

SPONSORS

Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) is a not-for-profit organization concentrating in the areas of law that affect low-income families. Established in 1978 to advocate on behalf of low-income Virginians on poverty issues of statewide importance, VPLC is the only state-wide organization providing training to local legal aid program staff, private bar attorneys, and low-income clients, relating exclusively to the legal rights of Virginia's poor.

For more information, visit www.vlpc.org

Voices for Virginia's Children is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan awareness and advocacy organization that builds support for public policies to improve the lives of children. A recognized leader in child advocacy, Voices mobilizes support for initiatives by conducting policy research, building coalitions, and helping people articulate their support for children.

For more information visit www.vakids.org

FACES of Virginia Families is a non-profit membership-driven Association offering information, support and resources for foster, adoptive and kinship families.

For more information visit www.facesofvirginia.org

ART 180, a Richmond-based non-profit organization, creates and provides art-related programs to young people living in challenging circumstances, encouraging personal and community change through self-expression.

For more information visit www.art180.org

VOICES FOR CHANGE STEERING COMMITTEE

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Aesthetic Skin Care, Inc.*

Ann Rust, *Virginia Commission for the Arts*

Rob Ukrop, *Motivational Speaker/Soccer Coach*

SUMMER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

During the summer, the sponsoring organizations will host one-day workshops with local writers, artists, and photographers. The following is a list of workshop dates and locations.

July 8	Salem	Roanoke College
July 25	Big Stone Gap	Trinity United Methodist Church
July 30	Richmond	Mary and Frances Youth Center, VCU
July 31	Harrisonburg	Rockingham Memorial Hospital
August 1	Alexandria	Northern Virginia Community College (Alexandria Campus)
August 7	Lexington	R.E. Lee Episcopal Church
August 8	Norfolk	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

For more information on the workshops and to register, contact Laura Shepherd at laura@vakids.org or 804-649-0184, ext 23. Be sure to include your name, age, phone number, e-mail, and which workshop you'd like to attend. Upon registration, additional details and directions will be provided electronically.

CALL FOR ENTRIES...

...art

...writing

...photography

Foster Youth
of Virginia,
Ages 12-21

VOICES FOR change

CALL FOR ENTRIES...

... an opportunity to
creatively express your
thoughts about
foster care

VOICES FOR change

An opportunity to creatively express your thoughts about foster care...

Voices for Virginia's Children, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, and FACES for Virginia's Families in cooperation with ART 180 are holding Voices for Change and you are invited to enter!

Please submit an original essay, poem, painting, drawing, or photograph that tells us how you feel about foster care. Use your favorite medium to share your experiences or your ideas for change.

Your entry can be anything that comes to your mind about your life and foster care.

It can be about **PEOPLE** who have made a difference for you – a mentor, your foster parent, your biological parent, a grandparent, a teacher, policymakers.

It can be about your **ENVIRONMENT** and how it has shaped your experience – your home, your community, your friends.

It can be about your **PAST**, your **PRESENT** or your dreams for the **FUTURE**.

It can be whatever you think, feel, or experience as a young person in Virginia's foster care system.

PRIZES

First Place: \$500 • Second Place: \$250 • Third Place: \$100

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

Youth must be age 12 – 21 and be in Virginia's foster care system.

All entries must be original work, and will become the property of Voices for Virginia's Children and the Virginia Poverty Law Center. Entries will not be returned.

A signed entry form must be included with your submission.

Include your name on the back of your entry.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All art and photography entries must include a brief (250 word maximum) attached written description of what inspired you to create the piece.

art...

- Please send original art.
- Art should be on white paper with no lines or on white construction paper. The maximum size for artwork is 16" x 20".
- The work can be in any medium: marker, paint, colored pencils, ink, collage, etc.

writing...

- Essay or poems must be handwritten in blue or black ink on 8.5" x 11" white paper OR typed in black ink on 8.5" x 11" white paper.
- Use only one side of the paper and limit the piece to no more than 750 words.

photography...

- Photos may either be film generated or digital.
- Digital photos must be at least 300 DPI and 1 MB in size, and must include a CD that contains the photo AND a copy or print of the photo.

Each entrant may submit one entry in each category.

DEADLINE

All entries must be received by Friday August 15th, 2008.

HOW TO ENTER

Please complete the attached entry form. Submit the form with the actual entry to Voices for Virginia's Children. **Entries must be received by Friday, August 15th.**

Send entry via mail to:

Voices for Virginia's Children, ATTN: Mary Dunne Stewart
701 East Franklin Street, Suite 807, Richmond, VA 23219

For more information about the contest, contact Mary Dunne Stewart at mds@vakids.org or 804-649-0184, ext 24.

ENTRY FORM

Express YOUR thoughts about foster care...

A signed entry form must accompany each submission.

NAME _____

AGE _____ GRADE _____ SCHOOL (FALL 2008) _____

ENTRY CATEGORY (CIRCLE ONE): *Writing* *Artwork* *Photography*

TITLE OF WORK _____

I agree that my submission is entirely my creation and I did not copy or recreate another's work.

YOUTH'S SIGNATURE _____

To the entering student's social worker or legal guardian:

By signing below, I give permission for the above named student to participate in the Voices for Change contest. I understand that the entrant consents to the use of his or her first name and locality of residence by Voices for Virginia's Children ("Voices") and the Virginia Poverty Law Center ("VPLC") or their agents for promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, Web site, brochures, and/or printed news media releases.

By entering the contest, the contestant gives VPLC and Voices the nonexclusive right to use, publish, reproduce and distribute his or her artwork, photographs and writing in exhibitions and publications. VPLC and Voices will not be responsible for lost, damaged, delayed, misdirected or illegible submissions. VPLC and Voices reserve the right to reject any submissions that contain obscene language or images.

YOUTH'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) _____

LEGAL GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE _____

(Signature of foster youth's legal guardian is required if youth is under age 18)

PLEASE PRINT NAME OF LEGAL GUARDIAN _____

DATE _____

All art and photography entries must include a brief (250 word maximum) attached written description of what inspired you to create the piece.