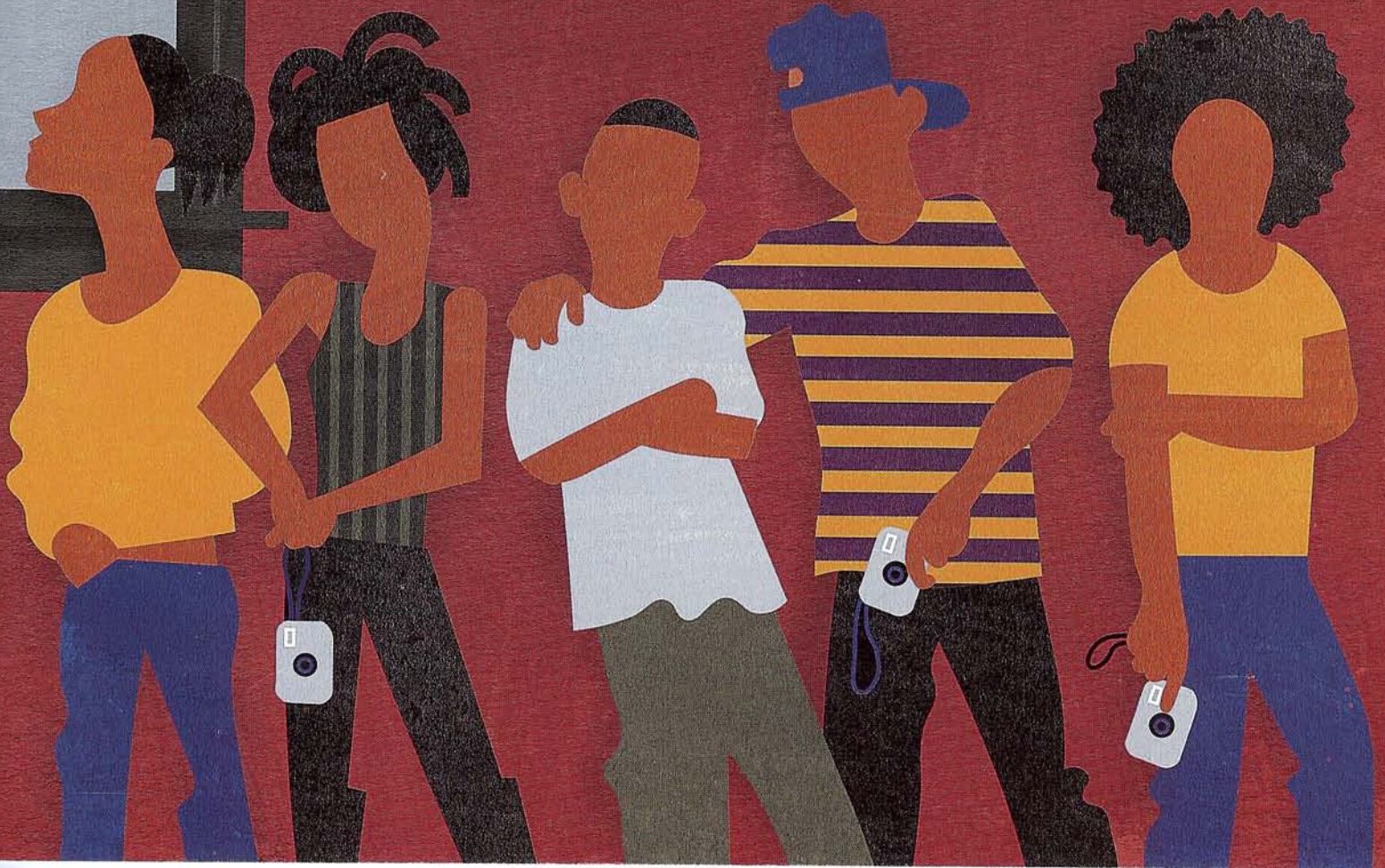


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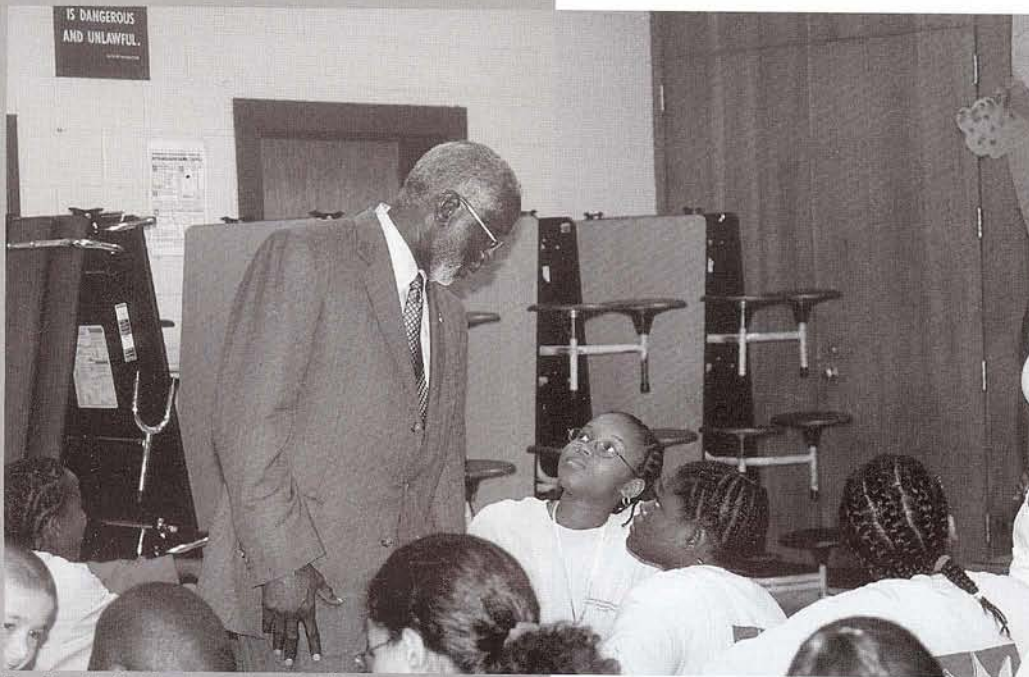
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Your \$5.00 purchase of this book will go directly to help enrich the programs for the children of Enrico Fermi School #17. Additional contributions will also be gratefully welcome. Thank you for your support.

To order Children's Vision & Voices, please contact:
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Cover Illustration by David Cowles



Dr. David Satcher meets with 6th grade students at the Enrico Fermi School #17.

Kesserian Ngara? How Are Our Children?

As you and I might greet each other with the question, How are you? In Nigeria, the often repeated greeting is Kesserian Ngara? Roughly translated it means, "How are the children?" The typical response by Nigerians is "All is well and at peace."

This exchange holds great meaning for me. While serving as Surgeon General, it became apparent to me that all is not well or at peace with children in our country. Across the nation, lack of immunizations, tobacco and illegal drug use, obstacles that prevent regular access to care, accidental injuries, and violence all plague our children, especially those living in impoverished communities. And just as these issues plague our children, they also affect adults and communities.

Children's Visions and Voices seeks to give the children in a Rochester, New York community a voice and a way to express their vision for a safer and healthier community. Sponsored by the University of Rochester Medical Center and supported by Citicorp, the following photos and essays were taken and written by sixth graders at the Enrico Fermi School No. 17, located in the Jay-Orchard Street area. These children face challenges every day as they live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city.

I am always amazed at what we learn when we take the time to listen to children. Often, we just assume kids are not thinking about their health or the health of others. But when you ask them, you realize these issues are on their mind, and that they have much to say about the topic. After all,

children don't typically write books or give speeches to voice their opinions.

But give them a camera, and you give children the opportunity to help us see the world through their eyes. Give them a pen and they have an opportunity to be heard. Without their perspective, we cannot see the full scope of community issues that need our attention or deal with the unique challenges that they themselves face.

Our future lies in the healthy bodies and minds of our children. We need to continue to tap into their minds and thoughts, for their input is invaluable to those of us who have the ability and resources to construct programs that counteract health problems.

All is not well or at peace, especially in this Jay-Orchard Street neighborhood. Please listen to the voices of these children, look through their eyes and consider how your community might work together with them to make a difference. Solving even just one of the issues identified by the children will make a world of difference.

Kesserian Ngara.

David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D.

16th Surgeon General of the United States
Director, National Center for Primary Care,
Morehouse School of Medicine
And Senior Advisor for Community Health,
University of Rochester Medical Center

children's vision and voices



As you view the following pages, you will see compelling photographs of the Jay-Orchard Street neighborhood through children's eyes. You'll also read, in their own words, about their frustration and the urgency of the problems they face each day. We hope you will be moved by these "visions and voices" and join others to help improve the quality of life for these children living in our own backyard.





The House of Danger

Shakiyla Graham

This house is very dangerous and unhealthy for our community.

The burned house should not be in the community around young children because it leads to lead poisoning. This house is also dangerous because a lot of crime can happen in this house, such as young kids being raped by older men. Drugs may be sold around and in this house. Killing might occur in this house. This is also a bad example for young kids by all of the littering. This house makes me feel like I have some killer following me around. I think they should tear down this house and rebuild it to make me feel better.

That is what will make me feel safer.



Second Hand Smoke

Muhammad Jenkins

Smoking! Here are two adults who are older. They are also unhealthy. The man in the wheelchair has an oxygen tank and the lady is smoking. This lady can die from cancer by smoking. This man should not be near people who smoke because it could make his lungs worse. Smoking is bad for the people who are smoking and for people who are around them. This can set a bad example for younger people. People should stop smoking and take better care of their health.



Garbage and Paint Chips

Shaunda McCarthy

This picture is about paint because the people that own the church need to paint the gate. I think that they need to cut the grass. They also need to pick up garbage, rake the yard, and put garbage in the garbage can. The gates need scraping and new paint. It will look a lot better. People in the neighborhood could get lead poisoning because of the paint chips. If paint is coming off the walls, doors, and rooms, it is not safe. The little kids can peel the paint off and put it in their mouths and they can choke from it. If they eat the paint chips they can die. When someone is playing on the gate they could hurt themselves. If the gate was fixed up I would feel a lot more safe in my community.



One Unsafe Environment

Sherann Alligood

Some of the problems that make our community unsafe are drugs, abandoned houses and littering garbage. This picture shows a drug house and unsafe sidewalk that need to be fixed and a caution sign on the stairway that should stay there. Living in this kind of environment people can really get hurt. The house adds to one very unsafe environment.

One of the things we need to do to keep our environment safe is to stop drugs and littering. As a community we should respect our neighborhood and keep it safe and healthy.

One thing we need to do to keep our community clean and healthy is to get rid of the abandoned houses. The landlords should be made to be responsible in helping take care of the environment by keeping up their properties. Taking care of our community should be everybody's responsibility. This is how I feel about our unsafe environment.



Crime and Fire Hazards

Shaniqua Pelote

I think there's a connection between a burned down house and unhealthy environments. Every day when I walk through my neighborhood I see many abandoned and burned down houses. This house that I took a picture of really caught my eye. Just thinking about inside that house and getting a good look at it really was horrible. Just looking at the rusted paint and the wood chips hanging off really spoke out to me.

Abandoned houses and burned down houses have many similarities, such as drug dealings, killings and graffiti. Drugs are dangerous because some drug dealers try to get kids to buy some of their products.

Killings happen every day in my neighborhood. Drugs are also dangerous because the person who's doing the drugs can get lung disease, cancer or even die.

I feel that my neighborhood is unhealthy because there's shootings and garbage everywhere. Everywhere you turn the police are on the corner arresting someone or the news is reporting a shooting.

It's very dangerous for kids to explore abandoned houses, especially when someone was killed inside. Basically, it's dangerous to go inside abandoned houses period.

What I really want to see is to watch that house get fixed up and people living there once again.



Liquor is Bad for You

Seth Bray

Hi. My name is Seth Bray. I am 12 years old in the 6th grade. My teacher is great. His name is Mr. Macaluso. Liquor is bad for your health. People should not drink liquor or beer because it could make you confused. They could get drunk and shoot someone and cause problems in our neighborhood. They might cause fights and someone could get hurt. Alcoholics are people who can not stop drinking. They're putting themselves in danger because they could get drunk and fall off something and get a concussion or die. I think people should not drink that much or maybe not drink at all. The only time people should drink is on holidays, at parties and on special occasions. I think people should not sell liquor or beer. I think they should find something safer to sell. People should not buy liquor or beer because it makes our neighborhood a bad place. That is how I feel. I think beer and liquor makes our neighborhood a bad place.



Litter

Hector Quillies

Litter is dirty. It is unclean. Litter pollutes the environment. Paint is peeling off the side of the house. Wood is coming off the house. There is a rusty railing leading to the porch. The house numbers are broken and hanging off the house. There are broken windows with sharp glass sticking up. In the house there is broken glass. There is an empty bottle on the floor. There are nails sticking out of the walls. Dirt is all over the porch. There is a pile of garbage on the floor—food wrappers, paint chips, broken tiles, pieces of wood. The tiles are ripped off the floor. The wallpaper is ripped off the walls. It is not safe to go inside the house. It is dangerous. People might get hurt if they go inside the house. It would not be healthy to live in a house like that. It makes me feel awful to see a house like that. People might take advantage of that situation by doing or dealing drugs.



The Church

Joseph Schenk

The picture of the church is closed. The building is really big. The church needs some cleaning and it needs new windows. The church looks dirty inside. The church needs to be fixed. The building is nice. I wish that I could fix the church. The church should have crosses on it. The picture should be colorful.

The church is dangerous because people could be killed in the church. The people can get cut on the glass. People can go inside and can be doing things. People could be selling drugs, fighting and could be inside the church. I think the church is not safe.

The church should be running and clean. If the church was fixed I would tell my aunt to go there. The church should not look like it does, it should be painted brown. If the church was fixed up I would feel more safe in my community.



Run Down Store on Jay Street

Shaniqua Jackson

Economic development effects the safety of my community. On Jay Street there's a store that has been closed for months. It is not safe for kids to be around the store, because you never know if there might be drug dealers. Drug dealers might hurt kids and do something that is not appropriate. The store in the picture has chip bags, paper and other garbage around it. It seems as if the community will never stop littering. There are dangerous things on the floor such as glass. Our community should always be clean and safe for the kids.



The Tombstone

Charles Crawley

The people who die are the people we will remember. This picture of the tombstone is for a boy who died violently. The boy died on the street because of violence. The community has to stop the violence. The police have to get the drugs out of the community. This is what I want to change, so that people can stop being killed.



An Abandoned House

Kashandra Cosme

I chose this picture because it shows an abandoned house. Inappropriate activities could be going on in this house. Some of the windows are boarded up and others are broken. We don't know what's going on inside. I think we could help the community and people by fixing it up and renting it or tearing it down. They should put lights up that go on when someone is near it, or cameras around so that people would be scared and stay away.

I think they should fix this house because people could fall on the glass or something sharp and get hurt. Another reason they should do something is because rats and roaches can live in these houses. Something needs to be done about these houses.



Unsafe

Monique Byrd

Look at it! What do you see? What I see is an old messy unsafe factory. It has been here so long. When I go past it, I don't think about it. When I look at it I wonder what is in there. Someone can get raped in there. It looks so old that if someone steps on the wrong part, it will collapse. I wish someone could fix it so our streets would look better.



No One Lives Here

Pauleatta Terry

This is a house that has been here like this for many years. The house has drug addicts living in it. It also has rats, cats and all different kinds of animals living in it. I'm writing about this because the city needs to do something about abandoned buildings that have been there for a long time. No one cares to do anything about it so I am going to get everyone's attention and we will do something. I believe our community can be a better place.



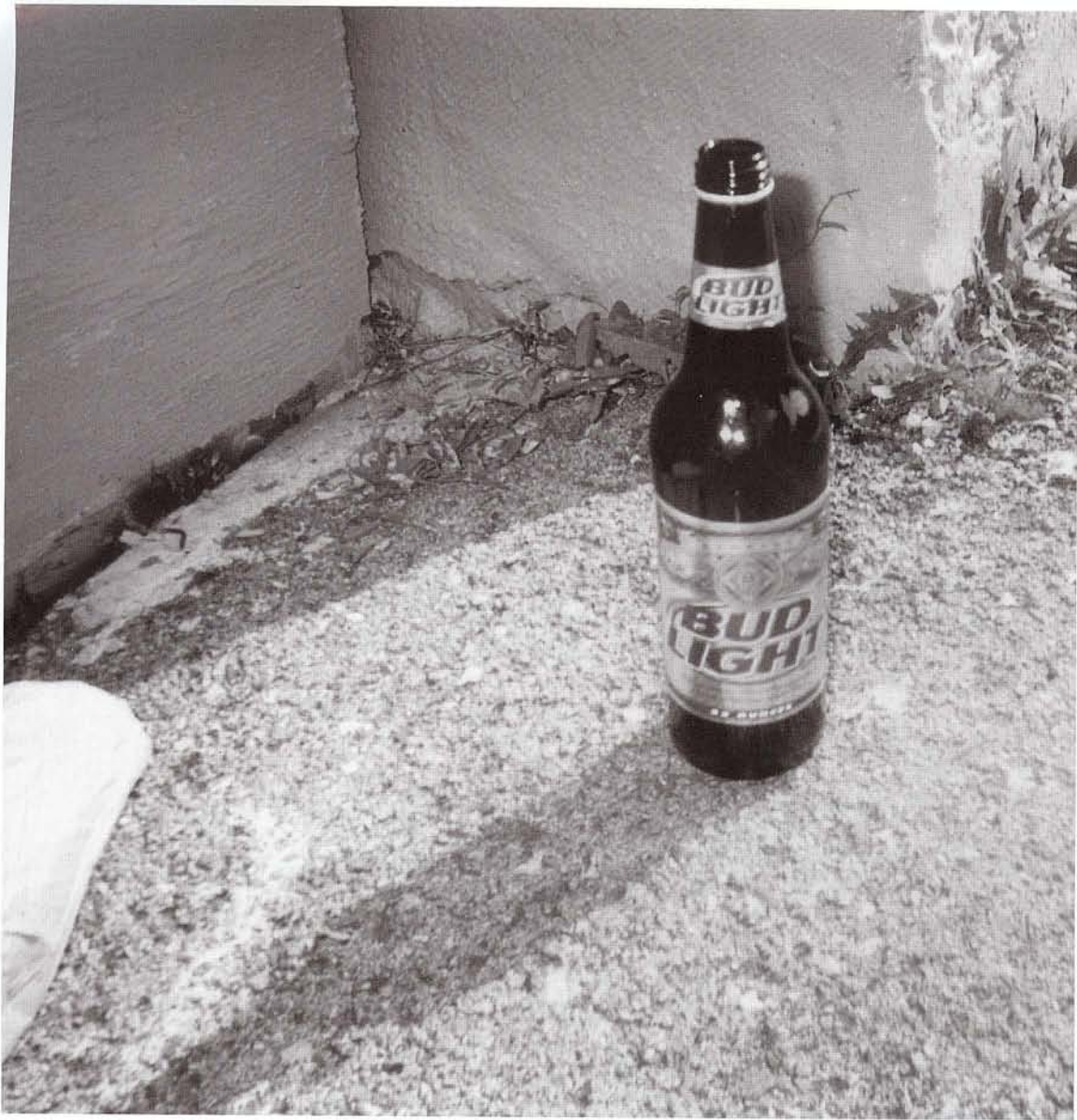
photo by Mark Parker

Wet Paint

Joel Perez

A big problem in my community is graffiti. It is destroying our homes. Gangs sometimes do graffiti. Dangerous problems can start if another gang member comes along and writes something over words that are already there. It can even lead to shootouts.

People work hard to make their houses beautiful. Because of graffiti, the prices of houses go down. No one wants to live in these neighborhoods. Windows get broken, the grass gets high and garbage piles up all over. There is a simple way to solve this problem. Paint over it.



The Dangers and Effects of Alcohol

Theron McGee

A problem in my community is the danger and effects of alcohol. Alcohol has many effects on people like if you drink too much, you go haywire. A lot of young people die from drunk drivers in New York State. The alcohol limit is .08. If you are behind the wheel of a car and if you are .08, you are legally intoxicated.

If you drink alcohol excessively, you are considered an alcoholic. A danger of alcohol is liver disease. Moms who drink alcohol while they are pregnant are killing their unborn babies, (that is called a "stillborn"), or they are born under weight or with birth defects.

The age limit of drinking alcohol should be raised to the age of 30 years. I think alcohol should be right up there with drugs; illegal because it changes your mood and reflexes and if you are behind the wheel of a car after drinking, you are driving while intoxicated (D.W.I.).

Before the year 2020, I want to see help for the alcohol abusers because jail is not helping them. When I am an adult, I will have kids. I don't want my kids growing up around alcohol because they might think it is OK and start drinking and I don't want my kids to abuse alcohol.



An Alcohol Bottle

Shaquon Woods

In this picture you see an empty alcohol bottle. Any little kid can do anything with that. I don't feel alright about this bottle on the ground. It should be in the trash. Anything could happen if the bottle is left there. Somebody could get hurt. This picture relates to me because this neighborhood is falling apart, everything is going to fail. Everything is going to fail because people are littering in the world. Things like this are going to start happening more often. I really don't like to see things like this around the world. We have to stop the people who litter. We have to keep the world clean. This is how I feel about our city being polluted.



Caution: Lead Poisoning

Rasool Muhammad

Hi my name is, Rasool Muhammad, and I am twelve years old. I have a nice teacher. His name is Mr. Macaluso. The title of this picture is, 'Lead Poisoning.'

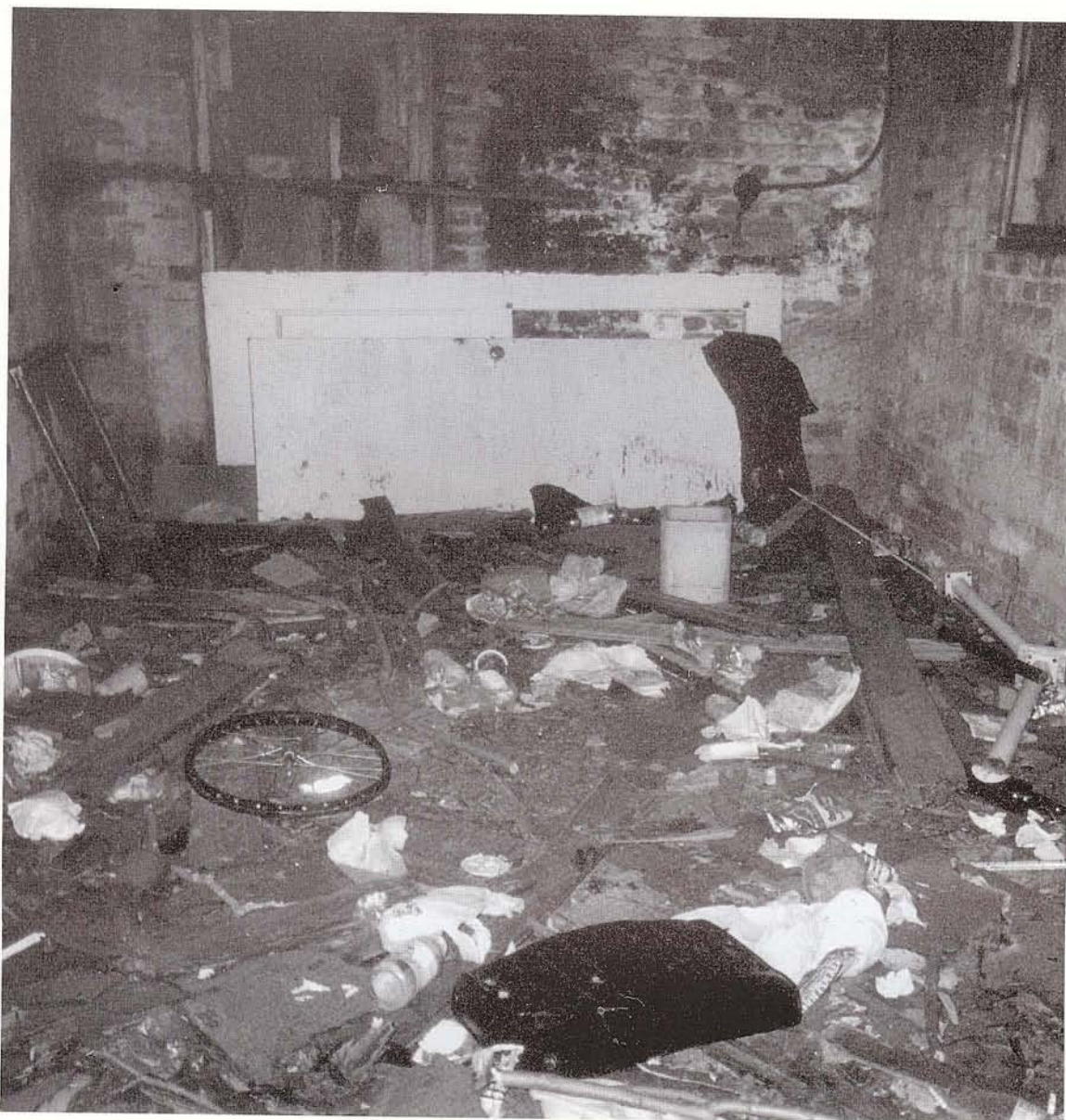
One of the problems with abandoned houses in our community is that they are sources of lead poisoning.

Older people need to watch the younger kids because they are playing around houses. Then they try to eat the lead chips off the house. It can give the little kids brain damage. It also can damage the internal organs and kidneys. This only occurs when it accumulates in the body.

There are other ways you can get lead poisoning, like in gasoline fumes, soldering fumes, foil wine bottle caps, residue, certain types of air, vegetables and many other types of things.

Yes, there is a way you can tell your child has lead poisoning because of stomach aches, sleeplessness, learning problems, constipation, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, lowered I.Q. and anemia.

Those were all the things I learned about lead poisoning.



The Dirty Garage

Richard Calderon

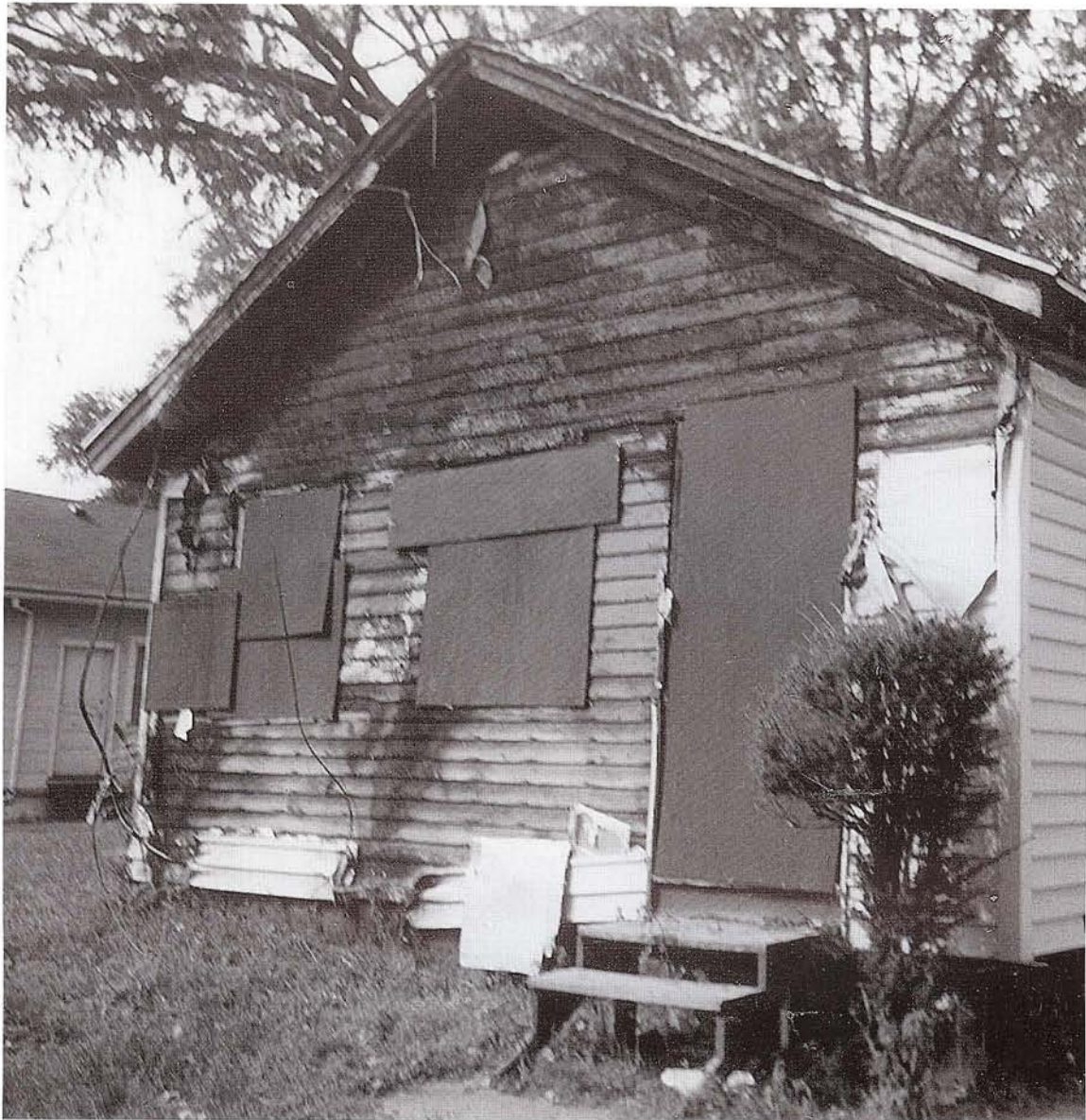
This garage has not been cleaned. People treat it like it is a garbage can. People walk by it and throw their trash in it. There are clothes in there like somebody might live there. This garage makes me disgusted. When I passed by this garage to take a picture, it smelled bad. This garage looks like it caught on fire once. Mice, rats, and cats could live here. This is an example of what is dirty in our neighborhood. We need to make some changes.



The Dangerous Dogs

Brannon Fowler

One way my community is not safe is because of the bad dogs in the community. The dogs in this picture scare little kids who walk to school in the morning. The dogs might have ticks that might effect the human body in life. The house and the dogs are really musty. These people need to clean their dogs. These dogs could bite someone if they were not chained up. The dogs can kill people. The dogs in this picture really stink and they will effect the air that we breathe in our community today. These dogs do not look healthy. Neither do the people who live in this house. They need to clean all of the dogs' poop up in this yard. These dogs want to bite the people who were just now walking by the house. That is why these dogs are not healthy in our community.



Safety
Naomi Acosta

This picture of a boarded-up house is unsafe for young kids who pass by the house. The kids could be playing outside and get hurt. I would knock down the house. After I was finished I would make a playground and let the little kids play. The way I feel about this picture is since the house is boarded up the burned pieces can be chipping and could lead to lead poisoning. When a strong wind comes it might blow the pieces away and the pieces can disrupt the rest of the neighborhood. I feel that particular house makes the neighborhood look dirty. That is what I feel about that boarded-up house.



An Abandoned Building

Brandon Johnson

The abandoned building in the picture is very unsafe to the community and environment. One other thing is that it makes the community look bad so the suburbs can talk about how our community looks so bad. This building is not healthy because many bad things can happen like somebody can get killed and put the body there, or somebody can get raped or assaulted. The city needs to fix the building or knock it down, so nobody can get hurt. I feel that all the abandoned buildings, houses, and stores should be in business or not there any more. The last thing is that trash is all over the place and the grass looks bad because it is not cut. Wood is on top of the roof and it looks so pitiful. It can have many drug activities going on at the abandoned building. I do not feel safe at all when I am walking past an abandoned building, house, or an apartment, because anything can happen to me or anybody who walks past abandoned buildings.



For Sale
Vanessa Reyes

This is a typical house in my neighborhood. No one would like to live in it because it has "Caution" written on all the steps. Does the owner really think it will sell? Why don't people care enough to fix it up? They could put in new windows, do some repainting, replace the old door, and fix the front steps. After that they could cut the bushes back, pick the litter up from the yard and cut the lawn.

After all of this is done, then put the for sale sign on it. Maybe someone would want to buy it and live in it. If we fixed up all of the houses that need fixing, it would make our community a better place.



A Dream Playground

Tania Sims

I live on Bowan Street. It's a good neighborhood. I live in a neighborhood where kids like to play and get along with each other. There is one thing we are missing; a place where children can play together. I agree with the people in my neighborhood who think that we should have a big playground. The name of the playground would be "The Bowman Community Playground." This might not sound really important to you, but it is important to my community. The playground would have swings, a big twisting slide, a climbing wall, climbing cage, a mini car race track, a small bridge with a creek under it, monkey bars, teeter totters, a jungle gym, and a small play house. All the children want is a place where they can have some enjoyment in their lives.



The Trash of Our Neighborhood

Johanis McCullough

Wrong, hurtful and sad. Our neighborhood should not look like this. It should be clean and neat. My little brother can't even go outside without getting cut by a piece of glass. I walk to school and see people drop their trash on the ground. I feel hurt and angry. Our neighborhood may not be the suburbs, but this is our neighborhood, and we should care about it. My cousin works for the city, and he told me that the more they clean, the more people continue to trash. I wish our neighborhood could be clean and neat, because this is where I live and I care about it.



Abandoned House

Audria Williford

Trash! Unhealthy! Disgusting! There is trash in abandoned houses. There are lots of things wrong with abandoned houses. What is not safe about abandoned houses? There are drug dealers in them. Gang members usually hang out in abandoned houses. Kids can go in them to play and get hurt. Other bad things can happen in them. People can get raped and used. Homeless people live in them. Animals like rats can live in them. Some people are afraid to walk on the same side of street as a house like this. These are things that are unsafe and unhealthy around our neighborhood. We have to do something about abandoned buildings in our neighborhood. Please, do whatever you can to help us with our community.



Easy Getaway

Sergio Dros

It is easy for murderers and drug dealers to get away from our neighborhood after they commit crimes. There is a highway that makes it easier for them to escape quickly. They can get far away in a short time. We should have more police to drive around our neighborhood to try to look for crimes that are about to happen and for people who have committed crimes. This area has a lot of crime because there aren't a lot of police around and it is easy for them to escape. We should have more neighborhood watches to keep our environment safe.



A Bad Influence

Nikea Yelder

This is a bad influence for adults and children. This lounge is also a bad influence on the entire community. They paint pictures on the windows of women in bikinis or worse yet, half-naked. These kinds of places should be changed into regular restaurants where families can go get something to eat. We have to walk by here every day. People are getting drunk, and then getting in their cars and driving through our streets. A drunk driver could kill someone. These clubs are a disgrace to our neighborhood.



Graffiti

Andre Cotton

There is graffiti on many buildings in my neighborhood. People who do this are setting a bad example for kids and adults too. We have to walk past this every day. Sometimes graffiti causes people to fight over what has been written. Sometimes graffiti means there are gangs in the area. They mark their area with it so other gangs will stay away or know who they are. People should stop doing this. We want to see the healthy plants that are nice to look at, not the ugly sight of the writing on the walls of our buildings.



Polluted Community

Sheila Soto

My picture is of an empty lot filled with garbage. I picked this picture because seeing all the litter bothers me and does not look very nice. It does not look very safe and clean.

Also it does not look safe because little kids can get hurt by picking up the garbage that people throw down on sidewalks. Also kids could get sick by putting the garbage in their mouths.

The litter does not look very nice, because it is not clean and people do not have respect for the neighborhood or the world. Because they throw their trash on the ground they think that the floor is the garbage can.

If people stopped thinking that our neighborhood is a garbage can and picked up their garbage, it would look like a much better place. If people would think before they throw their garbage on the ground, the neighborhood would be a cleaner and safer place to live.

I hope my picture will interest you and hope you really like it a lot. To me, this is a picture that would change the minds of people who litter on the ground.



Health

Karbara Maxey

Laying on the side of the grass is a lighter. A lighter that could make someone addicted. A child could see this lighter and use it. They could find things like cigarettes to try. That could be the beginning of someone starting to hurt themselves, starting with a lighter. Children like to play and explore. When they see something like this it makes them curious. They want to see what it does. They not only could get addicted to cigarettes, but other hurtful things. People can get addicted to marijuana. Marijuana is something that people also are addicted to. There are problems with people smoking all the time. The lighter could make a kid suffer. Some people could quit, but it takes a long time when you get addicted to stop. The lighter really doesn't help people from getting addicted when it's on the ground. That makes kids want to start things like smoking even more. By the lighter being on the ground it makes kids think about starting. Lighters should not be where any child could get it. It's a shame that things like lighters are on the ground. I really hope things like that could get off the streets. Nobody needs to live as a smoker.



Too Much Litter

Gregory Horace

Does this community look healthy? If we keep on throwing garbage on the ground, this is what our community will continue to look like. We could stop living in an area like this, or we could work together to make our community clean. Areas like this have gangs forming, street fights, and too many abandoned houses. Garbage is just getting thrown on the ground and our streets are polluted. If other people see a lot of people picking up trash, they will probably pitch in. In abandoned houses people could do drugs, or abuse others and cause violence. Everybody needs to help keep our community clean and safe.



Non-Safe House

Oswaldo Gonzalez

This house has many things wrong with it. One thing is it has lead poisoning and it is boarded up. It is boarded up because some drug selling or a killing occurred. This is important because grown men or teenagers can be selling drugs inside the house. This is bad for little kids to learn from the ages three and up. This house should be knocked down because it is nasty looking and very disgusting. Another reason I think it should be knocked down is because many things can be going wrong like drug sellers could be using this house for a hideout. They could even use it for a place to kill somebody. This makes me feel bad because little kids could get a serious condition.



Pollution

Christian Rayford

Pollution is a nasty thing. If people don't clean up after themselves there will be nowhere to live because the earth will be too polluted to live on. We'll just drift into space. Pollution is the dirtying of the environment, especially with waste material. Pollution is bad for the body. It's bad for the body because it will make your stomach hurt, and close up your lungs so you can't breathe. Pneumonia is a disease that does sort of the same thing. Pneumonia causes inflammation of the lungs. It also causes a high fever and a hard, dry cough. It often follows a bad cold or other diseases. Pneumonia in both lungs is called double pneumonia.

The earth is our home. It may just be for the rest of our lives. If so, we will need to be vigilant about it. I hope we can clean up our act and make this planet livable again. I want this planet to look the way it did before us humans came on it.

There are many ways we can stop polluting. For example we can start stopping pollution by merely stopping litter. And by joining in a local project to clean up our neighborhoods. You can also help by saving energy. Remember to turn off the television and the light when they are not being used. I hope that the people who live on earth can do this.

The lesson we should learn is to never litter and to save our power. If you care about our planet you will fight to save it.



Who's Safety

Shawn Latimer

Sometimes people try to protect their house, but they are also leading kids to danger. Some of the paint is peeling off this fence. Some kids could get hurt if they try to climb it. If a kid ate the peeling paint, they could get lead poisoning or they could die.

People stick paper and trash on the fence points. Some kids can get stuck on the fence. The kids' shirts might get ripped on the fence. They could get killed if they fall on the tips.

There was trash on the ground and it was surrounding the fence. There was broken glass all over the place and cigarette butts all around the place. The house had trash and broken wood with nails all in them. I think they should make a new fence with a better surrounding. They should paint it or get a new one. They could make a new parking lot with new tar and parking spots.



Broken Pieces of Glass

Latoya Singletary

There are many things that are making this city a mess. People trashing and polluting the state by breaking, shooting wrapper papers on the ground. There are a lot of things that people should not do on the streets also.

This picture is of broken pieces of glass. These pieces of glass can effect many lives. They come from either a broken window or from an alcohol bottle that was broken. This glass is very unhealthy because kids might be playing in the grass and a whole bunch of glass can get stuck in someone's back or eye. They can even fall on it and cut themselves. Then a piece can become embedded in their skin. Then they might have to go to the hospital to get serious stitches. If I had a chance I would clean up the lawn, make it into a field where people can play football, soccer and many other games.

That's why broken pieces of glass are dangerous and unhealthy to the city. Maybe someday we can clean up the world.



Polluting Our Community

Ashalynn Kirkland

One of the many problems that make our community unhealthy and unsafe is pollution. Pollution is the trashing of any part of the environment. This picture is showing trash all over the place. The ground is covered with candy wrappers, papers, plastic and other things. I think people should learn to respect our community and they should learn to keep it safe and healthy. We can help keep our community clean by picking up our trash and throwing it away instead of putting it on the ground. Polluting is unsafe because one day a little kid could eat a piece of trash and die. Litter is a good place for germs and diseases to grow.

Another thing that I don't like about having trash everywhere is it depresses me. I live here and I want to see my community as a pretty place and not a dump.

More people should take some responsibility and help make our community become one of the healthiest and safest places around.

I think if we all work the world will be a healthy, safe and better place to live.



Caution: Lead Poisoning

Quincy Inman

Lead poisoning is a very deadly poison. The word poison means: a substance very dangerous to life and health. Arsenic and lead are both poisons.

This is a picture of a boarded up house. The house is boarded up because it has lead poisoning. Lead poisoning can cause brain damage and most of the time it can kill you.

Lead poisoning is a serious epidemic. The highest rate of lead is in lead based chips and old window glaze. Some other ways you can receive lead is from bootleg whiskey, certain inks and produce. You should call your local health office.



Drugs

Melvin Brinson

A few days ago I had an assignment. My assignment was to go outside and take pictures of what I saw that doesn't belong on the ground. I took 12 pictures of everything that's bad so a few days later I had to write an essay. The three I picked were of a weed bag, a cigar pipe and boarded up house. The first one I am going to write about is the boarded up house. Boarded up houses are where drug dealers hang out at to smoke weed and do drugs. You see weed bags every day because of the drug dealers and see them taking it from other people. I even see kids my age doing drugs. It is really bad for you. Cigar pipes were also bad for now you see people smoking them every day and see them on the ground every day. I heard if people keep smoking they can have black lungs. I think drugs should stay off the street and so should people hanging out on the corners and people having guns.



Clean-up the Community

Brittany Howard

By the year 2020, I would like the community to look better than it looks now. I want to change people's ideas about their environment.

The children of today need to speak up to the adults and the government to change the laws about pollution. It's very sad to me that people don't care about their community.

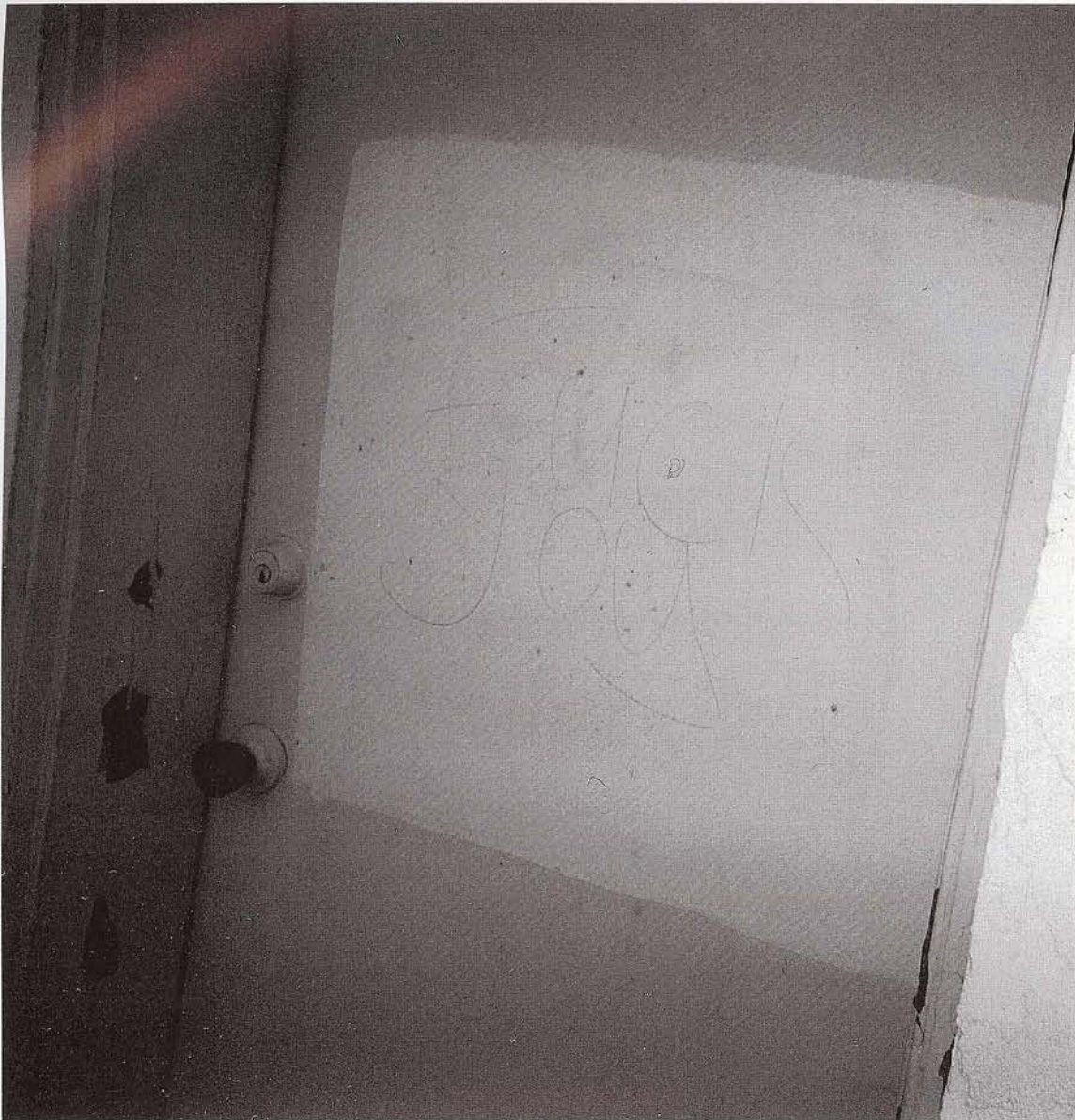


Photograph - Jared Martinez

Playgrounds

Brittany Dolan

Look. Kids are swinging here, but one may be left out because of a broken swing. Broken things, even though they are little things like a swing or a slide need to be fixed. Instead of playing here, children can get hurt by broken chains. I wish these things would get fixed so children in my neighborhood can enjoy them instead of being left out.



Unfortunate Profanity

Justice Williams

Most houses have welcome signs on the front door. In our community people have "Beware of Dog," or "No Trespassing" signs. Some houses have "Beware of Owner" signs to tell people not to come in. Unfortunately, some people have profanity on their doors or houses and on their schools. It is sad for people who care about their community to see all the houses that have profanity. It is sad for little kids to see profanity on property. When they see this, they feel free to use it or to speak with those words. Do you think we can make a difference and change our community?



You Will Always Be Missed

Tykwées Bice

Sad. Shameful. Pitiful. When I look at this memorial, I feel disgusted. It's a memorial to a child. This child was once a member of the Enrico Fermi School #17 family. It seems with his death a piece of our school puzzle is missing. He was shot in the head over nonsense. Nonsense in the form of drugs. He was outside simply because it was too hot to be inside. What makes me even sadder is that the day he was shot, he was playing football with me. This is what normal kids do. After this tragic event, many memorials were set up around the neighborhood. The memorial pictured here is in the School #17 garden. Another one is at the site where this friend was shot and killed. There aren't as many children playing outside anymore.



Littering

Mark Rand

Our garbage is becoming part of the problem of a dirty community. If people can't take care of the recycling bins, how do you think they will handle the garbage? Do you think they will clean it up? If a little kid plays with this broken recycling bin, they might get hurt. Do you think my community will ever be safe? I want my neighborhood to be safe. It is important for people to recycle. Recycling helps keep our community clean. It keeps resources from going to waste. Communities need to be cleaned and begin to recycle to become healthy.



Danger in Our Neighborhood

A'Jana Riley

Did children play here once before? This pile of wood is outside in front of a house where a child used to play and live. What did this wood used to be? Did it used to be part of a house or something? This pile of wood is dangerous. The wood is dangerous because it has nails sticking out of it. Why do people leave things like this out in the neighborhood? What would happen to a child if they fell on top of it?

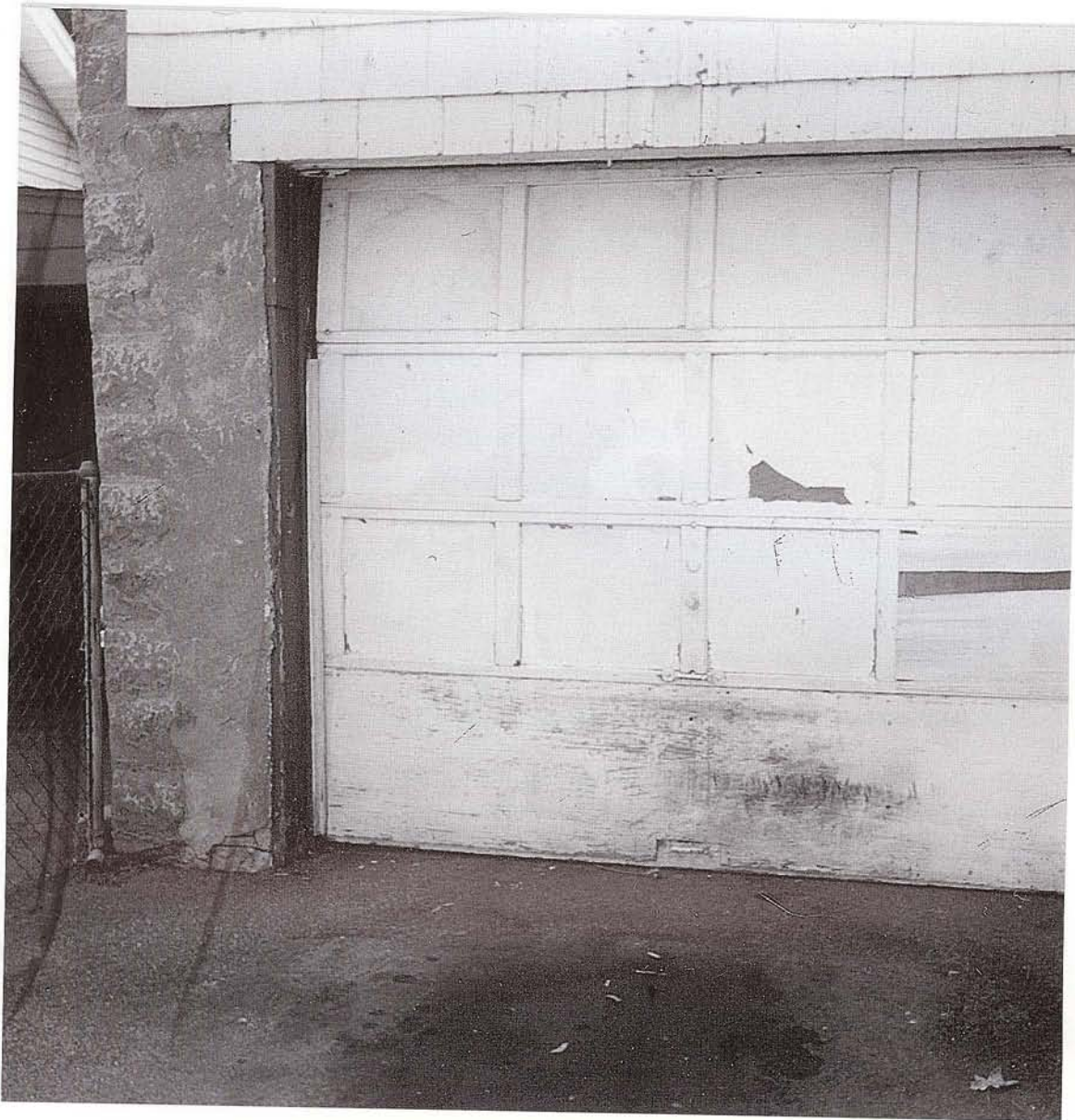
I worry about this wood because I don't want anybody to get hurt. This wood could probably be reused. Do people care about this? In this picture, does this community look healthy? I want this wood to be picked up, because I see a lot of this in my neighborhood. It could be my brother or sister who gets hurt.



Deserted Houses

Danielle Johnson

What can be done to prevent things like this from happening? Why is this house still up? Are there people living in this house? How did this happen? Things like this happen because landlords do not care about houses. People have to live in the house. Children are scared to pass this house on the way to school. People have to live next door to this. This affects the neighborhood where we live. The house has a hole on the outside. The power box is broken and the face is off the electrical box. The line is burned in two. I want to see this become a home for someone to live in again.



Chipped Paint

Unique Dorman

Lead poisoning is an illness from which over 35,000 people suffer. Although it affects adults, children are the ones most at risk. Little children usually put things in their mouths. Children can get lead poisoning from the dust and small particles that they breathe in or eat. This in turn can cause problems such as learning disabilities. Lead poisoning is usually from paint that is old and chipping found in old houses. It is also found in garages like the one shown in this picture.

The best way to prevent lead poisoning is to paint over chipping and peeling paint. If you do touch peeling paint, you should wash your hands right away. It's too bad that we have to worry about this at all.



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Memorial

Maylee Santiago

Why do our friends have to die needlessly? There is so much violence in our neighborhood. We should not be putting flowers on memorials for ten year old kids. This boy should be with me in the sixth grade. Instead he is dead because of an act of violence. He was shot by mistake over drugs. When is this violence going to stop? I want to feel safe in my neighborhood. This memorial for Tyshaun makes me feel very sad. Too many moms have lost their children in tragic acts of hate. A child should rest in his house, not in a grave.



Abandoned Houses

Zondrea Capps

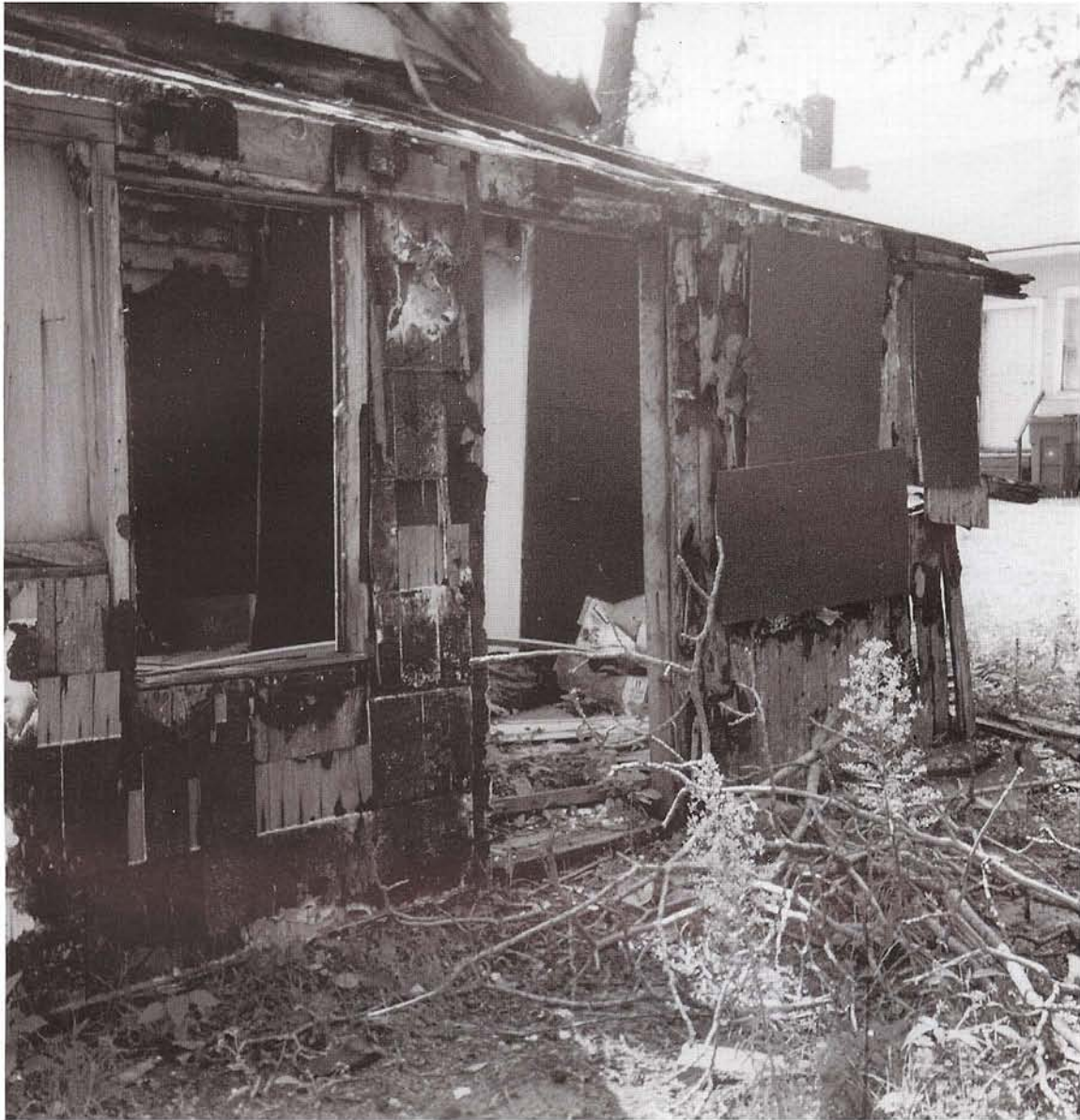
There is an abundance of abandoned houses in our neighborhood. There are so many abandoned houses because landlords do not want to fix them. The landlords don't want to fix them because they will just get broken again. Some people don't care about their houses. Abandoned houses are problems in our neighborhood. A little girl from our school was assaulted behind an abandoned house. Drug dealers come to abandoned houses to sell drugs. People have fights in abandoned houses. Abandoned houses are often dangerous because they are in neighborhoods where little kids play and can get hurt. I would like to see people fix abandoned houses or knock them down if they can't be fixed. I would like to see this happen so there won't be as much trouble. Our neighborhood would be better and a safer place if we didn't have so many abandoned houses.



Drug Dealers

Tajhz Perkins

Drug Dealers. Who are the drug dealers? Are they friendly? Do they help the community? No. They are the reason that people die. When the dealers don't get their money, they might go and hurt the person who owes them. When drug dealers get a hold of a weapon, they stop at nothing to kill someone. People fight over the drugs, somebody pulls a gun and starts shooting. Innocent bystanders are put in dangerous situations. A boy in my neighborhood got shot in the head. He's dead. Drug dealers are on every corner of my street. They pollute the air with their smoke, and throw their garbage all over the ground. Police officers ride by my house every day. I can't hear anything but sirens.



An Abandoned House

Jeannie Lowe

Terrible. Who burned down this house? Why is it still here? Those questions and many more can be asked. My sister and I are scared to go by this house. We have to on our way to school every day. Glass is everywhere around the house, trees are dead, and the doors are missing. The walls are burnt. This house has been this way for two years. People could still be living in this house if the landlord would fix it. Instead it is a place where kids can be sexually assaulted and killed. It can be a drug house. Someone could be hurt if it collapses. Why isn't the landlord doing anything about it? I would like to see my neighborhood free of abandoned houses.



Homeless and Abandoned

Marie Lewis

Photograph by Troi Cordell

People like this woman might not have a place to go home to. I see her every morning as my bus goes by. She sits in front of an abandoned building holding a bag that has her clothing in it. She can't be very healthy. She just sits and smokes. It's a dangerous place for her to be. The cement is falling off the building and who knows what might happen to her if she goes inside. Buildings like this need to be fixed. People should have homes. No one should have to live like this.



What is This About?

Jared Martinez

Gangs. Is this what this is about? Are these gang members' names, or are they some kind of threat? Kids who are playing here shouldn't have to look at this. They should be able to play basketball without having to see this writing and feeling afraid. Gangs are beating up kids for no reason. They spray paint sidewalks, houses, park equipment and buildings. Why? Is it because they have nothing better to do? Is it some kind of threat? Or do they just think it is funny?



Untitled

Tyrone Thomas

I would like to share my thoughts and opinions about the things that cause harm to people's health. This boarded up house that is for sale has windows that are opened and easy to get inside. We had an accident where a 9 year old from our school was sexually assaulted in another house similar to this. The landlord needs to fix the house before selling it or the city should fine the homeowner. This house is a danger to the community because it attracts negative behaviors of drug dealers and people who don't mind endangering others.



Dangerous

Annette Kirkland

For many years I thought I lived in a bad neighborhood, but not as bad as this neighborhood I just moved to. I walk through this neighborhood every day to get to school. I see people breaking windows. They don't seem to have any respect for the property. Children have to play in or near the broken glass because there isn't a nice park to go to. One of these days a child will get hurt. When people in our community do things like this they make all of us look bad.



Needle in the Lawn

Heather Parker

When we were walking around school our group found a needle in the lawn. It wasn't a sewing needle, but it was a drug needle. This picture shows a drug needle in the lawn. The needle was white on the outside and it had red lines. The needle was about 5 inches long. It was surrounded by grass and flowers. This dangerous item was really hard to see, so you had to almost step on it before you could see it. It was surrounded by dangerous stuff like grass, beer bottles and nails. A needle is dangerous because anybody can step on it. It also can cause bleeding and infection if you step on it. This needle might even be used as a weapon by someone bad.

I think the needle is very unsafe when kids are around it. The city should go around and pick up the needles around the neighborhood. I wrote about a needle because it is very unsafe for kids. I wish people would be more careful of where they put stuff.

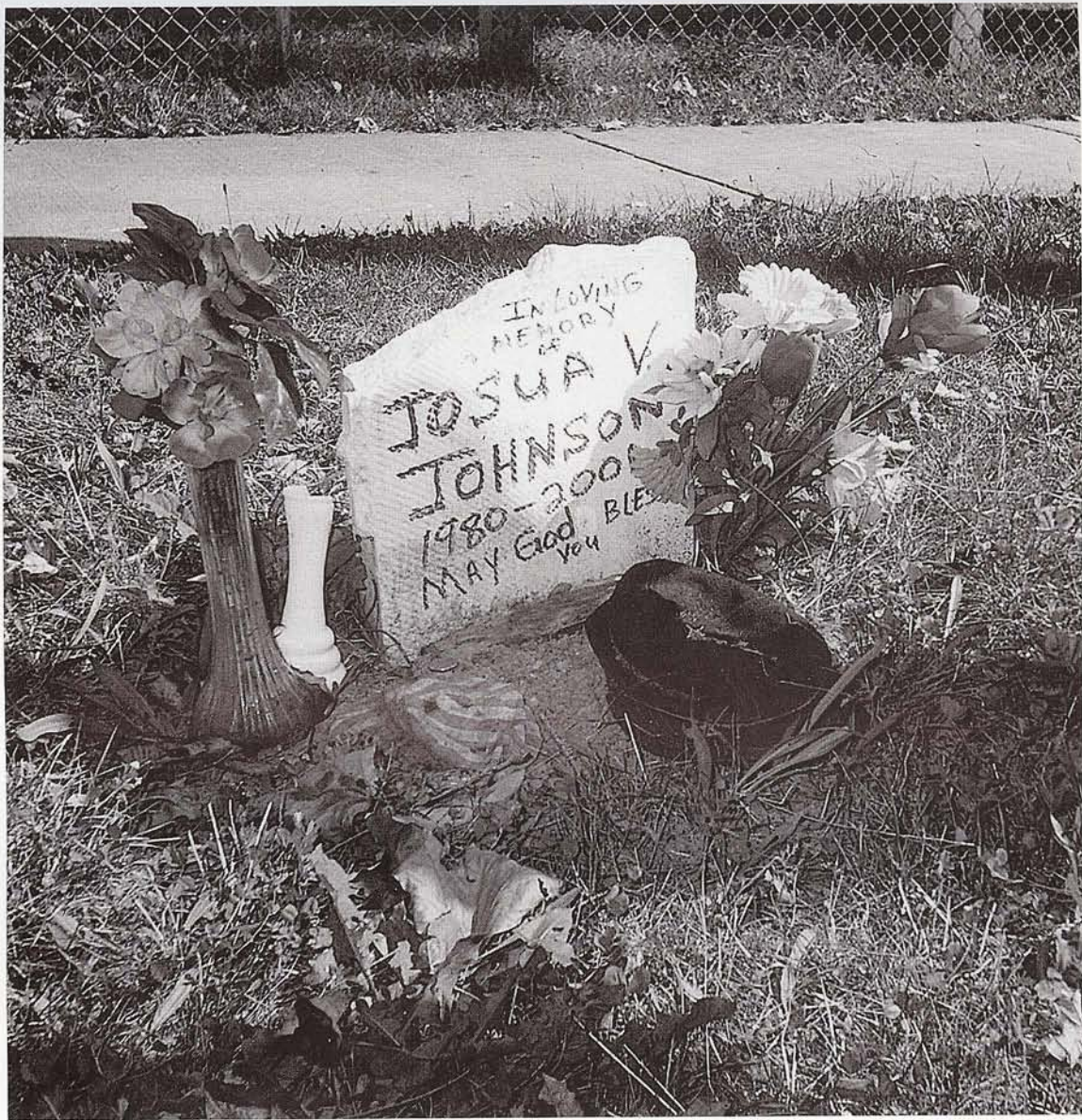


Garbage, Glass and Other Trash

Marquis Brooks

After touring the Oak Street area near my School 17, I discovered that there were many areas that affect people's health. I took pictures of this sight. I will focus on one particular picture, which shows piles of garbage, glass and other trash that can cause rats and roaches. People then start to neglect to clean the outside, causing trash to constantly blow around. It also makes it hard for people to sell the property in the neighborhood. Someone needs to take responsibility for the neighborhood. Also kids can fall and get hurt when they are walking unattended.

I hope that the community and people who can make a difference get together and help kids and parents improve their health.



May God Bless You

Mark J. Parker

A headstone. I see this headstone on my way to school. It is there for everyone to see. They see it every day, but nothing has changed. There should not be violence on the streets because people can get hurt and killed. Why are people getting killed over money, drugs and clothing? Why can't our community solve problems peacefully? The students in our school can have an influence on the adults by following the School Code of Conduct. If I were to write a Code of Conduct for my community, it would include taking illegal guns and drugs off of our streets. Then maybe we would not have to walk by any more headstones on our neighborhood sidewalks.



Abuse

Monecia Walker

Drug abuse is one of the most serious problems in today's society. You can see drugs everywhere. Kids in my neighborhood can have access to a whole variety. The most common drugs that kids my age use are cigarettes and marijuana. Some surveys even indicate that over 80% of school-aged children have misused at least one chemical substance. People in our community should try to help fight this problem. We all need to cooperate and work together. This is not something that can be done alone. Together we can create a healthier community not only for children, but for adults too.

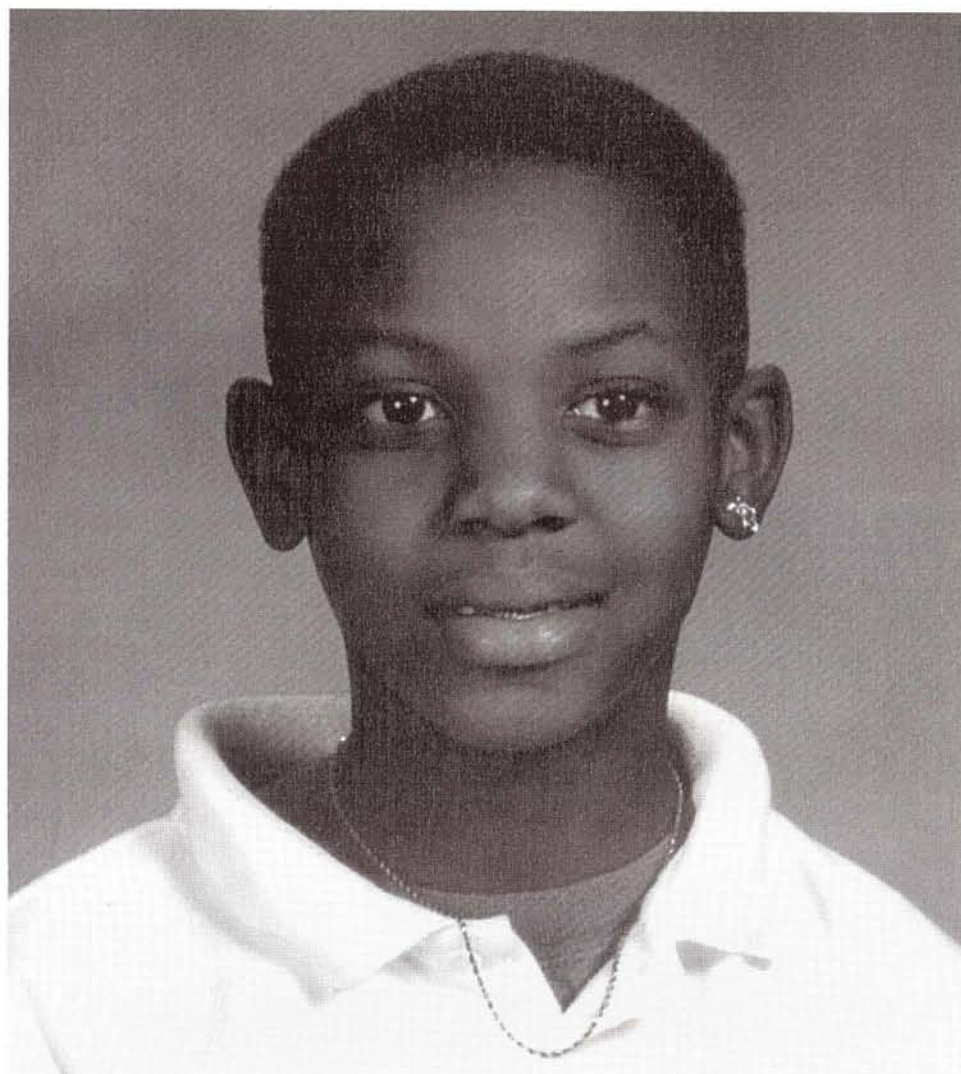


Unsafe Building

Darnell Bryant

It's a shame how people let this abandoned building remain like this. People should know that these buildings can be dangerous. Kids and grown women could get raped. People could sell drugs in this factory. This could also be a gang member's club house. They should hurry up and knock this building down. This factory has been abandoned and unsafe for many years. Someone could set the factory on fire and many lives could be taken. Construction people could build something new in that spot. If they knock this down they could build another school here. They could build a factory if we need it. Our community needs to be safe from abandoned buildings.

In Memoriam



A DEDICATION TO TYSHAUN LAMAR CAULDWELL (1991-2001)

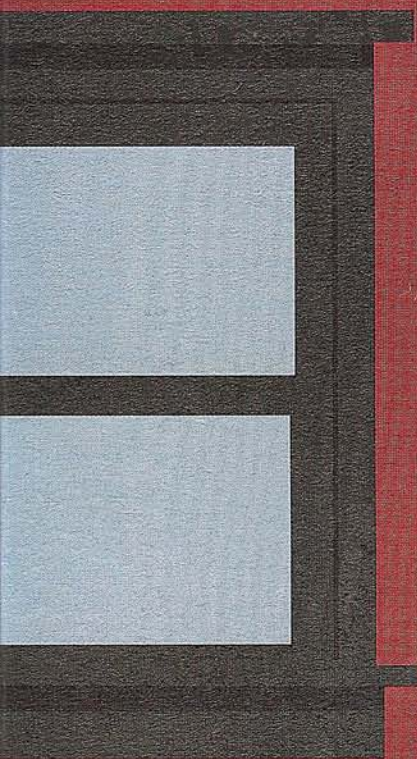
This publication is dedicated to the loving memory of Tyshaun Lamar Cauldwell. In June of 2001 Tyshaun was killed by a stray bullet as a result of a disagreement between drug dealers. In this book are the vision and voices of the children in Tyshaun's 2004 graduating class from the Enrico Fermi Elementary School Number 17.

Tyshaun's death outraged local residents, and resulted in a call to action to improve the quality of life in the Jay-Orchard Street community.

Tyshaun made the ultimate sacrifice. We must ensure that his death was not in vain, but will serve as an everlasting reminder for us to translate our passion and unyielding commitment into action to improve the quality of life for all residents in our community.

Marion Walker
President, Tyshaun Lamar Cauldwell Foundation

President, Jay Orchard Street Area Neighborhood Association
(JOSANA)



The partners of Children's Vision and Voices, 2003-2004 would like to extend a special 'Thank You' to the 6th grade children at Enrico Fermi School No. 17 for sharing their vision and voices. And special thanks for your support that will improve the quality of life for these children.