



SHOWCASE 2016 PICTURE & POETRY ALBUM

Presented by
Education for Successful Parenting

Sunday, May 22, 2016 – 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Crabtree Valley Mall, Promo Court – Raleigh, NC

Artwork, Poetry, and Performances by Wake County Teens
revealing the heartfelt yearnings of every soul for belonging

About the event

More than 300 people of all ages visited our fun-filled event, as teens ages 13 to 19 creatively expressed the theme of "family" through music, art, dance, poetry, and video.

On stage there were 7 dance and musical performances, plus 4 poetry readings, and 3 testimonials.



The exhibit area featured

- 11 written submissions
- 12 art pieces
- 2 videos.



In addition, there were interactive areas for Mall visitors of all ages to explore.

Safety Tip demonstrations



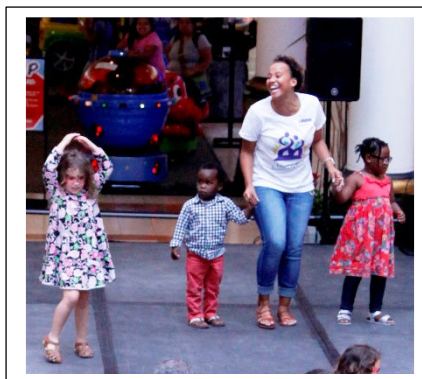
Face Painting



A Post-It Note table and message board for teens and parents to exchange wishes.



Freestyle children's dance time



For their generous support, Education for Successful Parenting thanks the many people who made the Showcase possible.

Sponsors



Emcees: Jamie O'Brien CW22 and Steve Wazz G105

ESP Major Donors: Jim and Marti Eisenberg, Gipson Family Foundation, Joyce and Mel Eisenberg-Keefer, Jason and Jennifer Williams, Diane Liebenson, Blossom Siegel

Leadership Raleigh Team

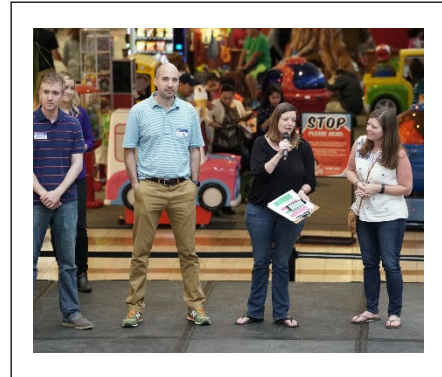
of Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce:

Katherine Ross, Stacy Smith, Kimberly Phillips, Bijal Gami, Charles Britt, Allen Taylor

DJ Caleb Gardner

Destiny Dance Institute

CAM Raleigh | Contemporary Art Museum



Guest Speaker: Coach Julee Dickens, Healthful Living Dept., Millbrook High School, Raleigh

Adult volunteers:

Brandy Artis, Leslie Claiborne, Marlene Kohn, Matthew Gibson, Selanna Segal, Will Manning

ESP staff: Tara Baker, Sheri Little, Ren Wiles

Government officials provided teens with certificates of appreciation

NC House of Representative – Brig. General Gary H. Pendleton

NC Senate 16th District – Senator Jay Chaudhuri

Showcased teens: 30 teens from 7 schools plus home-school

Teen volunteers from Millbrook HS, Middle Creek HS, and Leesville HS

ESP Board of Directors:

Daniel Porper, Randi Rubenstein, Keri Gee Semmelman,

Doug Fedich, Bret Greene, Maria Barragan, Patricia Yamate



Photography by: Christina Reid Photography, Kristin Hoenig, Keri Gee Semmelman and students from Middle Creek High School

About the Teens with entries in the “Dream of Family” Showcase

Every teen who participated in the Showcase courageously honored us with the gift of their insights and dreams. For their valued contributions, each teen received certificates of appreciation from Education for Successful Parenting and from our local government officials. The remainder of this report will introduce you to some of the teens and their artistry; we wish there was space to include all of them. We hope you will enjoy this memento of our very special event.

	<u>Page</u>
Alaina Bubeck	5
David Reyes	6
Destiny Dance Institute	7
Diana Ortiz-Ortiz *	8
Edith Galvan Lopez *	9
Ethan Baker	10
Fiona Allen	11
Jasmine Marshall	13
Jordan Cook *	14
Lurae Rubenstein **	15
Natalie Green	17
Quentin Merritt	18
Ren Wiles **	19
Sarah Duncan	22
Sydney McCoy **	24

Award winners were selected for best expressions of the theme “The Dream of Family”

* Award for Excellence

** Honorable Mention

About Education for Successful Parenting

The program was hosted by Education for Successful Parenting (ESP). ESP is a non-profit organization that is improving the wellbeing of children through pre-parenting education. The goal of the Showcase was to increase awareness of ESP and their work in guiding teens to make healthy, responsible decisions. ESP wanted to share the creative expressions of teens and the meaningfulness of their mission with the public.

ALAINA BUBECK

BIO

Age: **17**, School: **Millbrook High School**

About me:

My name is Alaina Bubeck and I am 17 going to Millbrook High School as a Junior. I am a daughter and sister in my family of five. I spend a lot of my out of school time Irish Dancing competitively and involving myself in art and working with kids at Lifetime Gym as a team member.

What "family" means to me:

Family means safe refuge, a place where I am unconditionally accepted, loved and prized. My mother, father, older brother and younger brother are here for me and I for them – there is love.

"SISTERS"



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

We are all brothers and sisters without borders. We are all one family; body, mind and soul. We have the same needs, wants and desires. I know that the sooner we realize we are one, the world will turn with splendor never ending, day after day.

DAVID REYES

BIO

Age: **15**, School: **Heritage High School**

About me:

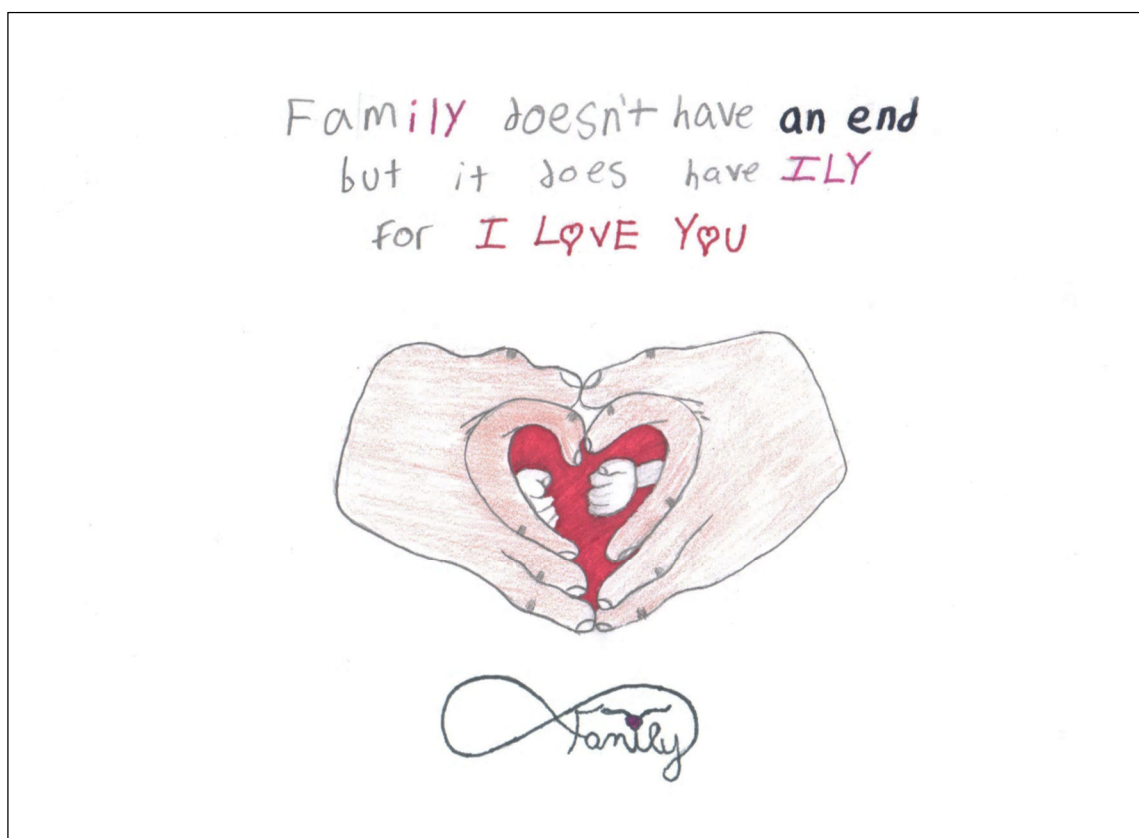
My name is David and I'm 15. I have always loved drawing and trying new things.

What "family" means to me:

A mom or dad or both with a / some kid(s). They have to be loving and caring.



"FAMILY OF LOVE"



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

It shows that families should come together and create a loving family. It also shows a complete family and safe family. Finally, it shows and talks about how strong the love of a family should be.

DESTINY DANCE INSTITUTE

In support of ESP, owner Patty Ogden brought three groups of dancers to contribute entertainment to the Showcase.

"WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU" – HIP HOP



"PRODIGAL DAUGHTER" – CONTEMPORARY



"DIABLO ROJA" – TAP



DIANA ORTIZ-ORTIZ

BIO

Age: **15**, School: **Heritage High School**

What "family" means to me:

Family means to me being together in worst and best situations.

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

Parents do a lot for their kids. Good or bad but you'll always care for your parents. They want the best for you. We might not see the struggles but they have a reason and we have to understand that.

"DON'T WORRY"

Don't worry

You told me not to worry when you lost your job.

You told me not to worry when there wasn't any more food.

You told me to worry about school.

You told me to worry about my sisters but not you.

Held your eyes closed when I asked if you were okay. Held your eyes closed to
keep the pain away.

You work all day and come home to rest at 5 a.m. Back up again at 8 a.m. to work
to pay the rent.

A cycle that kept food in my mouth, a roof over my head, and the health I have today.

Your bones keep my life together. Your words make the path I take now. I'll hold your hand
now. Trust me, you won't have to worry.

by Diana Ortiz-Ortiz

*** * * ESP'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE * * ***

EDITH GALVAN LOPEZ

BIO

Age: **19**, School: **Millbrook High School**

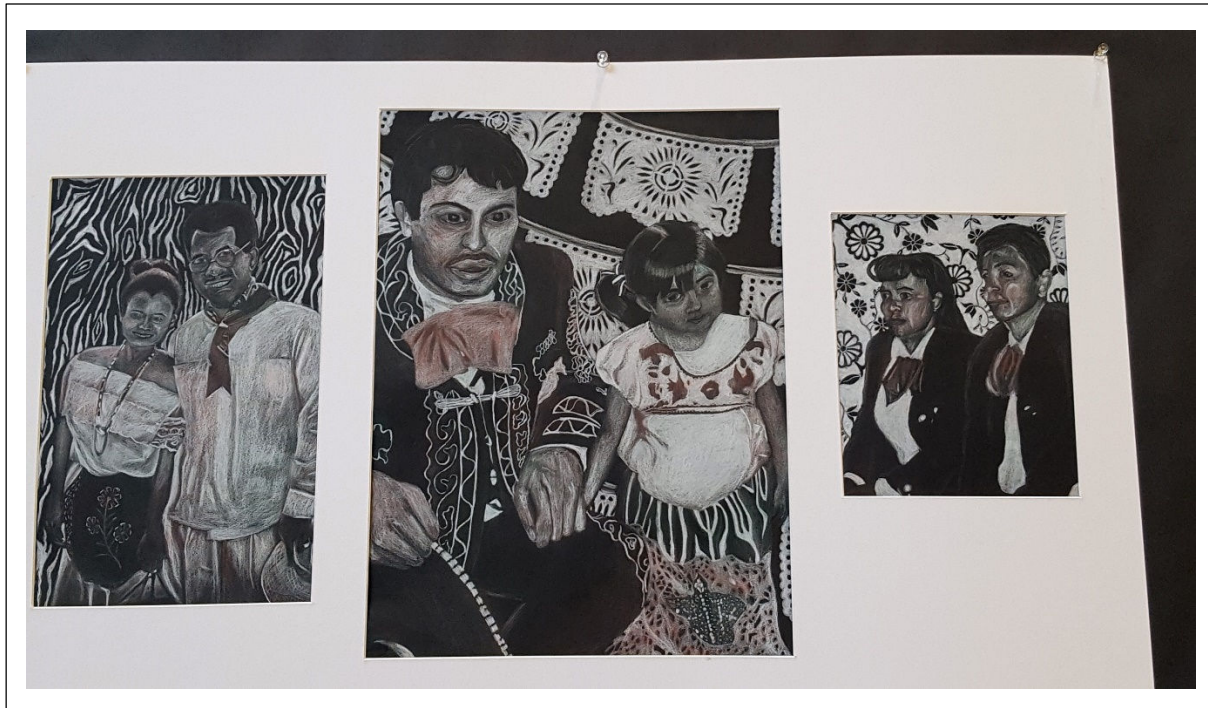
About me:

I was born in Mexico and moved to the United States at the age of 5. I believe in the importance of kindness and service which helped me become who I am today.

What "family" means to me:

Family to me are the people who will always be there for you and support you no matter what.

"FAMILY ROOTS"



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

Over the years I have come to realize how important it is to be truly prideful of the culture you are part of. Sometimes you lose sight of your roots growing up in a country you weren't born in, so this piece focuses on how culture brings family together.

***** ESP'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE *****

ETHAN BAKER

BIO

Age: **13**, School: **Zebulon Middle School**

About me:

I want to be in a movie when I grow up. I am musically talented and I am also a gamer.

What "family" means to me:

To me, family means together, as a group. Also loving and supporting one another.

"MY FUTURE FAMILY"



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

This is what I want for me and my future family, to live together - my son, my daughter and wife. My family camping, and me and my son throwing.

FIONA ALLEN

BIO

Age: **15**, School: **Vernon Malone College and Career Academy**

About me:

Hello! My name is Fiona Allen. I enjoy creating textile sculptures, drawing cartoons, making puns and reading. My dream is to change the world for the better, and I am making that dream a reality.

What "family" means to me: **To me, family means love, no matter what.**

"THE ALLENS"



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

This piece tells the story of my family. Each panel surrounding the center, which symbolizes water, tells a part of our family's story. It starts with "She never stopped to smell the roses and he did nothing but." This symbolizes the start of our family, my Mom and Dad. It shows the additions to our family over time, the people who came and went, all of whom loved one another.

1	2	3	4
Title			5
10			6
9	8		7



- 1 She never stopped to smell the roses, He did nothing but
- 2 They liked one another quite a lot
- 3 And so they decided to be each other's forever
- 4 His children became hers too
- 5 And soon him and her had children of their own
- 6 Over the years new people came and left
- 7 Others stayed
- 8 But no matter what they loved one another
- 9 And no matter what they were family
- 10 And she learned to stop and smell the roses,
and he learned to sometimes pass them bye.

JASMINE MARSHALL

BIO

Age: **17**, School: **Millbrook High School**

About me:

My name is Jasmine Marshall. I'm currently a Junior at Millbrook High School. I'm the Co-Vice-President of the ESP Teen Club.

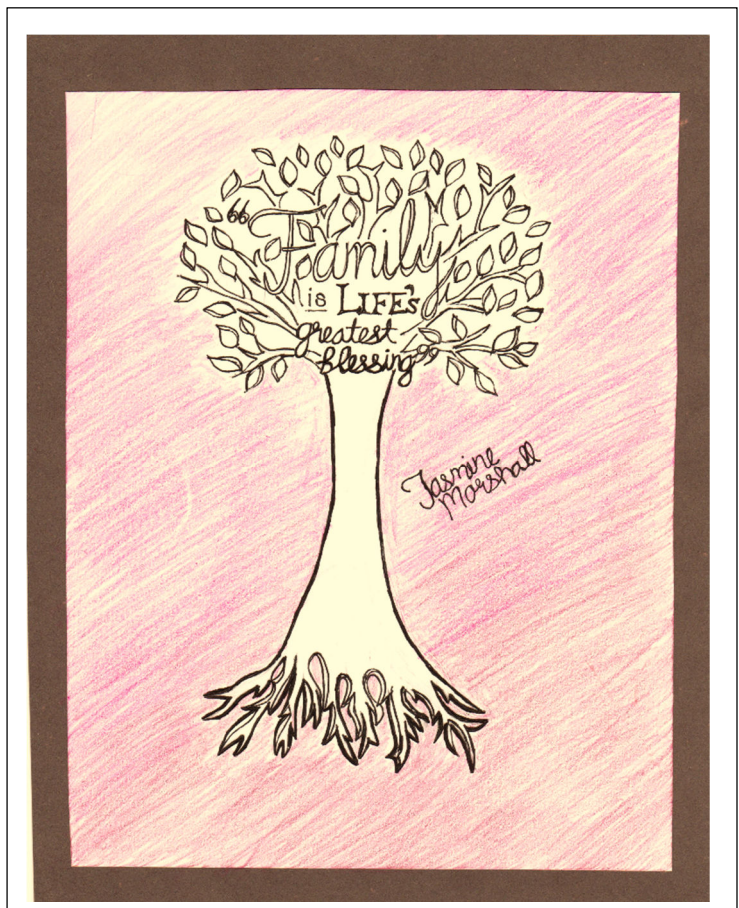
What "family" means to me:

To me, family means having people in your life that you know will love you and support you no matter what.

"FAMILY IS LIFE'S GREATEST BLESSING"

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

I've been very fortunate to have a great and very supportive family. I know that there are many children out there who are not as fortunate as I am, so participating in this showcase is my way of showing how appreciative I am of my parents and brothers.



JORDAN COOK

BIO

Age: **15**, School: **Wake Forest High School**

About me:

My name is Jordan Leigh Cook. I am 15 years old and I have been dancing since I was 5 years old. I would like to attend Julliard University for dance in the future. I have three siblings and I am the youngest.

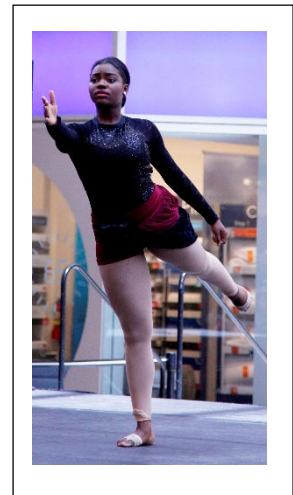
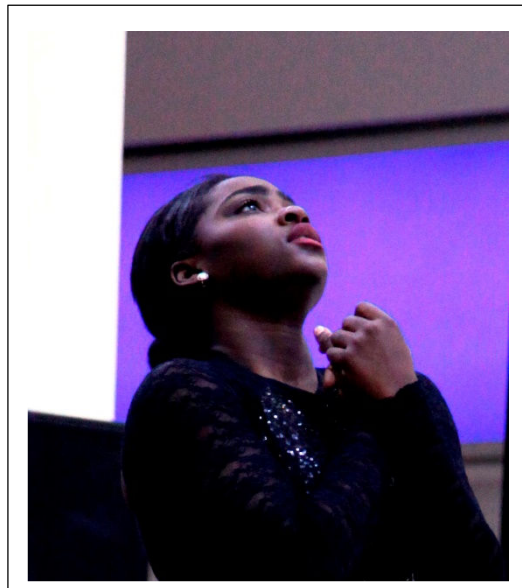
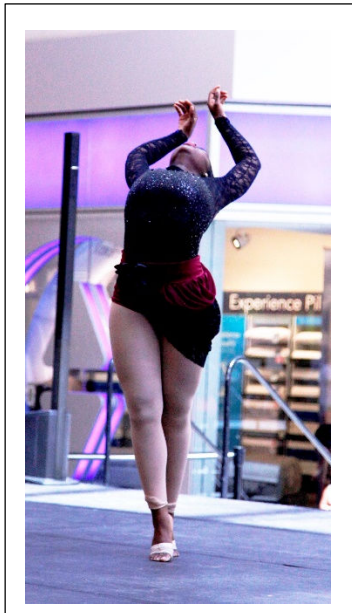
What "family" means to me:

Family to me are the people you can go to when the world is against you. My family is my home. They are always there when I need them the most.

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

My family is the inspiration behind my piece because they are always there for me. My family is my shelter when things get hard or when I just need a little extra support. They are only one call away. I look up to my big sister because she is a really good example of what it means to be someone's shelter and to have their back no matter what.

DANCE TO "MY SHELTER" BY JOHN LEGEND



ESP'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

LURAE RUBENSTEIN

BIO

Age: **19**, School: **UNC at Greensboro, Alumnus of Millbrook High School**

About me:

I am an art student at UNC Greensboro. I have been involved with ESP since I was 8 years old.

What "family" means to me:

Family is the people who are close to you and impact your life in a meaningful way.

POEM - "OLD TO NEW"

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

This is the story of my adoption journey and my feelings towards my birth parents and my adoptive mother. "They" refers to my birth parents, and "You" refers to my adoptive mother.

Old to New

Where do I go,
to end my sorrow?

Why do they neglect creation,
abandon joy and love,
and squander time?

When do I give in and
forget the new?
Never!

I will not give in.
I will get the new.
Joy. Love. Time.

No more waiting.
You will come to end my sorrow,
and start the new.

The new is here,
Forget sorrow.

by Lurae Rubenstein

Lurae Rubenstein – second entry

DRAWING – “COMFORTING EMBRACE”



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

The inspiration was from a small statue that my mother had given me after a tragic event that reminded me that even when she is not there she will be protecting me in spirit.

HONORABLE MENTION - ART

NATALIE GREEN

BIO

Age: **16**, School: **Millbrook High School**

About me:

I am originally from Long Island, New York. I am diverse and able to communicate well with others.

What "family" means to me:

Family means to me - people who support you positively in life.

"FAMILY AND FRIENDS"

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

My inspiration was a family gathering of friends and family who support you. At this family gathering, remembering why you love each other.

Family & Friends

By Natalie Green

Each time I attend this family reunion I always see,
A new member upon our strong blooming family tree.
Hearts full of joy, and everybody's stuffed of food.
With dancing, playing, and horseshoes
That creates an amusing mood.

So family and friends hear me now,
Look someone in the crowd,
And say you make me giggle, laugh, and smile,
Cause we are family and we should be proud.

The young, the old, and the bald.
From brothers, to sisters, grandparents, and teasing uncles
We all are called.
To help each other through our problems
No matter if they are big or small.

So family and friends hear me now,
Look someone in the crowd,
And say you make me giggle, laugh, and smile,
Cause we are family and we should be proud.

Our family is a circle of strength and love.
The days of farmland and hard work
Is what the elders should speak of,
To the young kids, and say how we are doing the undreamed of to do.
Because we could still be working on farmland
Under the thick spread of white and blue.

My mom, dad, sister, and grandparents make me smile.
So hear me now,
This person might be deceased or in the crowd.
But tell me who in your family makes you proud.

QUENTIN MERRITT

BIO

Age: 16, School: Millbrook High School

About me:

My name is Quentin Merritt. I love music and hope one day to become a well-known artist. I am really into learning new things, specifically languages. I have a twin sister.

What "family" means to me:

Family to me are the people who will love and support you at your lowest point, regardless of blood relation. People who will always be by your side.

"ORDINARY PEOPLE" BY JOHN LEGEND

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

John Legend is an amazing singer-songwriter and I feel that "Ordinary People" expressed the sentiment of family. It talks about the love you still have for someone even when they make mistakes, and you have to take life one day at a time. We tend to forget that our family are people just like us and we might hold them to unreasonably high standards. But at the end of the day we're all just ordinary people.



Quentin singing as his Dad looks on

REN WILES JR.

BIO

Age: **19**, School: **Wake Tech Community College, Alumnus of Millbrook High School**

About me:

I am a Millbrook High School graduate majoring in Elementary Education at Wake Tech. I work for ESP and help with classroom instruction.

What "family" means to me:

Family is those who won't give up on you, even when you give up on them.

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

Inspired by Walt Whitman's "There was a Child went Forth," this poem is a reflection of my life, and several of the seemingly insignificant factors that shaped me into who I am now. It also illustrates my evolving relationship with my parents.

"THE PUZZLE PIECES IN A NEVER-ENDING PUZZLE"

The Puzzle Pieces of a Never-ending Puzzle

by Ren Wiles Jr.

A Derivative Piece based on Walt Whitman's "There was a Child went Forth"

"There was a child went forth every day, and the first object he looked upon, that he became. . ."

Imagination became part of me.

And colors and numbers and Legos and books and letters and the songs on the tapes,

And the kitchen and the little breakfast nook, and the back patio and the picnic table

And the blue recliner by the shiny dining room table, and the swing set and the sand box

And the mother freeing herself so she could be there with me, for me.

And the Presbyterians with their sense of community, all became part of me

The excitement of late December and June became part of me.

Teachers and those of the educational system, and the teachers of the life lessons,

And the dirt track and the caterpillars and slides and the woods by the schoolyard,

And the running home from the bus stop on the first day back when I had tracked back in,

(Ren Wiles – The Puzzle Pieces – pg.2)

And the dog that chewed on our couch to the point of banishment

And the other dog that passed, and the fish that jumped,

And the trampoline that could be anything

And Black & Blue, and the bikes and scooters,

And all the changes of casts and scripts for every new show.

My own parents, the man that had fathered me and she that had conceived me in her womb and birthed me and held me.

They gave me more of themselves than that,

They gave me every day; they became part of me as I became part of them.

My mother at home keeping everything together,

My mother with life tips, with her to-do list and calendar, a wiz at organizing, me refusing her help and regretting it as I failed,

My father, forever working, providing, Mr. Fix-It, grill master, acts of service.

My fighting, the conflict, the screaming, the toxicity,

The family mindset, the mentality, the bias, the forbidding, the subliminal messages and “anti”.

Son that will not be normal, the sense that my reality is wrong, the hope that I should one day become normal,

The reality of the situation and the refusal of acceptance, the curious side prevails and ponders,

Whether that which brain or heart overpowers, or is it all imaginary and made up?

Heart and mind, battling in the me, if they are not willing to agree in the correct way, what will I do?

The freaks themselves and the celebrities of the day, and me hiding in the closet,

Ellen, Kurt, the men from Modern Family, the inspiration in the dark closet,

The lightning decision born of an unstable mind seen from afar at last as rash, the twenty-minute in between,

Talking, crying and praying, the pain showing on the faces and in the eyes of my parents or sister, miles off,

(Ren Wiles – The Puzzle Pieces – pg.3)

Their timid, secret outings to the gatherings to learn how to show their love,

And the appreciation that appears five years too late.

The creek nearby forever flowing alongside the trail, the nature park; nature's last reserve,

The dancing, singing constantly, never caring, learning

The friendly intensity of card games, the appreciation of each other, taken away by drama, the outbursts of songs it all gets fixed by,

The night's finale, the parting song, the curtain-call of now, and forever.

Forever that comes to an end as a new Forever begins,

A Forever that has plagued man since the beginning of time.

Reality became a part of me.

"These became part of that child who went forth every day, and who now goes, and will always go forth every day."



HONORABLE MENTION - POETRY

SARAH DUNCAN

BIO

Age: **14**, School: **Millbrook High School**

HAIKU POEM - "THE ENVISAGE"

The Envisage

Once a shattered kin
Through time built fidelity
Unveiling a hope

by Sarah Duncan



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

My simple yet significant haiku is a resemblance of my broken but loving family. The haiku reveals my family story on how an imperfect kin over time built on faith and trust, resulting in yet again an imperfect family but this time with the aspiration to work together. My haiku relates to "The Dream of Family" because it shows what I would want to see in every family. To me, "The Dream of Family" is not one that is perfect, but one that is willing to work together and reach the goal of becoming a better family than before. This is my envisage.

POEM – "HOMONYMIC WORLDS"

(poem on next page)

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

As a teenager, I find it hard to look at the positive side of family. Through this poem I elaborate on what family is to me, thinking back to what I consider as family. I link my memories in the past of family to what I want in the future in the next generation. This poem relates to "The Dream of Family" because in my poem I describe what I look for in my future kin!

ESP NOTE: A derivative work from the poem "Where I'm From" by George Ella Lyon

**“Homonymic Worlds”
by Sarah Duncan**

I am from black and white keys
from Baldwin and John Thompsons,
I am from the swing set within my vicinity,
Chain-linked enticing,
it felt like brisk, lively metal when my hands brushed against the chains.
I am from the Sansevieria trifasciata
the Kentucky blue grass
whose plushness I could lay on
as if it were my own bed.

I'm from homemade peach cobbler and pudgy noses,
from Rusty and Jun.
I'm from the boisterous
And the conscientious,
from 'Go to bed!' and 'Wake up!'
I'm from Living Hope
with Vacation Bible School
and wild mission trips.

I'm from Seoul and Moxley,
grits and kimchi.
From the pelvis and skull my dad fractured
to a car accident,
the grievous battles my grandmother fought.

Aloft my wardrobe lays a stack of photo albums,
a scatter of variously filtered photos,
with foreign and familiar faces
that I smile at and will always be in my memory.
At this I envision the future that is nearby,
Yet so obscure to know that soon,
I can entrust these memories to another generation.
I dream for my children and the children of my children
To encounter the meaning of family,
just as I have.
Because I am from the melting pot
two worlds so diverse –
yet so similar.

SYDNEY MCCOY

BIO

Age: **15**, School: **Apex High School**

About me:

I am a hardworking student. I also love cooking, volunteering, and playing Lacrosse and softball.

What "family" means to me:

Family means everything to me; here a few words that describe mine: friendship; advocate; model; involved; loving and youthful. My parents support me in everything I do as do my siblings and extended family which included so many supporters and friends that I have met I worked with.

SONG – "THE BEST DAY" BY TAYLOR SWIFT

The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

This song describes how many things my family especially my parents have done for me. The words are very touching and descriptive.

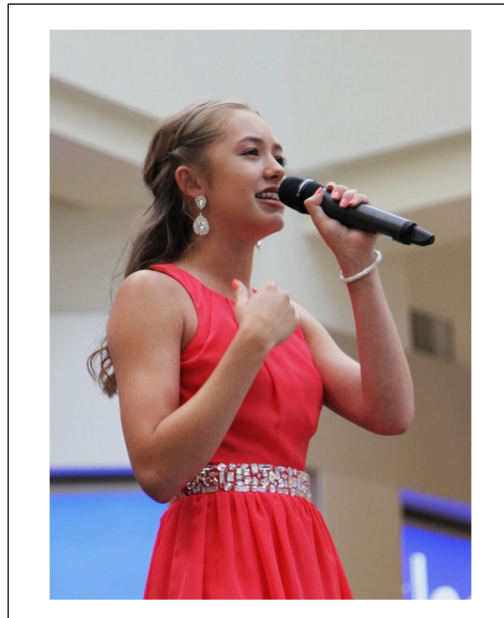
The Best Day

Lyrics by Taylor Swift

I'm five years old
It's getting cold
I've got my big coat on

I hear your laugh
And look up smiling at you
I run and run
Past the pumpkin patch
And the tractor rides
Look now, the sky is gold
I hug your legs
And fall asleep on the way home

I don't know why all the trees change in the fall ...



HONORABLE MENTION - PERFORMANCE

Sydney McCoy – second entry

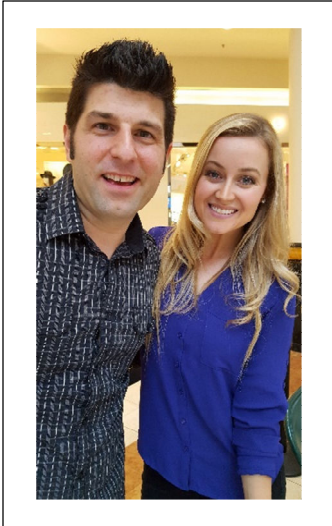
PAINTING – “MOSAIQUE”



The Inspiration / Message of this entry:

My art piece represents each family member as a unique individual, colorful and fun. When you apply the glue or grout all of the pieces representing a family member come together to create a beautiful and well bonded unit. A true family that is supportive and acts as one

ADDITIONAL SHOWCASE HELPERS



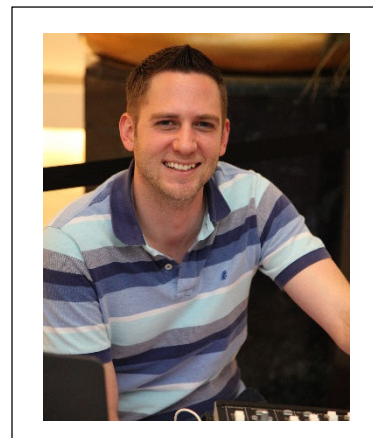
Emcees
Steve Wazz & Jamie O'Brien



Information Desk
Brandy Artis & Leslie Claiborne



Post-it Table
Tara Baker, ESP Instructor (center)



DJ
Caleb Gardner

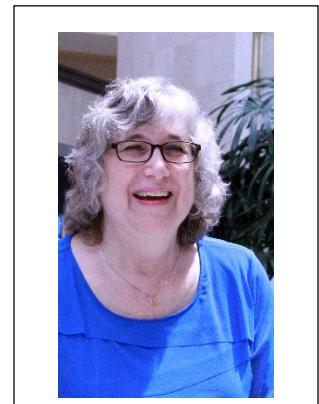
"Dream of Family" Showcase – May 2016

Congratulations

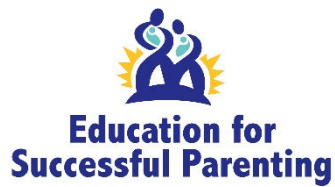
to all the participating teens and volunteers
for an outstanding event!



Thank you!



Randi Rubenstein
Founder / CEO
Education for Successful Parenting



Preparing today's youth, tomorrow's parents

For more information

Visit our website: www.eduparents.org

Email us: info@eduparents.org

Call us: (949) 646-6016

Education for Successful Parenting is an incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal ID # 26-2098947. All contributions to ESP are deductible for tax purposes.