



Convictim, Xavier Cortada, acrylic and mixed media on canvas, 60 x 144"

ArtCARE:

Outreach to Juveniles in Adult Jails

February 1 through March 26, 2002

*Casa Grande Cultural Center
104 SW 9th Street
Miami, Florida*

PROJECT PARTNERS

Miami-Dade Art in Public Places

Miami-Dade Art in Public Places is a nationally recognized percent-for-art program established in 1973 to oversee the implementation of public art installations and educational programs. An ordinance allocates 1.5% of the construction cost of new county buildings for the purchase or commission of artworks. The goals of the program are several: to enhance the artistic heritage of Miami-Dade County, to give dimension to the public environment for residents and visitors, to increase public awareness to works of art, to promote understanding and awareness of the visual arts, and to provide educational opportunities to at-risk youth.

Law Offices of Bennett H. Brummer, Public Defender

Bennett H. Brummer, the Public Defender for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, created the Anti-Violence Initiative (AVI) to build and enhance client, government and community collaborations. The AVI is designed to improve public safety, government accountability and reduce the number of victims. It is directed toward effecting meaningful, positive and lasting changes in clients' lives. The collaboration between the Office of the Public Defender and ArtCARE is in furtherance of the principles of AVI.

Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department

The Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department employs more than 2700 officers and staff and is comprised of six correctional facilities. One of the facilities, Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center (TGK), is the facility where juvenile males are held awaiting trial and sentencing. Director Lois Spears is dedicated to providing caring, compassionate and competent services to incarcerated juveniles. The professionals with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation collaborate with the community, various public and private agencies and the criminal justice system to deliver quality correctional services.

Miami-Dade Weed and Seed

Weed and Seed is a strategy within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. It is a comprehensive multi-agency effort to prevent crime and revitalize the community. Volunteers and staff of the Miami-Dade Weed and Seed Ex-Offender Re-entry Program conduct weekly visits with juveniles who are transferred to adult court and are detained at the Turner-Guilford Knight facility. The outreach program endeavors to recreate a sense of morality in the community while opening doors for ex-offenders who feel there is no hope for them after incarceration. Following the completion of their sentences, Miami-Dade Weed and Seed facilitates the juveniles' access to social, economic and educational opportunities.

This project is possible with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.



SPECIAL THANKS

This project would not have been possible without the amazing team of committed individuals who collaborated to guarantee its success. Carol Wilson-Sharp, a social worker in the juvenile wing of Turner Guilford Knight Corrections Facility, has worked with juveniles for many years. She was with the team every day and provided insight into the plight of the youths. Ms. Wilson-Sharp's office is papered with drawings and letters written by former juvenile inmates. Some of the letters form part of the exhibition. Tim Walker is a designer and photographer in Miami who volunteered to photograph the boys for the exhibition. LaEatrice McMurray of the Public Defender's Office was instrumental in ensuring that jail visits ran smoothly, and Jonathan Stout produced the videos for the exhibit. Conrad Hamather, artist and Director of Galleries at Miami-Dade Community College, created an installation evoking the cell experience at TGK. In addition to coordinating the ArtCARE project and compiling this publication, Lea Nickless Verrecchia, of Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, collaborated with Xavier Cortada to create an art installation for the exhibition, using jail jumpsuits and messages written by the youths.

We also thank the following individuals: Wayne Rawlins, Executive Director of Miami-Dade Weed and Seed, and Public Defender employees: Elisa Corrado, Rebecca Cox, Tamara Gray, Carlos J. Martinez, Maria Abreu-Miller, David Correa, Anita Margot Moss, Marie Osborne, Kathleen Redmond, Lolita Samaroo and Mildred Velez. We also wish to especially thank Janelle Hall, Captain Manny Fernandez, Lieutenants C. McKenzie and T. Vickers, Sergeant C. Lindo, Corporals P. Prydent and W. Dominguez, Officers F. Chicoye, S. Johnson, G. Faison, C. Martin, L. Hardley, S. Perry, M. Thompson, F. Belus, Black, Handfield, Counselors Terry Moore and Juan Canelo and the entire Juvenile staff at Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Facility.



Youths working on mural



LAW OFFICES OF THE
PUBLIC DEFENDER
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
1320 NW 14th STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33125

BENNETT H. BRUMMER
PUBLIC DEFENDER

(305) 545-1600

January 14, 2002

WELCOME!

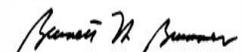
Thank you for participating in the ArtCARE exhibition. ArtCARE was developed to expose our incarcerated juvenile clients to the arts, to engage them in constructive behavior and to educate the public about the consequences of prosecuting children in adult court.

Every year, Florida prosecutors transfer thousands of juveniles into adult court. Many are incarcerated in adult jails awaiting resolution of their cases. The criminal justice system treats transferred children as adults, even though experience and research show that juveniles are developmentally, cognitively and psychologically different.

A significant number of transferred children have learning disabilities and mental, emotional and substance abuse problems. Research shows that these children can be reached and steered towards productive lives if they have access to effective treatment, appropriate educational services and alternatives to crime. ArtCARE demonstrates that these children have substantial positive potential; they are more than just a jail number or an arrest statistic.

We thank Miami-Dade Art in Public Places and artists Xavier Cortada and Tim Walker for their contributions to ArtCARE. We also thank the dedicated employees of Miami-Dade Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and Miami-Dade Weed and Seed, who work tirelessly to provide these incarcerated children opportunities to develop life skills to succeed as contributing members of our society.

We hope that you enjoy hearing and viewing the artistic product of ArtCARE and that you will be inspired to advocate for youngsters like these to be treated like the children they are, not like adults. Together, we can make a difference. Again, thank you for your participation.


Bennett H. Brummer

miami-dade **art** in public places

January 18, 2002

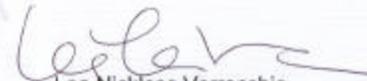
Cuban poet and patriot Jose Marti once said, "children are the hope of the world." He did not say good children, but rather all children. But youngsters that stray from being good by getting in trouble with the law find society giving up hope for them as children, and judging and treating them as adults. It is paradoxical that the same system that creates the juvenile justice system can create the direct file system, abandoning hope in their future and their potential for rehabilitation. Rather than trying to turn bad children into good, the system just writes them off as adults.

This is a tough issue to deal with. Are these youngsters children when they are committing a crime, or do they go back to childhood only when the cell door locks shut? What about the rights and feelings of those who have been victims of a crime, of their family and friends? Does the perpetrator become the victim of the judicial system by virtue of their young age, regardless of the offense? How many strikes should it take to be counted out of the juvenile system game? At what point does the law-abiding citizen say enough? At what point do we assume responsibility as a society for the violence we have created by our own actions and dysfunctions. Can it be that we are all both victims and perpetrators within our own system?

This exhibit, like art itself, is open for interpretation. The message lies in the eyes and the minds of the beholder. The story portrayed in the exhibit is simple based on hard facts and real people. Young people put in a situation where their hard exterior becomes vulnerable; where the street toughness is softened by fear of the unknown and anxiety about their future, express their feelings and emotions. The writings, photographs and artwork are introspective, showing youth analyzing their past deeds, seeing the good in themselves, in many cases repenting and making plans to clean up their act. Nobody wants to go back in once they get out. But the moral of the exhibit is much more complex. It makes us painfully aware that something is terribly wrong. It raises many questions, yet provides no easy answers or solutions. The underlying message of these youth is one of hope for their future. They have not given up hope in themselves, and neither should we.



Ivan A. Rodriguez
Executive Director



Lea Nickless Verrecchia
Coordinator of Education &
Community Outreach



Stephen P. Clark Center • 111 N.W. 1st Street Suite 610 • Miami, Florida 33128-1982
Telephone (305) 375-5362 • Fax: (305) 375-5345
www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/publicart/

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Xavier Cortada is a Cuban-American artist, attorney and activist who believes in the power of art as an agent for social change. He has worked collaboratively with diverse groups across the United States, Latin America, Europe and Africa to create pro-social community murals and participant-driven art projects.

During the fall of 2001, Mr. Cortada and a dedicated team of volunteers, including employees of the Office of the Public Defender and other professionals, worked on *ArtCARE: Outreach to Juveniles In Adult Jails (ArtCARE)*. This project gave 14 to 18 year old youngsters, who had been transferred through the direct file process to adult criminal court, an opportunity to be exposed to the arts. These youths were incarcerated at Turner Guilford Knight Corrections facility (TGK), an adult jail in Miami, Florida. During the course of the Project, materials and data about these youngsters and the direct file system were collected.

While participating in *ArtCARE*, 140 youths wrote messages that Mr. Cortada incorporated into a mural that expresses his passion for art and his deep concern for political and social issues. Artist and photographer Tim Walker photographed the participants capturing their youthful humanity. Jonathan Stout, an employee of the Office of the Public Defender, produced a video of the youths talking and performing a rap about their lives. Also, Conrad Hamather, artist and Gallery Director of the Miami-Dade Community College (Wolfson Campus), created an installation that evokes a sense of the cell where these youths were confined.

The goal of *ArtCARE* was to provide these youngsters an opportunity through art to express themselves. They had an opportunity to share their life experiences with each other and the community. The youths focused on who they are, why they are here and who they can still become. The interactive process between the youths and artists,

and between the youths and art mediums, was designed to develop more self-awareness among the youngsters as they seek to caution other youth about the consequences of delinquent behavior. The public exhibition of *ArtCARE* has been designed to educate the public about the direct file process and the youngsters whose lives it impacts.

ArtCARE is a continuation of an ongoing program that provides incarcerated juveniles with access to the arts. Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, through funding from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs Community Grants Program, and in partnership with the Office of the Public Defender, made this program possible. *ArtCARE* is now an aspect of the Anti-Violence Initiative established by Miami-Dade's Public Defender Bennett Brummer to help juvenile and adult public defender clients lead law-abiding lives.



Youths working on messages for the mural

Background - Juveniles in Adult Jails

The juvenile justice system as developed over 100 years ago, was based upon the social fact that children are not fully developed moral beings and should not be treated like adults. That philosophy holds children accountable for their offenses, does not treat them as adult criminals, but rather balances consequences and punishment with rehabilitation and redemption.

On the other hand, the underlying premise of the *direct file* is that children are mini-adults and become mini-adults by virtue of their bad acts. The power of the prosecutor to direct file a child 14 or older for most felonies comes from a law that authorizes them to make unilateral decisions about transferring juvenile cases to adult court. That decision requires no explanation and cannot be reviewed by a judge or a higher court. Once direct filed, many transferred youths in Miami-Dade County spend months in the TGK facility awaiting resolution of their cases. These are the youths that participated in the ArtCARE project.

Scientific research indicates that juveniles of similar age, prior record and criminal charges, who were given appropriate juvenile penalties, re-offended less often than those who were sent to adult court and given adult penalties. See *A DJJ Success Story, Trends in Transfer of Juveniles to Adult Criminal Court*, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, January 2002, <http://www.djj.state.fl.us/special/transfersummary.pdf>. It is believed that juvenile programs, such as Bay Point, a long-term juvenile commitment program, have significantly better records of reducing crime among young offenders. Those juvenile programs are successful because they offer support, education, guidance and aftercare services as the youngsters enter adulthood. In spite of this research, in fiscal year 1999-2000 Florida transferred over 3,000 juveniles to adult court.



Xavier Cortada speaking to youths in TGK Corrections facility

Artist's Statement

Can we wipe out guilt by decree? Can we absolve ourselves for throwing out the baby and the bathwater? Can we say a child is not a child so we don't have to admit failure?

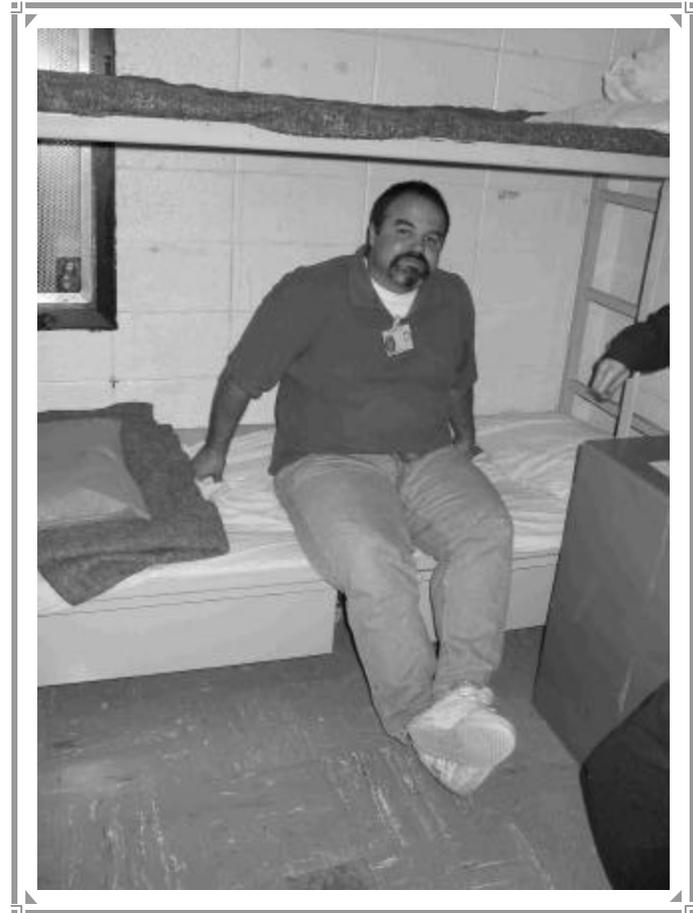
How far are we willing to go, harsher and harsher sentences, more Draconian legislation, capital punishment for juveniles?

How did we get here? How did we, in the span of 100 years, go from a society that created special courts to protect children's best interests because of their status as children, to one that uses its courts to strip its children of their status as children? Whose interests are we protecting by direct filing these kids as adults? Who are we saving, if we can't save our children?

I know Garry Petit-Frere was not saved. He arrived at the TGK Correctional Facility in the dead of night, and had been in his cell for fewer than ten hours when he lost all hope. The blank canvases and paint tubes for this project's "convictim" mural were in Unit 2-5 of TGK a few days before Christmas, when he chose to hang himself.

The children held in lock down at this adult facility never had a chance to meet him. His jailhouse neighbor remembers hearing a kick through the cinder block wall, but didn't think much of it. It was Garry's struggle with death.

Garry and the twelve dozen peers at TGK who shared that last night with him are all too familiar with struggle in their lives. It is that struggle that first casts them as victims in their households and spits them out as convicts in an adult prison. Shuffled about aimlessly, from a childhood where they were raised by adults who can hardly take care of themselves, to an adolescence where they are jailed by a system that has already given up on them. They are all "convictims."



Xavier Cortada in the cell of one of the project participants

Instead of sentencing them to juvenile sanctions that help rebuild them, we convict them as adults and set them on a sadistic path: They serve their adult time, and go on probation-without ever being treated. Not surprisingly, they recidivate. This time their sentence is automatic --- they violated probation, they go away to jail or prison.

They were lost the second they were direct-filed.

How can you hope to get these kids to change? How can the adolescent buy into his direct file transfer, when the most important legal decision made in his life -- the one stripping him of his status as a child -- didn't give him a voice? A prosecutor without a hearing and without a judge's review makes the decision. Scientific studies decry the need to eliminate the direct file system and have established we get better results by treating kids as kids.

But somehow, the body politic doesn't get it. Maybe it doesn't care. The truth is that most of the kids I saw at TGK don't look like the people in Tallahassee. We don't have a parallel demographic here. The truth is that the voting public isn't too concerned either. It is too easy to do so, they may be 14, they may be 17, but they aren't good enough to be children.

But no matter how much we may think of them as adults, swimming inside that huge brown jumpsuit, the one with 12 white letters, "INMATE D.C. JAIL", ironed on the back, is a scared and lonely child. A child replete with all the insecurities and turmoil of adolescence, issues amplified and exacerbated by his circumstance. A child pulled away from an antisocial society and not shown a pro-social path.

Their standard crew cuts, their numbing routine, their sparse jail cells, and their brown jumpsuits with 12 white letters may do much to wipe out their identity and individuality, but it can never mask the irrefutable truth:

These are children.

How did we ever let them get here? How could we have ever done this to our children? How did we ever do this to ourselves?

Xavier Cortada



Xavier Cortada paints youth's hand for handprint

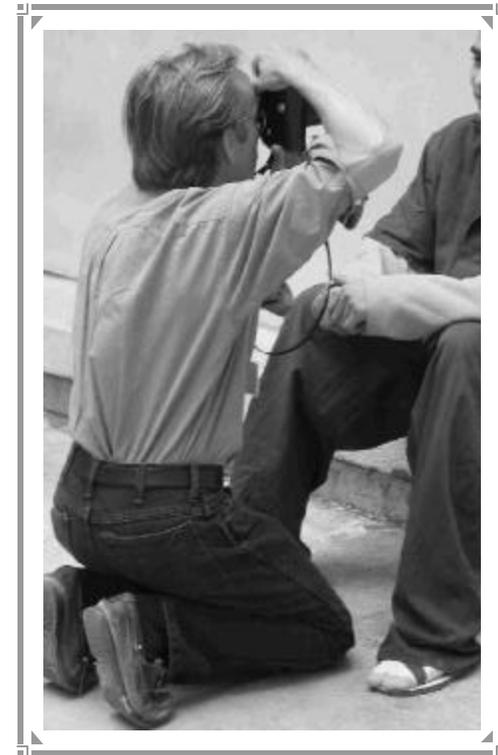
Photographer's Statement

It is our choice how we decide to see our children in trouble. We may even decide to not see them at all. It may be easier to put them away, out of sight, out of mind. To see these children is to begin to realize the complexity of why they are, where they are.

The law protecting the images of these children also serves to project us from an awareness of these kids. We know the images of delinquent, thug, mugger, thief, convict or prisoner. But we are rarely given the chance to see into the faces of the youth that we have labeled to put away.

This project has allowed us the rare opportunity to see these kids. It is perhaps an opportunity to reconsider our choices. Are we safer putting them away? Are we better? How many more of our children will inevitably follow?

Tim Walker



Tim Walker as he photographs project participant

TGK Social Worker's Statement

For My Boys

It Takes A Whole Village to Raise Up a Child

African proverb

In America, there are certain animal and bird species classified as endangered by the Department of Interior. This label is assigned to these species because they become scarce due to adverse environmental conditions. They would become extinct but for laws and protective measures to ensure their survival. But what about children? Why are we as a county, a community and a state not enacting laws and measures to protect our children, especially the male of the species?

A travesty is occurring in that we have dismissed these young men under my care under the guise of direct file, which in essence is the destruction of our future.

One of my special gifts is the gift of encouragement to help our children identify the strengths and gifts that they are unaware of possessing. Fastidiously, each day I set my sights on shaping and revamping the lives of our troubled children. This process is a labor of love and so very rewarding. My heart speaks to them individually and collectively as I attempt to enable them to transform and redirect their lives to become productive and holistic young men. Together, let us inspire their desire to discover how very special and valuable they are.

Umntu ngumuntu ngabanye, ngabantu Motho ke motho ka batho

This is an African proverb that succinctly captures the humanity upon which a sense of community is founded. Each person's humanity is ideally expressed through his or her relationship with others, particularly children.

America's massive social and racial breakdown requires that we come together for the sake of saving our children.

Carol Wilson-Sharp



Carol Wilson-Sharp

YOUTH ESSAYS

LOST/FOUND

I lost my freedom but I found my spirit
I lost my home but I found my place
I lost my homeboy but I found my friend
I lost my way but I found my path
I lost my Dad but I found my Father
I lost my house but I found my home
I lost my hate but I found my love
I lost my thoughts but I found my dreams
I lost my stupidity and I found my knowledge
I lost my world but I found my God

The things I lost now are gone
The things I found are still to come

Christopher



Christopher



Area for visiting with friends and family

LOST

I've lost the inner me because of this system of shattered mirrors and stolen dreams. In my life I've missed out on being a kid with chances and hope, some way to do something positive with myself. I know that tomorrow is still to come but I hope that it's not going to be taken away also.

FOUND

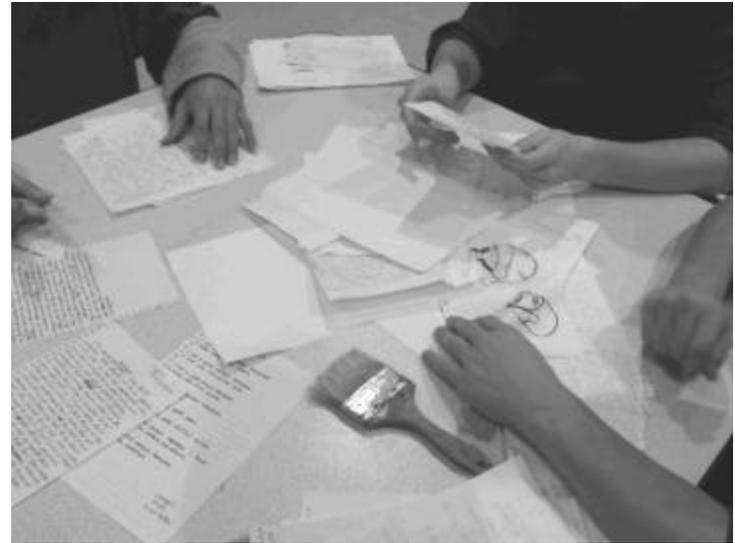
What I've found was the Lord, responsibility and means for my actions. I've found that the truth is an easier way out of things and that by renewing my mind I can do anything I want. Like my many skills that God has blessed me with and since I've been here I've found out how to really show love to those I like and dislike. And I've found my real unique style that's untouchable.

Anonymous

GOALS

- The day I get out of here I'm going to move to Georgia with my Dad and set some goals for myself.
- My first goal is never come back to jail.
- The feeling that I have here is going to be my motivation. And right now I'm thinking about my future and positive things.

Leneah



Youths sort messages for mural

CONVICTIM

- 1.) Convicts
- 2.) Victims

We are the victims because we are being beat-up by a system that's supposed to help us.

Patrick

I AM GOOD

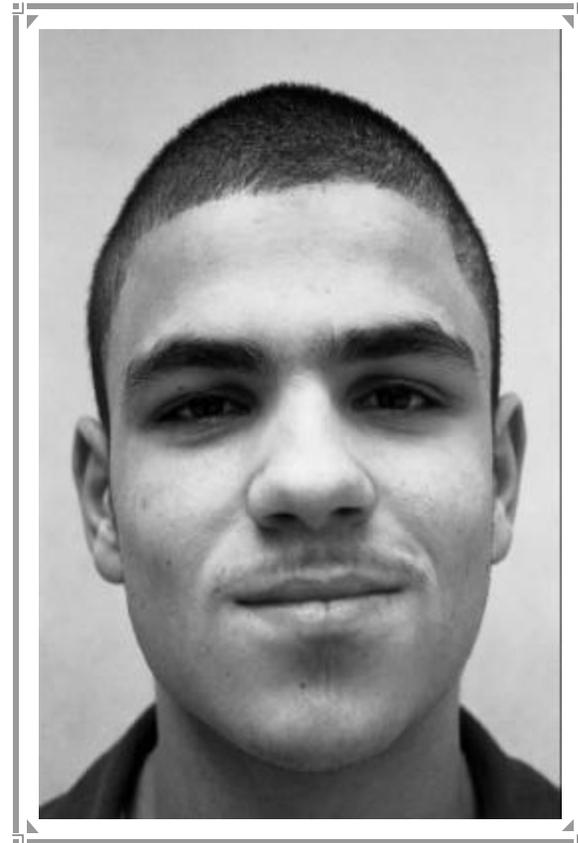
I am good because I have a good heart that cares for a lot of people. I know the difference between right and wrong. I'm always helping people if they need me. I also know I am a good person because I was raised in a good home, with good and loving parents that taught me manners and told me that everyone makes "mistakes." Well I know I am all this because I feel bad for everything I've done, and it hurts me to see my Mom come see me through a "glass" because of my stupid mistakes. And now that I think about everyone I hurt I wish I could take it all back. So I know I have a big and good heart.

Bernie

FOR THE YOUNGER KIDS

I tell you this – DO WHAT'S RIGHT. Go to school. Do what you Mother and Father tell you to do. I am telling you this because I know how it is to be in jail. Now I wish I could go back to when my Mom would tell me to go to school and become someone in life but I cannot. You can. I'm telling you this place is no good. Let me tell you if you like being away from your family and like doing what people tell you and wake up and go to sleep when people that you don't even know tell you to this is the place for you but if you love your mother like you say you do, do what she tells you. If not, I am telling you this. This is where you are going to end up and if you have friends that do things that are bad and wrong, those are not your friends. Find new ones. Do it for yourself and your family. That's the best thing you can do. Now I sit in here waiting for my mother to come see me and then I have to take the pain when she comes cause it hurts me to my heart to see her cry and tell me why didn't I just listen to her.

Juan



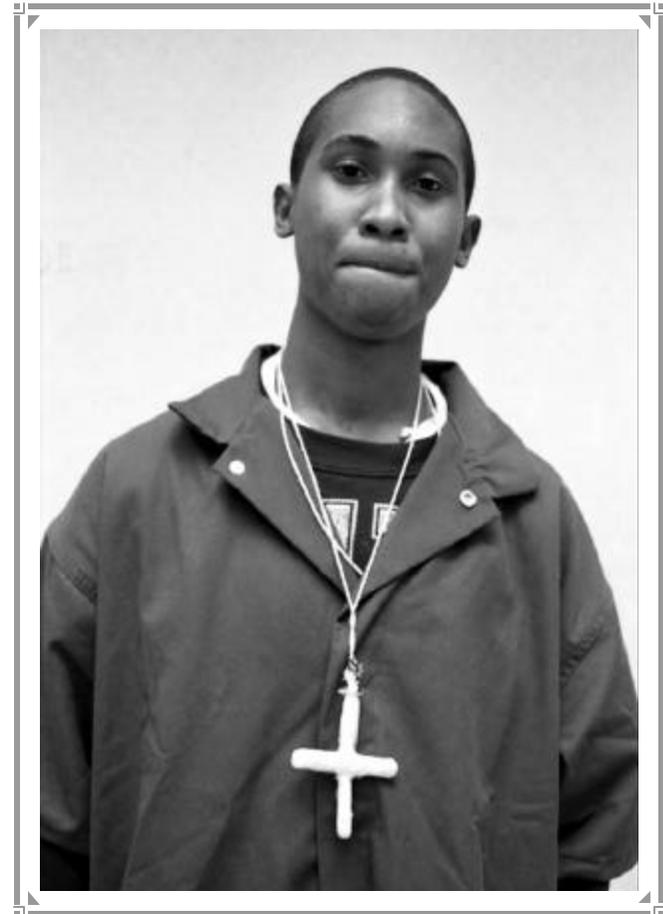
Juan

ROSES BLUE (To Miss Sharp)

If your rose don't shine water it!
If it don't shine pray 4 him.
Name your rose whatever you want.
Your rose is your light, your goal is high.
If I was your rose what you would do to save me?
Water, sun and dirt would not save me.
A great prayer would hold me.
If you was a rose who would you want to hold you?
I want my shine to be on you!

Pink is a good color and to save pink it would make you smile.
Don't use the color pink on you mind
Use it on your heart and if you trade your life to your God
The pinkness of his love will show on your mind.

Jermaine



Jermaine

I AM A CONVICTIM

A convictim is a convict locked away and a victim being locked away in the wrong place.

I'm a 17 year old boy in a 21-89 year old world.

The crime I'm accused of was so bad that they did not look at me as that little Boy but as that little MAN!

One day I might be free but I will never be able to look back and say I was always free. That's why I'm a convictim in a place where I'm scared to be.

That's what a convictim is and a convictim is ME!

Anonymous



THE FUTURE

My strategy to stay out and to not fall into the trap is to finish school, finish my education, finish the careers I want to achieve. Apply for jobs as many times I have to apply to get that job. Because I need to feed my family, my baby and myself. I have a whole life in front of me and I'm not going to let other people ruin it just because I have been in this place (jail).

It doesn't mean my life ended there. I have a life in front. The first day I get out is going to be like the following: Spend time with my family, my baby. And I'm going to stay away from the people I used to be with. While I'm in this place I spent more time reading, writing, thinking the way to stay out, get more with God, read God's words, change the way I used to think, change my attitude. I'm going to stay out because my family and my baby and for myself. When the day that come of me applying for a job, I know it's going to be hard for me to get it but I'm not going to give up. I would try to put my own business. I need to take care of my family. I would be careful to everything I do. I will make sure I don't do the same mistakes I did before. I would help as many people as I can so they don't pass by the same experience I pass. And I will keep being with God's word and do and live by his commandments.

Anonymous

I AM GOOD

I truly believe there's good embedded in me
The reason being I'm good as can be
I'm helpful, thoughtful, even kind
But judging from my looks, you'll change you mind
Because my outward appearance screams out thug
But inside my heart is pumping with love
But don't get me wrong, I'm not a saint
U might think I'm evil, but I ain't

I make mistakes here and there
But then again, we all have I'll share
So be4 u judge me, step back and look at u
Because u did the same things 2, but probably just a few
Besides I'm dependable and some one u could lean on
I even show elders some fun

I pray, I read the bible, and I know God
But for some reason, my life is still hard
I never went 2 school much, but I'm far from dumb
Because I'm educated, self-taught, and young
A simple thought generates a crime
Because a young soul can easily go blind
But yet sight could return, and another good lesson gets learned
I'm not the best person, but I'm not the worst either
That's why when it comes 2 mistakes, I'm a firm believer
I keep an open mind and a lust 4 knowledge
And perhaps one day I'll fulfill my quest at college

This why I'm good, but not slightly, misunderstood
I know I'm not the best, but I'm full of finesse
That's why I succeed above the rest

I'm humorous with a good personality and great 2 be around
I know how 2 have fun, and I know how 2 clown
But stereotyped almost every day
But hey, what could I say
The consequence 4 looking this way
I help others and I'll die 4 my sisters and brothers
And I respect my mother
I'm blessed, outspoken and full of hope
I'm not the average nigga on the corner selling dope
I know right from wrong and I'm good a rap songs

I'm overflowing with goodness that comes from the heart
But yet the system is tearing me apart
I guess cuz I'm black
So they use the law/system as the counter attack
I even shed tears of pain, because 2 me this world is a game

But I stay strong cuz that how I get along
Well these are my humble words
And I hope you enjoyed what u heard
That's why I think I'm good u see
That's why I'm good 2 me.

Anonymous

Caught Up

(Hook)

You better change your mind before you get caught up!
You better change your mind before you get caught up!
You better change your mind before you get caught up!
You better change your mind before you get caught up!
Trust in GOD; get to know him and give him your trust!

“Trick” (Verse 1)

It ain't about me, or the charge I face
Its about the people I hurt, the hearts I break
Having my momma face separated through a thick glass-
The price I make her pay while trying to get cash-

Barely could eat steady wondering what I'm doing in jail-
Can't sleep, steady worrying about her son in a cell-
Life is hell, just got my mother stressing
Ain't no telling when I'm a change but I'm a
try make a difference through you young folks-

Stop the violence for the dough - all it brings is pain and years-
I'm all caught up- picture being 17 and think life's a goner-
Put your trust in GOD- When times get hard -

(Hook)

Repeat Chorus

“JR” (Verse 2)

Eyes closed, palms wet - nervous as the jury decides
how much time I get - This life is full of stress-
Dropping tears as I watch another man judge me -

What I lost was a great amount; my family and my freedom-
Was all it took for me to lose my mind- tell me
Why must I do crimes? Every time?

Running through the street light give a blessing to the Lord,
Young boys to go to heaven and make a change-
As I give the mic to my boy by my side- TRY!

(Hook)

Repeat Chorus

“Psycho” (Verse 3)

I went from goals and dreams- to late night schemes-
Getting paper was the only thing that became real to me -
Now at night I can't sleep not paranoid, but stress of what I lost-

Look at it, the price I pay for my stupidity--

Today locked up feeling like I'm trapped in a cage-
I don't get to see my family everyday - Ok it's another day-

What I got to do to keep my head up in this thing

Look up to the clouds it's a sunny day- seeing night and day pass me
everyday-

(Hook)

Repeat Chorus

“Dred” (Verse 4)

I bet when you're in here everyday ya'll going
to miss something-
Take a look at my peers we all struggle and shed tears in here.

(Hook)

Repeat Chorus

“Fade out freestyle”



Youths working on the rap video

Become Informed

ABA Juvenile Justice Center
740 15th Street, NW 9th floor
Washington, DC 20005
www.abanet.org/crimjust/juvjus/

Youth Law Center
Children's Legal Protection Center
1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 310
Washington, DC 20005-4902
www.youthlawcenter.com

The Sentencing Project, Inc.
514 - 10th Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004
www.sentencingproject.org



Project participants work on messages for mural project

To obtain a copy of this publication, contact Lea Nickless Verrecchia,
Miami-Dade Art in Public Places, 111 NW 1st Street, Suite 610, Mi-
ami, FL 33128 305-375-5362 tel/305-375-5345 or email:
In99@miamidade.gov