The WITNESS Project Team in Guyana and New York are grateful to our six volunteer editors from Lesley University, and with great delight, we officially welcome them aboard!

Best Regards,

Letty N. Kisten
Editor-in-Chief,
WITNESS Project Youth Page



Lesley Team

Things I'm Grateful For

By WITNESS Youth Staff

I am grateful for life because it's the best gift we were given and without life nothing matters. The world would be worthless and nothing would exist without life.

I am also grateful for family because they help us value our life and without families the world would be wrong. Families play the most important role in our life; they are the first people we see when we are brought into the world.

They give us love and take care of us every second of our life. They are the ones who teach us right from wrong, show us the best way. I am very happy and grateful for

my family; they are the best part of me because they are the reason why I am here.

Education is simply acquiring general knowledge and developing the skills of reasoning and judgment and that is also a gift in life I am grateful for. If education did not exist, I think the world would be a crazy place, thus it's very important to us human beings. I am grateful for education in my life because I can read, write, and I don't need to ask for help from my sister or mother. For me family, life and education are essential.

An Incident I've Witnessed

By WITNESS Youth Staff

It was on the 12th of January, 2009. I was in the middle of my physics class when a student came in late from home. When she arrived, she asked to enter the class. As she was entering the class, a guy around 16-19 years old passed by and he made some comments about her body parts that were quite inappropriate. He said, "You've got some sexy ass there and as for your breasts, they're so huge, it makes me feel like I want to suck on them." It was very disrespectful, because it may have been crossing her boundaries.

He was asked to stop by our subject teacher. When the

teacher asked him, "What do you gain by crossing the student's boundaries?" the guy started to laugh continuously. There was a scent of alcohol coming from him. He started to react in an unmannerly way and to use inappropriate words, which made the teacher angry.

The teacher decided to settle the matter and sent him to the principal's office. The teacher claimed he was not a student of my school but a relative of one of the students. When he arrived at the office, after explaining his problem to the principal, he apologized and said he would never do such a

shameful thing again.

The principal accepted his apology and sent him home without hesitation. Afterwards, everyone went back to work trying to forget that incident.

As a young teenager who has experienced this incident, I would never trust a guy like that. The actions of anyone who's disrespectful to women or young girls reflect the kind of father they are going to be. That's not the kind of husband I would want, and more so not the kind of man to be the father of my children!

Brothers at War

By WITNESS Youth Staff

Two days ago an argument broke out between two brothers, Mark and James. Mark was addicted to stealing, which cost him dearly. Because of his addiction, he stole a brand new toolkit from his brother, James, who got angry, annoyed and lost control. Steaming with rage and sharpening his cutlass, he was about to do the unthinkable. As Mark came out of the shower, got dressed and went into the yard, he got the shock and horror of his life. James made an attempt to chop him in the head but Mark's reflexes were sharp, and so he used his right hand as a shield. His hand eventually sustained a brutal and gruesome cut that bled a lot.

On hearing the noise, my cousin and I ran downstairs to see what was going on. To our surprise we saw blood spewing everywhere as the two brothers tumbled and scuffled. Mark tried everything to

take the cutlass away from James. He held on to the tip of this deadly weapon and he sustained minor cuts to his fingers. My cousin and I tried our best to take away the weapon but we failed and also sustained cuts. We watched and witnessed this horrifying ordeal, and my heart raced as I cried and cried.

Blood was everywhere that had splashed and splashed all over the yard. His wound bled and bled, dripping as he attempted to leave but couldn't since he was trapped by James. With no way to go, defenceless and unarmed, he threw a bottle at James and cut him on his neck. James was confused by the cut, so Mark rushed out of the yard and hopped on his bike, heading straight to the hospital and leaving a trail of blood behind. In the end they were both charged in court and were placed on \$50,000 bail.

WITNESS Project Youth Reporters

- Kwesi Archer
- Haresh Bhagwan
- Judith Cameron
- Mark Davidson
- 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

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.