

a 2014 Teach For America - Detroit publication



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## **Second Annual Publication**

**May 2014**

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**Tiffany Williams**

Executive Director, Teach For America - Detroit

# introduction

In Detroit, you must be authentic. In a city at a crossroads, staying silent is not an option. You have to use your voice.

And at a time when the future of Detroit is such a popular subject for debate, it's more important than ever to hear the voices of those who represent that future: our kids.

That voice rings loud and true and mighty in this second edition of *Detroit Writes Detroit*, a literary magazine featuring the honest writing of this city's children. Within the pages, our students celebrate their hometown, describe their hopes for its future, shine a fierce but fair light on its shortcomings, and remark on the beauty of its people. Insights abound, from high school students denouncing the chaos caused by violence and poverty to kindergartners explaining what they love about Detroit in a manner reflecting the simplistic wisdom only a 6-year-old can offer.

I want to thank the corps members and Teach For America staff members who worked hard to bring this issue to fruition. I especially want to recognize co-creator Sydney Tanner, a teacher who had a vision for giving all of Detroit's students an outlet to contribute to the narrative of our city and who meticulously nurtured that vision until it grew into the artifact you now hold. Your hard work was well worth it. The staff of *Detroit Writes Detroit* received nearly 900 entries from students at more than 20 schools and across all grade levels. Our students yearn to be heard.

My hope is that you will spend some time today reading through the pages of this magazine and reflecting on what it means for this city we love. If you're like me, you will probably find a few passages that make you laugh out loud. You may come across others that make you angry. There is no doubt that some will give you pause. And when you're done with it, I hope the magazine will find a spot on a coffee table or kitchen counter in your home where those you love might pick it up on a quiet Sunday afternoon, flip through its pages, and experience it, too.

What you hold is a snapshot of childhood in Detroit, circa 2014. This is the voice of our kids. This is the voice of our future.

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If you are interested in being a part of Detroit Writes Detroit in 2014-2015, please email **[Detroit.Writes.Detroit@gmail.com](mailto:Detroit.Writes.Detroit@gmail.com)** or visit us at **[detroitwritsdetroit.weebly.com](http://detroitwritsdetroit.weebly.com)**



**Sydney Tanner**  
Creator and Designer

# project

In 2012, Chen-Chen Jiang and I sat down to talk about our dreams for Detroit, and in that conversation, *Detroit Writes Detroit* was born. We wanted to create a publication that gives Detroit students a voice. Children have an unparalleled insight into their own worlds and into the reality of our city, and our goal was to create a platform for their ideas, their criticisms, and their dreams.

The response was overwhelming. By our February deadline, we had received almost 900 student submissions from EAA, DPS, and charter schools across Detroit. Over 60 classrooms participated in the project. What you see today are the 150 submissions that were chosen to represent *Detroit Writes Detroit* 2014.

I want to thank Teach For America - Detroit for its unwavering support, and thank you to the Detroit Writes Detroit team for making the publication possible, and thank you - students, teachers, parents, and families - for your support and for honest and empowering words. Keep writing and being the change you dream for Detroit.

*Detroit Writes Detroit* would not have been possible without the diligent participation of the committee members, who worked tirelessly to publicize the project, organize the submissions, and select the published works. All members worked on the project as a volunteer and had to balance this work alongside their regular full time occupations. Thank you for your contribution!



**Beth McReynolds**



**Keiara Tenant**



**Kayleigh Long**



**Meghan Everett**



**Clare McKenna**



**Trisha Egan**



**Caitlin Martin**



**Joan Hayner**



**Alaina Dague**



**Shelby Legal**



**Sarah Pressley**



**Claire Neuner**

The sound of laughter uplifting me, the cries of sorrows killing me. This is what Detroit is to me. The sight of children playing while the parents are at work slaying. This is what Detroit is to me. The underdog persona that lives through us because we live in a city full of hate and crime. But this city symbolizes something greater to us. Detroit is a city filled with extraordinary human beings, just waiting to evolve and become kings and queens. Starr, 10th Grade

I'm proud of Detroit because it stands up for itself.

Temony, 3rd Grade



I am proud of Detroit because my dad has a job! It makes me happy.

LuzJulet, 1st Grade

# pride

Ja'iris, 1st Grade

I wish that Detroit would recognize its full potential! We are more than Motown, The Big 3, and gambling stops. We are urban innovators, we have graduated from Ivy League universities, we have become global leaders in technology, and perform in sold out arenas. Detroit is the city of dreamers, dreamers who then go on to conquer the world. When Detroiters recognize the city's potential we will step up and create the place we want to live in.

Detroit is not a sundown town or a repeat of the lost city of Rome. No longer will casinos be our city's highlight. Detroit is a pillar in the hierarchy of this nation, and when we finally look in the mirror and fulfill our purpose, we will see that we

are more than Motown, The Big 3, and gambling stops. Detroit, WAKE UP! Choose to conquer the world!

Kyra, 11th Grade

My Detroit is beautiful and bright. From the flashing lights of the Motor City casino to arts of the D.I.A., there are many wonderful aspects of Detroit. Discovering everything about Detroit will open your eyes to real life.

From growing up in Detroit and learning from my surroundings, I see life as a prize. Since living in Detroit, I have experienced many things that have impacted my life. For example, from attending one of the best high schools in Detroit, Benjamin Carson High School,

I have really learned about the realities of life. This school in Detroit has really offered me opportunities, such as being in the same room as some of the best doctors of Detroit. From being around such great doctors, I have learned how they made it to their positions and what it took for them to get their positions.

Being a citizen of Detroit has its ups and downs as well. Every bad thing about Detroit has a good thing. Everyone speaks down on Detroit, but they don't know Detroit. My city is just hidden in a dark shadow of negativity.

Life is what you make of it, so live it to the fullest. From living in Detroit, it lets me know I have a bright future ahead of me. This is my Detroit: beauty.

Autume, 10th Grade

I am proud of Detroit for the citizens. I love Detroit so so much because the people in Detroit help people .

Ja'iris, 1st Grade

My Detroit is very different than my old city in El Salvador. Detroit is a nice city, full of lots of nature and beautiful places to go. There are many schools where children and teenagers can study. There are many more opportunities in Detroit.

Iris, 9th Grade

I am proud of Detroit because I love it.  
De'Allison, Kindergarten

I am proud of Detroit for standing up for what we believe in. We never let other cities tear us down. Even though we are a little bit down we still think Detroit is home. We turn old things to new things. We have a clean environment. We have the best mayor, but no matter what people think Detroit is the best city ever.

Lakya, 5th Grade

if you come to my city, you will see...  
poverty,  
broken homes,  
damaged buildings,  
loss of money,  
and lack of employees.  
Don't let the fantasy  
of the concerts and athletes,  
ruin your mentality.  
Behind a sheltered home,  
loving family,  
and a safe school,  
is a dangerous reality.  
Detroit is my home,  
that has fallen apart,  
financially, physically, emotionally,  
and educationally.  
Regardless of the reputation of this city,  
I still believe.  
In the future I still see,  
endless possibilities,  
without negativity.  
I see people rebuilding properties,  
the increase of employees,  
decrease in bankruptcy,  
and big changes,  
in the "The Big 3."  
After years of damage  
this process will not be easy.  
Like all of life's challenges,  
it starts with humanity  
We need a leader  
of honesty, integrity, and positive energy.  
We also need all citizens,  
to come together in the community.  
To help, decrease the criminals,  
and increase the education, and safety.  
In order to succeed,  
it takes faith, hard work, and consistency.  
Even when many others have given up,  
I still believe.  
That Detroit can once again,  
be number one in the country.

Essence, 10th Grade

## what it means to burn Red on a map

my detroit is thunder's offspring  
with bass beating  
against its concrete skin  
even while the cold coils against our spines

my detroit burns Red as it sings  
searing pain  
power  
and a profusion of color  
into our rhymes, my Detroit

it breathes  
it breathes  
black and  
white and  
yellow and  
brown and  
Red and  
blurs the lines we create

my detroit hums  
to the neverlasting silence and  
sears everything in its path  
from our eyes  
to our toes  
to the holes  
that grow in our hearts and gives  
birth to warriors  
who streak Red on their faces  
when Wings burst from their scarred backs  
charred  
and pulsing from courage, my Detroit

is thunder's offspring  
pounding ink  
onto the asphalt roads and  
blazing any signs of denial  
My Detroit sheds no tears  
and only looks to the future  
with eyes of steel

Sakila, 11th Grade

My Detroit is real  
We hold nothing back  
We stand together when we all don't feel that  
something is right  
We do argue and we do fight,  
but we work it out

My Detroit is real  
We don't like when people talk down on us  
They don't know the truth when they are far away

My Detroit is real  
We stand alone  
Through thick and thin

My Detroit is real  
Fenkell, Six Mile, Seven Mile

My Detroit is real  
People from the streets want someone to hold them,  
so they go to church

My Detroit is real  
Organizers from the YMCA come and help the young  
be strong  
Day care centers and libraries,  
we have a chance

My Detroit is real  
I am only sixteen  
But I have big dreams  
I am from Detroit  
I am a good person

My Detroit is real  
I hear the lies about our city,  
and though some of them are true  
I'm not sorry, because I know we'll follow through  
We have kids going to college  
You should write about that in the papers  
Watch us graduate  
and give back a little later

My Detroit is real  
We are strong, we care  
We understand the struggle  
We have been wrong at some points  
But we'll be right at the finale  
My Detroit is real

Detroit is my city...  
As I look to the sky I can  
See the clouds move without  
The sky turning black.

Detroit is my city...  
As I walk the streets by  
Myself I notice that it's just me  
Walking alone while the breeze  
Hits my brown skin.

Detroit is my city...  
As I dribble the ball on  
The court I pass it to my teammates  
Like they are my family.

Detroit is my city...  
As I walk through the  
Neighborhood and I pass abandoned  
Houses it shows a symbol of art.

Detroit is my city...  
As I get on the bus I  
See graffiti on abandoned buildings  
Stating the significance of talent.

Detroit is my city...  
As I walk to the store  
And see a senior citizen  
Crossing the street, I offer  
My assistance.

Detroit is my city...  
As I look out of the window  
To stare at the moon all I can  
Hear is the crisp wind.

Detroit is my city...  
We may hit hard times, but like  
They say, the only losers are those  
Who never try.

Alex, 10th Grade

Carmelia, 10th Grade

I am proud  
of Detroit be-  
cause I just  
want to say  
thank you for all

the cool cars  
and Trucks and  
most of all  
the love and  
Compassion. I  
love because  
we are the  
motor city.

Jaden, 2nd Grade

I'm proud of Detroit for being a free city.

Jaiera, 3rd Grade

I am proud to be a Detroiter because I can go to school every day and we can celebrate and some of my big goals as a Detroiter are going to college and being a heart doctor and having a career now!

Dayon, 2nd Grade

My Detroit is prosperous. We have gone through numerous despairs, yet we still manage to overcome them. However, hardship and woe have clasped the city in a hard grasp. And yet we do nothing. I recently went to a competition for students, and I saw literally ten African Americans. As a matter of fact, my teammates and I were the only ones from Detroit to even participate. This means that for Detroit to be better, we need to try harder, think smarter, and annihilate and prevail over obstacles. I believe this because history has taught us to hope for the best. And this alone lets me see the future where my Detroit triumphs.

Andrew, 7th Grade

I am proud of Detroit because I live there!

De'Termined, Kindergarten

My Detroit is actually a good city. I think if we fight to make it better we will succeed. There is a lot of crime, but its the people that lives here. Its a good city because we all come together to help practice so we will be perfect. I know our city is broken, we might not have money but at least we try to make things better.

Detroit means a lot to the people who are living here <sup>we</sup> all claim and support our city. We will take a stand and fight for our rights. I believe Detroit can be a better city because everyone who lives here are really strong people and we don't give up.

Armonni, 7th Grade



I love everybody and I will never give up on anybody.

Adrianna, 2nd Grade

My Detroit sheds light on our darkest hours. Opens a window when a door closes.

My Detroit stands tall as the shadows of despair tower; rises from the ashes as its sins decompose.

My Detroit gives hope, hope to endure all of life's hardships.

My Detroit uses obstacles as stepping stones, a staircase straight to its aspirations.

My Detroit knows no limit, when every boundary screams: you can't.

My Detroit is a city looked down upon. Disparaged, simply, because they haven't experienced it themselves.

My Detroit doesn't

give greatness, it raises it. So why belittle a city with so much potential?

Mushtary, 10th Grade

I am proud of Detroiters because they take time out to help others like soldiers; they fight every day for our city. I am proud of Detroit. It is a fun and entertaining city even though it is not a rich place, it is rich with a lot of educational things.

I am proud of Detroit because they think about our people, our education, and they built schools for kids in Detroit to get their education. One big thing I am proud of Detroit is that they care about people who do not have any place to stay.

They can go and stay in a shelter

and that is why I am proud of Detroiters for building buildings and coming up with fun stuff like downtown activities.

Jeaniah, 6th Grade

My Detroit is filled with life, painted on the lines in the street. My Detroit is the tall buildings in the city, reaching up high to touch the clouds. My Detroit is the block I grew up on, with gunshots and police sirens. My Detroit is bright enough to blind you. My Detroit is strong enough to break you. My Detroit stands on their own. My Detroit VS. everybody.

Alondra, 10th Grade

I believe in Detroit because not only do I live here, but I experience my city every day. I believe that Detroit is what keeps other cities and states together. Although Detroit may not be the perfect city for everyone, for me this is home sweet home. Detroit is known for a lot of things: its strength, its confidence, and its courage. No matter what, I am Detroit.

I appreciate all the things that Detroit has taught me as a person. I believe in Detroit because not only are we smart and strong, outsiders do not know all that we are capable of. This is my Detroit because it has taught me that if you want to be a better person, you have to believe in yourself and work hard even when it

gets tough.

I don't think it is fair the way people talk about Detroit. In order to speak about Detroit, you need to experience it first. We have so many untold stories. Our beliefs are different from others. We focus on the positive parts of our city, and you focus on the bad.

I believe in Detroit because we are strong-minded. We have backbones and we stand up for what we believe in. We believe in Motown, giving our city the best of our talent. I believe in Detroit because we have come a long way. When you look at Detroit, look at us with respect and don't believe everything you hear. Look deeper.

Marcus, 10th Grade

I believe in Detroit because we are strong. I believe in Detroit because we stand tall. Stand tall for the things we love, for the money, for the crime, for the drugs. I believe that Detroit can be a better place. We just got to sit down, relax, and pray. Pray that God makes a way, for the very people who struggle every day. Detroit is my hood, it's either you know, or you wish that you could. Yeah Detroit, we done did a lot of wrong, but what about the things we did right? Detroit is my city and I'll fight. Fight to put my city on the map, my name is Corey, and now you know where I'm at.

Corey, 12th Grade

We have a lot of great people that help us to be safe and to be healthy.

MaKayla, 2nd Grade



Luis, 8th Grade

Detroit is a special city with alot of spirit.  
I'm proud of Detroit because it's a good  
looking city with great people and strong  
neighbourhoods. this is a marvelous city, I wish  
all people could come see that.

Finally Detroit has nice neighborhoods that  
make the surroundings awesome. Families look  
out for each other. It's not just houses  
it's a community that works together.  
They work together so they can fix the  
streets and houses so more families can  
move here. I'm so proud of my city. The world  
needs to see how awesome it is in the D!

Markeise, 5th Grade

I believe in Detroit because of the parks.  
I believe in Detroit because of the schools.  
I believe in Detroit because of the homes.  
Detroit is my home!

Neveah, 1st Grade

I am just so proud of the people who help other people and even animals. These people should get a reward for going out of their own pockets to provide for the homeless and people who need help. I am also proud of the children that go through a lot at home and at school. The way to help your peers is to make sure if they're having a bad day, you should point them in the right direction. Remind them that they have a future ahead of them.

Kamario, 5th Grade

I am proud of Detroit because it has nice schools.

Tyler, Kindergarten



- I Believe in Detroit
- I Believe all the crime could stop in Detroit
- I Believe that Detroit could fix up all the Brake down houses.
- I Believe Detroit kids can stay in school and get their education
- I Believe Detroit is not a bad place it just the people in this world that have Been Done Wrong
- I Believe Detroit can do Better than it is now.
- I Believe everyone in Detroit can stop the violence
- I Believe Detroit will Be a Better place.
- I Believe Detroit kids will stop Dieing over the most stupid things.
- I Believe Detroit will make a stand
- I Believe Detroit can improve.
- I Believe Detroit schools can improve
- I Believe Detroit Can go 24hours without any crime.
- I Believe Detroit can do Better.
- I Believe Detroit kids are not stupid.
- I Believe Detroit is powerful

Morgan, 8th Grade



Tylah, Kindergarten

I am proud of Detroit because it's lovely and it is a good city. It's respect for others.

Nichole, 2nd Grade

My Detroit is something Wild. It seems like it's the only city that's in style. You have everyone putting us down, but we are a city of cool resilient kids. We are the people that make the decisions because we too have a mission. My Detroit is Free. It's a place where everyone isn't like me. Everyone has their own personality and can do what they pretty much believe. My Detroit is Proud. My Detroit is where I want to be. My Detroit is a part of me. This is the place to be.

Tanisha, 11th Grade

There are many reasons I'm proud of Detroit. The three things I'm proud of this city for are: deep history and culture,

great places to visit and stay, and great people.

I love that our historical name is Motor City and I'm happy that our city has cars and buses.

There are good neighborhoods, the movies, Belle Isle, the mall, and school. I love school because it teaches me things that I don't know.

Some people are nice. The people I know show respect, like my mom, she says please and thank you. My teacher has high expectations for me. My friends show me respect and they believe in me. That's why I'm proud of Detroit.

Shakyrra, 5th Grade

I believe in Detroit because I have faith in God. I know that

one day we can join together as one and fight. We can do it, it's just that we choose not to. I believe in Detroit because I think we are strong Americans. Detroit is falling apart because we don't care what happens as long as it doesn't happen to us. I believe in Detroit because there are people in the world that want to make a difference. My people can stop the killing, stealing, lying, drugs, and abuse. I believe in Detroit because I feel that Detroit believes in me. Detroit needs somebody to fight for them. One day I'm going to stand up and fight for what we want. My name is Messiah and I believe in Detroit.

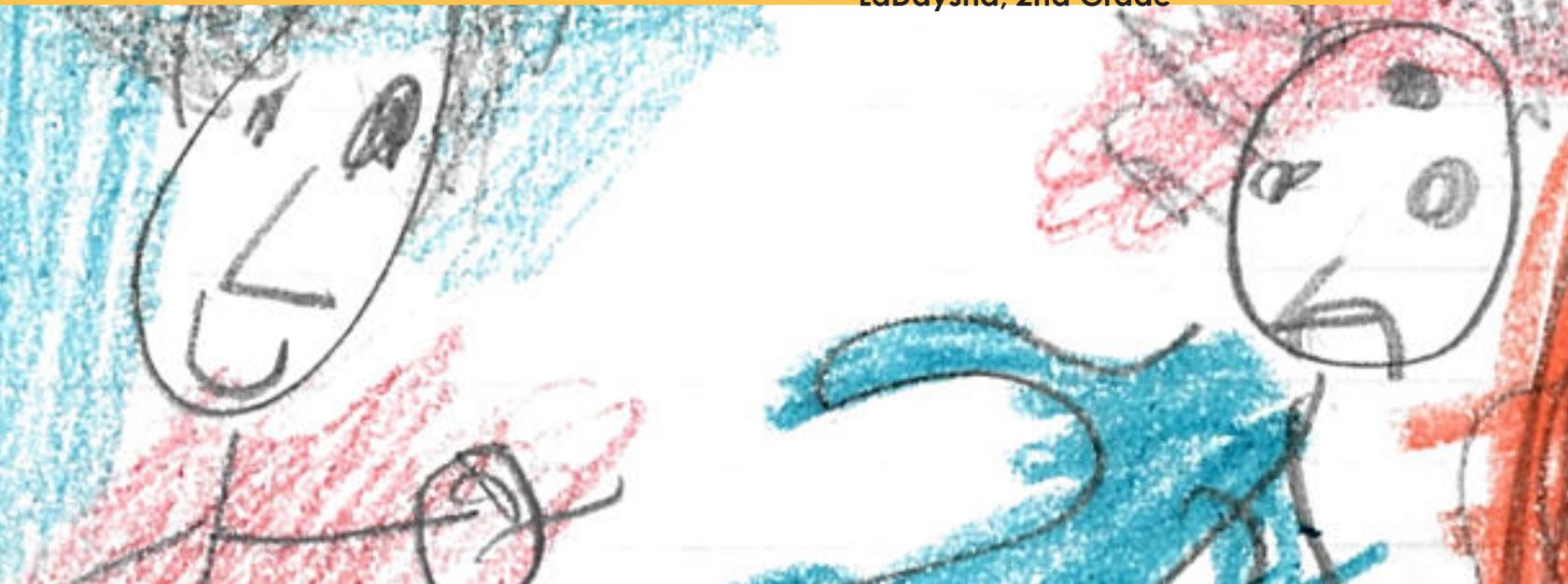
Messiah, 7th Grade

... If I could change one thing about Detroit, it would be the violence, a lot of people get murdered and too many people die for no reason. My dad got shot for a bike, but he is still living. A lot of people die for no reason at all.

Trevor, 5th Grade

If I could change one thing about Detroit, I would stop people from making guns and knives. Simuel, 3rd Grade

LaDaysha, 2nd Grade



I wish that Detroit would stop robbing and stealing from other people because that is against the Constitution and the law and I will tell people to stop, and if that does not work, I will be the President of the United States and if that does not work, I will be the mayor and if that doesn't work, I will make a speech. Timothy, 1st Grade

If I could change one thing about Detroit it would be violence because people and kids are out here dying. But all these people who are threatening out here, they will get to reflect on what they did. When I grow up I will be an excellent college student. People use violence and get put in jail because they can't get jobs or don't have their educations.

But that's not me. I know if I see someone doing anything wrong I will be a better person and call for help. Right now I can get my education and be like my teacher. We grow up and live our lives, I will live it. Then I will move away from here where there isn't violence and continue on with my life that I already have.

Sierra, 5th Grade

Big Bear, 2nd Grade

# safety

If I could change a few things about Detroit, I would change the stealing, crime, and violence.

First, I would change the crime because we have one of the highest crime rates in the country. I want to change the crime because people talk about our city like it's the worst city in the world. Also because they wouldn't want any one talking about their city.

I would stop the home invasions because if you watched the news, a couple

of weeks ago, three teenagers were trying to rob a mother with her child in the house. She warned them and they didn't believe her, so she shot at them. Then the older one dropped his gun, picked it up, and shot at the mom. He could have killed her!

I would change this because it affects our population because if a big brother stays being a gang banger then the little brother can do the same thing. I would change this because if a little boy or girl get killed,

their mom or dad can't get to see him or her grow up and didn't even probably live the rest of their life. Lastly I think we can be safe by putting out more police chiefs, making guns illegal in some states, by making only one key per car, unless you go to the lock smith, by shutting down abandoned houses, by making more alarm systems, and adding cameras to streets and stores.

Ashton, 5th Grade

**I wish that Detroit did not have bad people because Jesus did not make them like that.**

Kandyce, 1st Grade

I wish that peopel in Detroit  
Could be nise. Wat Would You  
wish Detroit to do? A. That evrybudy  
shud be nise. B. evrybudy shud be bad.  
C. evry. Thing Kould be depstroyd.  
I Vote for A. bec Kus its nise That its  
good to be safe. That maxe bad girs  
change their mind.

Abel Giovanni, 1st Grade

We have to be safe because bad people will be out there still.

Navneet, 1st Grade



Karon, 1st Grade

There are many things I wish Detroit would change. The three major things are: violence, stealing, and threatening. I want that to end because the people don't want that to happen to them. A lot of people get killed or hurt. I think the people that are doing this are scared because after they kill or hurt someone badly, they might kill themselves. I think they kill themselves because they've done something bad and felt bad about it.

I want stealing to stop because if you steal, you can get put in jail and people can sue you. A lot of people get robbed. I think people do this because they're homeless or

they want better things like TVs, games, and jewelry. I think they steal these kinds of things because they want to have a lot of money, they will have warm heat and cool air, and they could play games all day.

I want threatening to stop because when you threaten someone you might make them scared or angry. A lot of people get threatened and scared. I think people threaten others because they want to be the boss of everything and take over. I think people threaten others because they may have been threatened before and want to stop it, so they stand up for themselves.

The reason why I want violence, stealing, and threatening to stop is because whatever you do, someone might do it back at someone, they get mad and when they yell back at you, you get more angry.

The way to stop violence, stealing, and threatening is to be nicer and not mean. We can do this by helping each other and giving to help the homeless people. If you help others, there's a chance that you will get helped back. We could help each other to work harder.

Ashley, 5th Grade

I wish that the Mayor of Detroit would keep police, fire trucks, and ambulance services on their job and hire more people.  
Zandria, 4th Grade

People should not die because they are someone's family and that's sad. Detroit would be better if people would stop killing.

LaDaysha, 2nd Grade

If I could change one thing about Detroit, I would stop all the people who do bad things. I will give people food. I care about Detroit because I live here.

Adrianna, 2nd Grade

I wish that people could walk on the streets without being scared. Parents should not be scared when their children are out late.

Wan'tia, 5th Grade

If I could change  
one thing about  
Detroit it would  
be to stop violence  
at once. I want  
to stop this  
immediately  
I don't like violence  
and I'm only 7.

Ta'Shayla, 2nd Grade

This is my city. You should know...  
Strength is what it takes to stay in Detroit  
To keep a smile on your face  
To be able to pick yourself up when you fall  
Just to be able to provide for yourself and others

This is my city. You should know...  
People make Detroit sound like a bad place,  
but they forget to tell you about the good  
Detroit is filled with excitement  
Detroit is where I belong  
I believe my generation will support our city,  
Detroit can and will get better

This is my city. You should know...  
Detroit is not just a place filled with gang bangers, criminals  
and abandoned buildings  
We are more than that, we fight and we stand strong  
We are mothers and sisters, teachers and nurses,  
helping to make this city a better place

This is my city. You should know...  
We may have fallen a couple times,  
but we are still fighting  
This generation can really help to dig Detroit out of this hole  
This generation can help our city grow Asia, 10th Grade



I like to see Detroit polices. I believe in Detroit because we take care of Detroit.

Karon, 1st Grade

I wish that Detroit's future  
would be like people  
always being nice to  
one another. And I  
wish crime never existed.



My wish for Detroit is that we get to live at school because I like activities. We could get our own rooms. Jalynn, 1st Grade

If I could do one thing for  
Detroit I would be a teacher so our  
kids get smart. They should do  
homework and they should  
be good for Detroit so they can be  
smart. They will have a genius  
brain.

Jose, 2nd Grade

Schools are important to get a education. Schools help you learn Math, Science, Writing and Reading. When you learn things it can be boring or fun but the important thing is

# education

Amier, 3rd Grade

My Detroit is crazy but bright, neighborhood schools and kids learning, not just gang fights.

What you don't see is all of the teachers who care, the students working hard to make sure they are prepared.

Community centers, even community parks, bring out all the of the good in us and give us a spark.

A boxing gym that puts education first, helps build Detroit kids' pride and makes things work.

School field trips to Michigan State, showing

us the way to make things happen so we can have better days.

No one can judge and outsiders can't complain, until you live to see how much my city has changed.

This is my dark black, but also bright, city where I am from, and it feels so bright.

Jazzie, 10th Grade

I am proud of Detroit because of the colleges. There are a lot of colleges in Detroit. The colleges in Detroit are Madonna University and

Wayne County Community College.

People learn about Science and bones. They can also learn about social studies and history.

Colleges attract people to Detroit. People from New York and Michigan go to this college. All over the world people come to Detroit colleges.

When I go to college I will feel smart because I will learn new things. I will also learn about important things.

Amir, 3rd Grade

If you say you hate school, that is like saying you hate your life.

Amier, 3rd Grade

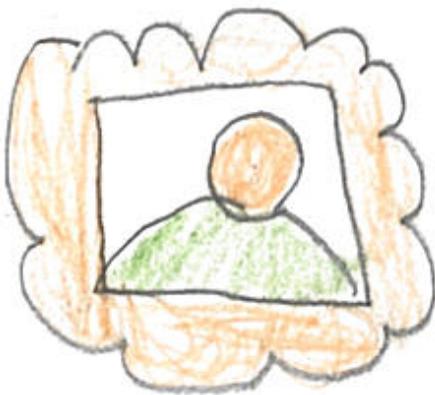
If I could do one thing for Detroit,  
I would be a mom. I want to help  
my kids do their homework.

Seleina, 1st Grade

I am proud of Detroit for the teachers.

Misiyah, Kindergarten

Andrew, 2nd Grade

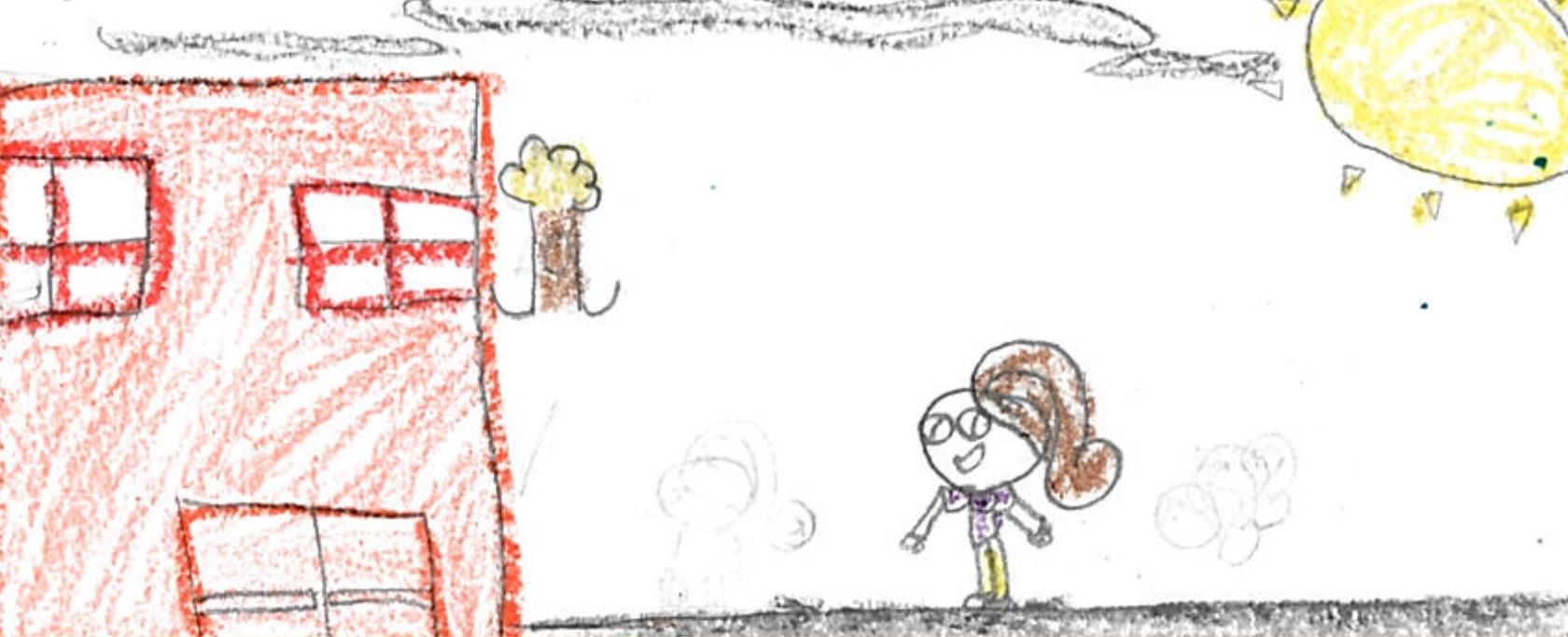


Detroit



I am proud of Detroit because Detroit has good schools. I like schools in Detroit because their schools have the best teachers. You can play learning games with the class. School makes us smarter. Teachers have us smart and ready for college. After school activities keep kids out of trouble. Sports like soccer keep kids healthy. This is how Detroit Public Schools keeps us smart.

Astaria, 2nd Grade



I love Detroit because it has schools and I love going to school to learn.

Alondra, 3rd Grade



I'm proud of the people because they are caring and nice, sweet and respectful to me and to others. Also schools because the teachers teach the scholars math, science, writing and how to read so the scholars can go to college and complete their hopes and dreams and to get smarter so they can teach others what they got taught. I also like how there's friendship because having friendship is very important because friendship is kind, nice and sweet.

Layla, 2nd Grade



Alejandro, 2nd Grade

Sometimes when the snow melts, we see lots of trash on the ground, so we should recycle it.

Daquan, 5th Grade

If I could change one thing in Detroit I would stop people from cutting down trees. Because they would not be life without oxinda. Then the people should grow trees so we can have oxinda. You should grow trees in Detroit for ever and ever. So people could be happy for a very very long time.

Alejandro, Second Grade

I wish that Detroit was clean and not dirty. Like having more trash cans on the sides of the streets. Have a cleaning crew where people come in to help clean the city.

Rosemary, 5th Grade

# beauty

If I could change one thing about Detroit, I would change the amount of vacant/empty houses. Then I would earn money to build/create new things. For example: I would build animal shelters.

First of all the reason I would change the amount of vacant houses is that people love Motor City, but the trash of vacant houses is making it poor. Motor City rules. Let's make it better for the children.

Secondly, Detroit is where Martin Luther King Jr. said the first I Have a Dream speech. He saw this city as the best. Let's correct that. Motor City is awesome, better than

perfect. Realistic things took place here. Save our streets. Earn money to make the city the best. Detroit is the best.

Howard, 5th Grade

I'm proud of Detroit for being eco friendly. Detroit has a lot of eco friendly things because the environment helps people. For example, leaves help us breathe. Also, some people use flowers to make things look pretty. If we were not nice to the environment, flowers would not grow so we could not use them.

I think the city of Detroit should make more

eco friendly things. That is why when I grow up I want to be an inventor. If you don't know what eco friendly means, it means good for the environment. Being eco friendly helps the whole world. Plants are a part of the environment. If we help plants, plants will help us back. Plants make food for Detroiters like us. Being eco friendly is helping two things, nature and people, in Detroit. Detroit can be the best city if every body helps the environment.

Montgomery, 2nd Grade

**People can carpool, walk, bike, or take the bus to cause less pollution. Let's keep Detroit clean!**

Cortney, 2nd Grade

I am proud of Detroit for the gardens because they help us make food. I love gardens so if people do not have money, they could have healthy food.

Ricky, 2nd Grade

I wish Detroit was a better place to live. I would knock down all old, burned, and vacant buildings.

Elizabeth, 4th Grade

If I could change one thing about Detroit, I would work in the community in any way that I could. I would try to get as many people as I can to help me clean up, basically anywhere around the city. I would also try to help out the people that are out there raising money and getting clothes, food, and shelter for others. This is the spirit of Detroit. We are there for each other as neighbors and family. Not many cities are as connected as Detroit is.

Tamia, 11th Grade

I wish Detroit could look beautiful. I do not want Detroit to be bankrupt, the abandoned houses could look better because nobody wants messed up homes in Detroit. Detroit could look nice, look safer and a more secure place to live in and have fun, travel to live in. Detroit is so much fun we can fix it up by doing a few things like rebuilding new homes and repair buildings to make Detroit look wonderful. Detroit needs to fix the houses that robbers have broken into, and we need people to protect us when robbers break into their homes. People's houses should be safe and not messed up. Detroit can have a lot of money, Detroit should be rich, look nice, and have wonderful houses. Detroit schools like libraries and field trips.

Diamond, 5th Grade



I would recycle glass bottles, plastic bottles, and paper. The communities need supplies. Recycling is fun!

Ashley, 2nd Grade

In the past Detroit was crowded. And all the houses were filled up. In the present Detroit has crowded houses. And the grass is long because nobody is there to cut the grass. In the future I want Detroit to have lots of people in it so people can love this state again. Until people start to move away I want it like that in the future.

Mikel, 2nd Grade

I wish that Detroit was a better community. First, we should knock down old abandoned buildings. I see them all over the city. Next, we should build more parks because in Detroit there are very few. Then, we should have more street lights because in the night it's dark and we can't see. Last, we should clean up the streets. I see chip bags on the streets.

Juan, 4th Grade

**My wish for Detroit is that there are no freeways. They are scary.**

Pedro, 1st Grade



Ricky, 2nd Grade

People need to be safe around abandoned houses. One thing I want to change about Detroit is abandoned houses because scary people can go in those abandoned houses. And when good people walk on the sidewalk the bad people will come out of the abandoned houses and hurt the good people and make people sad. And that keeps going on in Detroit.

If the police is around, that helps Detroit get better because they can protect people. So I want to

change abandoned houses so everybody can be safe.

Taiyona, 2nd Grade

I am proud of Detroit. I am proud because they did clean up downtown. It looks great downtown. It is clean, vivid, and filled with diversity. That is why I am proud of Detroit.

I am thankful for numerous trees in Detroit. Without trees I would die; we would die. We are full of life because trees create

oxygen for us to breathe in. So let's show our gratitude and continue to plant trees.

If I could do one thing for Detroit, I would board up some of the abandoned homes in my neighborhood. It just isn't safe for kids to walk down a block with all these abandoned homes. I hope someone feels the same way as I do and starts boarding these homes right away.

Nehemiah, 5th Grade

I come out and I see trash by abandoned houses and I go and clean it up. If we all keep Detroit clean, our city will be a better place. Taniyah, 2nd Grade

**We want to have clean streets because there is trash all over.**

Motown was important to people and it was famous. Motown showed people it was good to live in Detroit.

Ahriana, 3rd Grade

I am proud of Detroit because I love the Lions.

Jerimiah, Kindergarten



Alexis, 2nd Grade

I am proud of Detroit for having places for kids to play. Detroit has lots of builders to help our community.

Christopher, 2nd Grade

If I could do one thing  
for Detroit I would be an  
artist so I can make every body  
happy. I can make every

# culture

LuzJulet, 1st Grade

My Detroit is home. It is my life. It's art. It's history. It's music. Detroit is a very misjudged city. We are labeled by so many negative things. We are truly an example for the world of diversity. Many cultures roam our streets. Going downtown and experiencing the hustle and bustle of the city is the best. Detroit does have some room for growth. We need to ensure that our economy becomes equitable for all who live in the city. We definitely need to continue to work together to create opportunity out of the vacant land. All in all, it is important to remember that Detroit was built out of

greatness and with the help of our diverse community it can continue to be great.

Brianna, 11th Grade

My Detroit is a place where I grew up and have seen many things. My Detroit hasn't been hit like it has now. The way I see my Detroit has many positive outcomes. Growing up in my Detroit teaches you how to be strong, humble, and never take anything for granted. My Detroit makes me want to do better so that I can see my Detroit do better. My Detroit has been slandered by people and press, but my Detroit still fights to not just

be a statistic. My Detroit is my Detroit and no one can judge my Detroit until they have lived and walked the streets of my Detroit. My Detroit is improving, but outsiders are blind to these strides. I see my Detroit as a work of art. My Detroit may seem broken to some, but if you glue the pieces together, you will create a beautiful mosaic. My Detroit is unique, every piece of the mosaic is a different culture, a different background, and a different opportunity. My Detroit is our Detroit and I love it.

Angela, 11th Grade

**I wish Detroit had more businesses. That can happen by knocking down burned and abandoned houses and fixing them.**

D'andrae, 5th Grade

I am proud of Detroit because it has lots of cool places you can go like the Science Center and Kalahari. I like to go see art at the Hiedelberg Project.

Devon, 3rd Grade

I am proud of Detroit because I love Belle Isle. It is fun.

Keiare, Kindergarten

My Detroit is a place where everyone is treated equally. Everyone is loved and everyone has respect. We are a community of big beautiful voices. We are a community of artists who use their brushes to paint curiosity. We are a community of pianists that use the magic in their hands to create music for beautiful dancers to flow to. My Detroit, although others might not know it, is here. If you pursue it, you see its greatness. My Detroit is my sweet love. My Detroit is my sweet home.

Latela, 11th Grade

My Detroit is...  
My hair blowing in the breeze, on a Belle Isle beach  
My Detroit is...  
The sweet sweet sound of an orchestra unseen  
My Detroit is...  
The birth of feel good music that flows right through you  
My Detroit is...  
"Better Made" and "Sanders Cakes"  
While your Detroit is...  
Crime, violence, and police sirens  
Abandoned homes with grass that never grows  
Hoods, ghettos, gangs and slums  
Feeling like you can't go anywhere without a gun,  
could I be honest with you?  
I absolutely promise that I'll tell the truth...  
Do you think you should leave?  
Or simply see our city like me...  
A place of style and creativity.  
My Detroit is unique and I feel it was made just for me!

Mia, 10th Grade



I'm proud of Detroit because I like music.

Taliyah, Kindergarten

I am really proud of Detroit because it has a zoo called the Belle Isle Zoo. The Belle Isle Zoo helps kids know about animals and see animals they've never seen before. The Belle Isle Zoo also helps kids learn how to put pictures in their heads like what types of habitats do the animals live in? That is why I am really proud of Detroit.

Juan, 5th Grade



Dionte, 11th Grade

I am proud of the Red Wings because they win all the time.

Romeich, Kindergarten

I am proud of the Detroit Institute of Arts because they are opening new exhibits. The (D.I.A.) is very educational, and has lots of different cultures, and paintings, sculptures. The art is very creative it can inspire anyone. Their art work

teaches you about life, and their art is also interesting. That whole building is an adventure. They also have Eye Spy Games in some rooms. But I do wonder why don't they have more art you can touch? Once you go in there, you will gasp, and when you come out you will have a full brain.

Mikja, 5th Grade

I am proud of Detroit because it is good. One reason I am proud of Detroit is we have art. Another reason I am proud of Detroit is that we know how to make really good art. Also, I have pride in Detroit because they know how to use space. I feel that Detroit is a great city.

Detroit is great because it has the DIA. The DIA has important art from the olden days. Also, the DIA is super important because you

can learn new stuff. Another reason the DIA is important to Detroit is because it raises money for Detroit.

Motown gave Detroit something to be proud of. Motown was famous all around the USA. Motown showed people that Detroit was a good city. Both the DIA and Motown are great and good places to visit. I feel that Motown is something to be proud of.

Detroit is great

because we know how to use space. The Heidelberg Project is gardening. It is good for people that were scared. Urban gardening is a good way to save money because you don't have to buy that much food. These are both examples of helping Detroit be better. I feel that Detroit is a good place to live. I am proud of Detroit because it is a good city.

Jadyn, 3rd Grade

I am proud of Detroit because of the library. The library is a quiet place to go. You can pick out a book to read.

Conner, 3rd Grade

I love Detroit because it has cars we can drive in and trucks and police cops and friends and moms and dads.

Shania, 2nd Grade

I am proud of Detroit because I live in a house with so many generations.

Blessin, 1st Grade



I am proud of Detroit  
because people of  
All color and race  
come together.

Terrence, 2nd Grade

I'm proud of Detroit for  
having a Mexican Town. The  
reason I'm proud of Detroit  
that is some people who like

# heritage

Gabriel, 5th Grade

Detroit is my city. You should know about its true beauty and diversity. Detroit is beautiful because of its people. Detroiters have the strongest smiles and the largest hearts, we look out for one another and give help when it is needed. Detroit is diverse in culture, in religion, in style and in rhythm.

In Detroit we celebrate on the weekends and we work on the weekdays. We host a lot of events from the Winter Blast to St. Patrick's Day parade. We give coats to kids in need during the winter. Detroit isn't just your average city, we grind and we hustle to stay in love. Everyone here wants to shine and become

something more.

When you live in Detroit you hold your head up high and do what makes you proud. Detroit has legacies that will never be forgotten. Everyone here believes that the children are the future and honestly, that is true. In Detroit, the kids have dreams to all want to be something.

Le'Anna, 10th Grade

In the past Detroit was a busy, rich, and successful city and everybody wanted to live here because Detroit was a very rich city in America. Now Detroit has lots of problems, buildings are breaking down, people are moving away

from Detroit, and Detroit is becoming very, very poor because each year people are moving away. I want people to move back to Detroit because the city will be more and more successful. I want more and more and more people to come to Detroit for lots and lots of different jobs such as engineers, doctors, a person that makes cars, and a person who sells cars. All the houses will look pretty and will have no broken windows and no broken doors and downtown Detroit will be looking pretty with skyscrapers.

Summer, 2nd Grade

**Detroiters have the strongest smiles and the largest hearts, we look out for one another and give help when it is needed.**

Le'Anna, 10th Grade

A city with memories, it is like a family house to me. It has a lot of memories of people and their history is in this city.

Shajhaizymaxie, 8th Grade

One reason I am proud is because Detroit gave me a place to live.

Mariana, 3rd Grade

Detroit is Vengeful  
As well as Sinful  
Detroit grabs the attention  
with no eviction  
The city's dead,  
the city's gone,  
Nothing left,  
full of pot heads.  
A joyful noise  
sign and rejoice  
Rage and Pain,  
now regain,  
uphill struggle  
For the rubble  
Downward spiral  
this message is Viral  
Critic till the end,  
and we shall transcend.

Isaiah, 9th Grade

My Detroit is a place that I keep dear to my heart.  
I have always loved this big, vibrant, and crazy city.  
It amazed me how people can talk about Detroit in such a negative way,  
yet most of the nay-sayers don't even live here.  
Detroit has a certain colorful and lively atmosphere,  
that I believe anyone could fall in love with.

My Detroit is downtown.  
Eastern Market where I meet new people and try new things.  
Comerica Park to watch the Tigers play.  
Campus Martius listening to music at night.  
I love doing these things with my family.

My Detroit is my future.  
I honestly believe in the future of my city.  
We will come back stronger and better than we have ever been.  
We may have highs and lows,  
but we will get back on our feet and work for change.  
Detroit is too special and too beautiful to just die out.  
Through every nook and cranny there is a story.  
Detroit is a soulful place and it will always be that way.  
I love MY Detroit.

Dasia, 10th Grade

In the past Detroit was busy, rich, and successful because of car companies such as Ford and GM. Now Detroit has some problems. People are moving out and buildings are falling down. In the future I want the city to be better and pretty.

Ari, 2nd Grade

My wish for Detroit is that it becomes magical again.

Micah, 1st Grade



Antwain, 10th Grade

My Detroit is ANGRY!  
My Detroit is tired of everyone talking down on us  
My Detroit has a story that no one is willing to hear

My Detroit is beautiful  
My Detroit is smart  
My Detroit elders care for the youth,  
helping us find a better way  
My Detroit has some of the most caring teachers,  
who devote so much time to our generation's needs  
My Detroit's parents are worried but hopeful about  
their children's futures

My Detroit is not perfect  
My Detroit has its struggles  
But those things do not define us,  
for my Detroit has hope  
The hope of our generation,  
and what we will do for our Detroit

Kayla, 11th Grade

My Detroit is a mystery  
You can also learn from its history  
But I'm here to tell my story  
It's a wonderful thing to see our city's glory

As I walk through the streets of Motown  
And look at all the beautiful things going on  
downtown  
When good and bad things are happening around us  
People are so relentless that they can't see a future for  
themselves  
Life is unpredictable, that's why we live it to the  
fullest

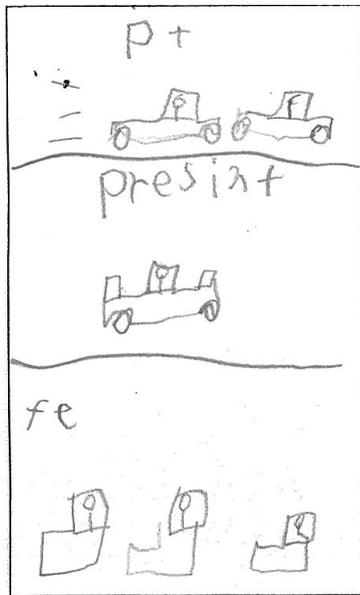
We are Detroit, we were born to build the life we  
want  
Together, we make the engine that keeps this city  
running  
This is the city that can't be broken  
This is the motor city, also known as Detroit

Dontae, 10th Grade

I am proud of Detroit for families, care, and love.

Janiyah, 2nd Grade





In the past  
Detroit was a  
famous city  
because it had  
car companies  
and they were  
hiring people.

In the present Detroit has some  
problems because homes are  
broken down. In the future  
I want it to be a famous  
city because now it's not

Khalid, 2nd Grade

I'm proud of Detroit for having a Mexican Town. Some people like being in their Mexican culture.

Gabriel, 5th Grade

One thing I hate that people say about Detroit is that our kids are not as capable as other kids. No matter what area we come from, it doesn't determine where we are going.

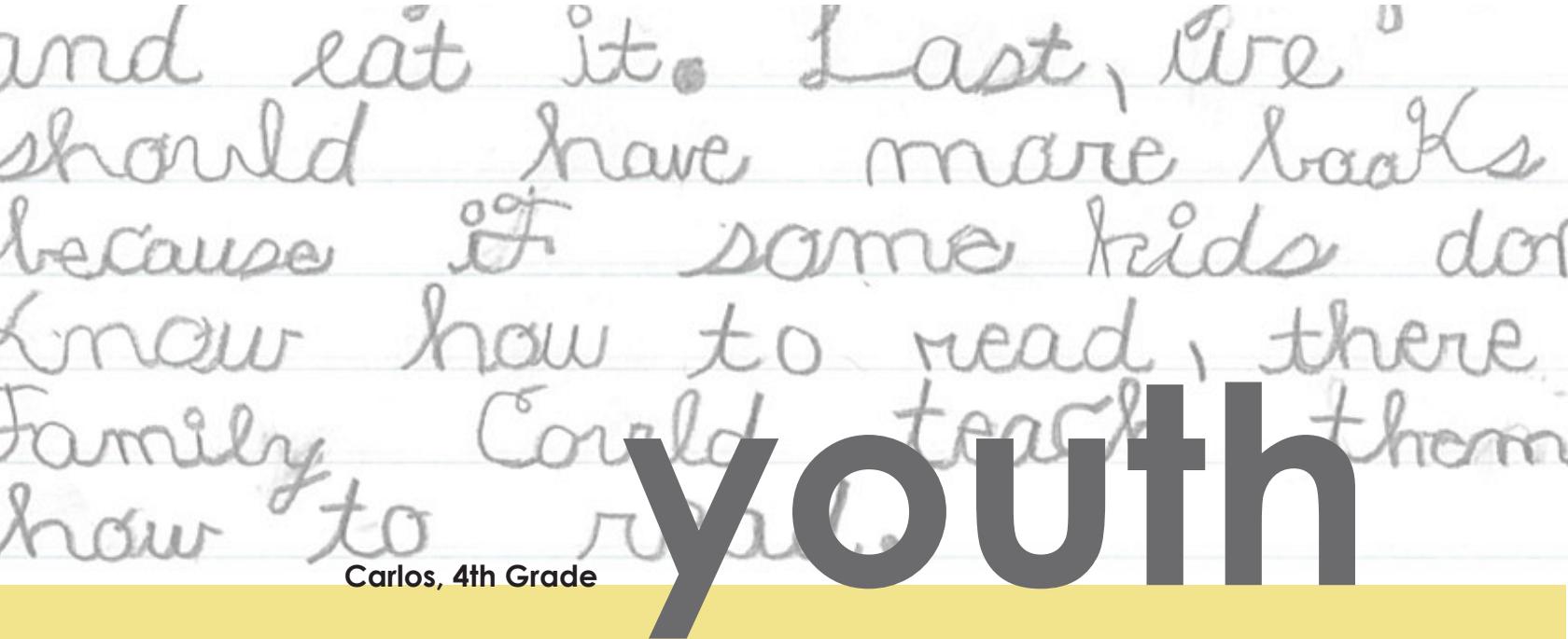
Alicia, 11th Grade

My wish for Detroit is that kids and grown ups can travel all over the world and meet new people.

Marshawn, 1st Grade



Tiyah, 2nd Grade



Carlos, 4th Grade

# youth

Detroit is my city and you should know that what people say is not true. People that don't live here and have never been here should not be allowed to write about Detroit. Detroit kids are not bad. My classmates are not bad at all. My classmates come to school everyday; we learn and put in excellent work. I think in the next 30 years, Detroit will be one of the wealthiest cities in America because I know my classmates are going to do amazing things for our hometown.

I believe in Detroit because my fellow classmates and I are hard workers. We have a lot of kids that I think will become wealthy through hard work and perseverance. I know once I get done with college I am coming back to

Detroit to make my city a better place. My teacher's goal for our class is "To College, Through College, Back to Detroit." I plan on completing this goal. I know I am going to graduate at the top of my class, I am going to attend college, and after I graduate I am going to come back to Detroit to help other teens meet this goal.

My Detroit is not a bad place, but I am going to try my best to make my city an even better place when I become older. This is why I believe in Detroit.

Darius, 10th Grade

I believe in Detroit because I really think that this city can be better than what it is now. We need to work on my generation now, so that we can help our city when we grow up.

Some people make Detroit worse than it is. The city is good in its own way. People who are not from Detroit always doubt our city. But I believe that things can and will be changed.

People need to start believing in Detroit like I do, and we will work to make things better. I grew up here, and I know that negative places exist, but those places can become positive if everyone works together. If everyone starts treating themselves with respect and is patient with our city, big changes will come.

My generation cares about our homes and our education. We believe in Detroit and we are the ones who will help make our city great.

Nyree, 10th Grade

**My wish for Detroit is that kids like me can change the world.**

Xavier, 1st Grade

# That young moms like my mom don't pass away. But I love you so much.

Nijae, 1st Grade

Detroit is Going to Make a Change! I want to make a change by going to my dream college, Cornell University in New York City to study cosmetology. I want to eventually come back to Detroit to make a difference after I graduate from Cornell. People need to realize that they need to make a change. By that time, I hope the mayor will hire more people in the fire department. Detroit will always be my home city and we need to work together to make sure it stays a strong city. I hope the violence and crime will stop sooner than later. People have to change first and it's going to start with me.

Zandria, 4th Grade

I wish that Detroit would rebuild abandoned homes because we can use those homes for the homeless and people without shelter. I can volunteer at a construction site. I can go to Howard University in Washington D.C. to become an athlete. I will come back to Detroit to buy the homes and fix them up so people can live in them. Detroit is a great city; sometimes people don't realize it.

Dymond, 4th Grade

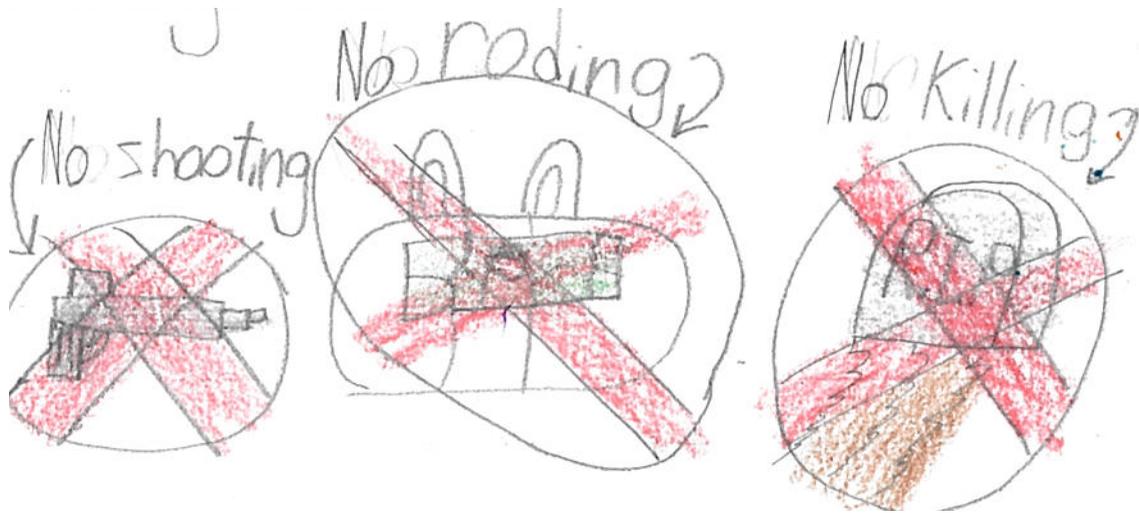
If I could change some things about Detroit, I would change the way people act to others, and the people with mental problems. Next, I would change how jobs do things like have nicer bosses, and have

more technology in jobs. Then, I would change the way we use electricity from the way we do now. Last, I would change how people do things in life like using drugs and alcohol and their anger.

Nathan, 4th Grade

I want Detroit to look better with more people and some traffic and lots of people that are nice and no abandoned houses. Also, it would be all clean with no snow in the way, also more places so everyone can have a job and so all foster kids can have a family and some more trees and plants so Detroit can have more air to breathe.

Brandon, 2nd Grade



Jeremiah, 2nd Grade

Science can save the world. You can be powerful by learning.

Navneet, 1st Grade

If you could do one thing for Detroit what would you? I will be a factree girl. I will make books so people could know how to read. I want people to do stuff on their own.

Joslynn, 1st Grade

I wish that Detroit had more culture centers like the Detroit Institute of Arts, Science Center, or the First Congregational Church and Charles H. Wright Museum. But I would like one near our houses and not all the way downtown and more emotional places. My Detroit is really fun; a lot of stores, food markets, and restaurants. I really love the schools. My school is really respectful, honorable, and the people are nice to each other.

Yissel, 5th Grade

There are many things that I would like to change about Detroit, but one thing I would really like to change about Detroit is that the city is bankrupt.

I don't want Detroit to be

bankrupt. I don't want it to have a lot of debt either. Detroit is bankrupt because the city doesn't have enough money to pay its debt. Detroit's debt affects poor people because Detroit doesn't have enough money to support them and give them things like health insurance or help them pay their rent if they're renting a house.

Detroit's new mayor, Mike Duggan, can help Detroit get out of its debt. He could try not to spend too much money or he could raise taxes to make more money.

If the mayor did that, it will help fix roads and save money for low income people. It will fix abandoned houses. There won't be any people going in them or stray dogs living in them. The money could also repair public things, and help schools so they

can get supplies for kids.

This is important to me because I want Detroit to get out if its debt and rise against what it's going through. Sometimes I wonder how Detroit became bankrupt in the first place. How did the city get its debt?

Shaniya, 5th Grade

I wish that Detroit was a better place to live. First of all, we need to have more water parks so people can go there and have fun. Next, we should have more houses because some people live in the streets. They don't know how to live and keep money so they can bring food and eat it. Last, we should have more books because if some kids don't know how to read, their family could teach them how to read.

Carlos, 4th Grade

If I could do one thing for Detroit, I would be an artist that makes jewelry so I could make girls pretty so they can feel good about themselves.

Ariana, 1st Grade



Ms. Oh's Advisory, 10th Grade

This city is also cool because it has good jobs. People can become doctors or work in a factory or even be a waiter or a teacher.

Finally, Detroit is awesome for its good people, like those who help the home less. My Church gives food, coats, and hot drinks to the homeless.

These are reasons why people shouldn't say hateful things about Detroit. It is a great city.

Josh, 3rd Grade

**If I could do one thing for Detroit I would be a fire woman. They make sure that all houses are nice and people are off the streets.**

Codie, 2nd Grade

If I could change one thing about Detroit I would buy homes for people that are poor or homeless. I would help people that don't have jobs. People will be happy.

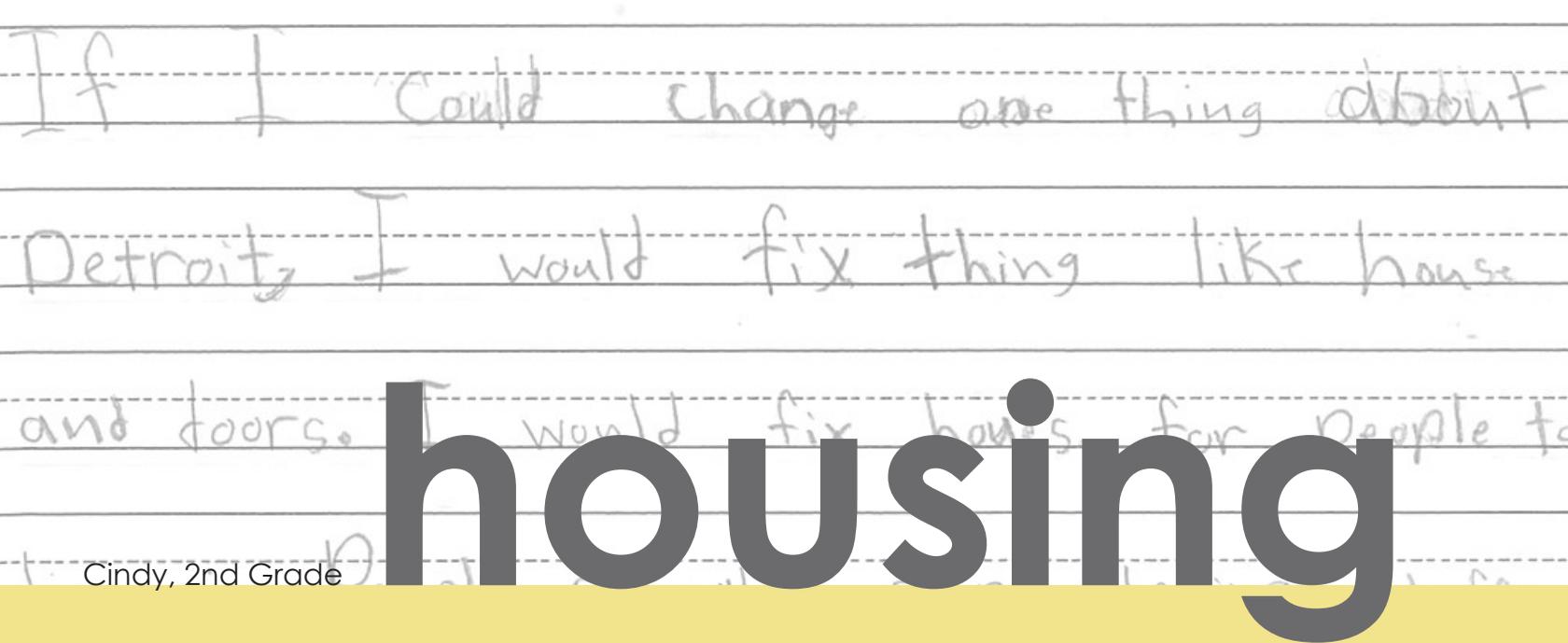
Gian, 2nd Grade

My wish for Detroit is that everyone has somewhere warm and safe to live.

Vallorie, 1st Grade



Monaija, 3rd Grade



# housing

Cindy, 2nd Grade

I wish that Detroit could be known for what it really is. This is a place that many people called home for many of years. We just didn't start this fight, we have been fighting. It's up to us, the next generation, to carry the torch and finish the fight. We have come too far to give up. The city has so much potential. This city is an amazing blank canvas to a great start of a colorful future. This is the platform that has formed many families, business owners, entrepreneurs, and highly educated men and women.

I am proud of Detroit for not giving up. I am proud of Detroiters for staying loyal. Just 'cause times get tough doesn't mean we walk away. We stick together as one, a

community. We need each other. We are united at the city building, petitioning them to clean our streets, take down these abandoned house, and fix our buses. We are together fighting for what's right for each other. When one hurts, the community hurts. When one finds joy, they share their joy with others. We've been through the struggle long enough together. We know not to let a person come between our bonds as a community.

If I could change one thing about Detroit it would be the housing situation. I don't understand why you would want to take someone's home where they raise their family and made memories. The struggle is already hard enough with the economy. When you take their homes you're not doing

anything but letting them go to waste. The more houses we keep occupied the safer and cleaner the neighborhood. I understand they need money, but look at it both ways you keep the house occupied, you have less abandoned houses, nicer communities, and make a plan with the home owner around their budgets.

Detroit is my city. You should know that I'm going to continue the fight and encourage others to continue the fight. This is our home and the future of many more to come. If we start the revolution now, it will never end.

Nicole, 11th Grade

**If I could change one thing about Detroit, I would fix all the abandoned houses.**

Damarius, 2nd Grade

If I could change something about Detroit, it would be for people to stop setting homes on fire because almost all the homes are burned down by bad gangs. I wish that Detroit could get cool new homes for people.

Omar, 5th Grade



Truss, 2nd Grade

Was once at the top  
Then we fell by the wayside  
A change is coming

Many years have passed  
My family is still here  
The future looks bright

A beautiful place  
It's culturally diverse  
A home for many

Samantha, 10th Grade

If I could change one thing  
about Detroit, I would change  
how homeless people would live.  
I would give them a place to  
live and sleep and food to eat.



Eve, 2nd Grade

My wish for Detroit is that everyone can live in a house  
and no one lives on the streets.

Cy' Nisha, 1st Grade

I wish Detroit had more money.  
I wish Detroit made more money so they can  
build more hospitals so people won't have to  
wait to get better. If they make extra money  
they can build more colleges so people who  
didn't go can have a second chance.  
If they save some money they can build  
houses so poor people won't be on the streets.  
That's why I want them to make more  
money.

Mark, 5th Grade

If I could change one thing about Detroit, I would build new houses because no one will buy the old, burnt houses. When I was little, my cousin lit a match. Overnight our house burned down. We had to stay at Aunt Wanda's house for a while. We found a house in Melvindale. It was because Melvindale had a school and a pool.

Brittany, 3rd Grade

If I could change a few things in Detroit it would be violence, vacant houses, and drugs. I would ask popele to help me rebuild some of the vacant houses because people burn them down and break into them to steal. One more reason why I would rebuild

them is because people are doing drugs in them and selling them. Why do they do this to one of the greatest cities in the world?

The second thing I would change is the violence because people are getting killed every day over games and shoes and for what? You just kill that kid or who ever needs to be killed? Just because you want whatever they have? That's what makes Detroit look bad. Some people who are stealing and killing need to grow up.

I would change it by being on the news and in the paper so I can tell people that drugs are bad for you and others.

Matthew, 5th Grade

Detroit is a special city with a lot of spirit. If I could change Detroit I would fix all of the abandoned houses and buildings, add more police, and fix the cracks in the streets. Let's make our city better than what it is now.

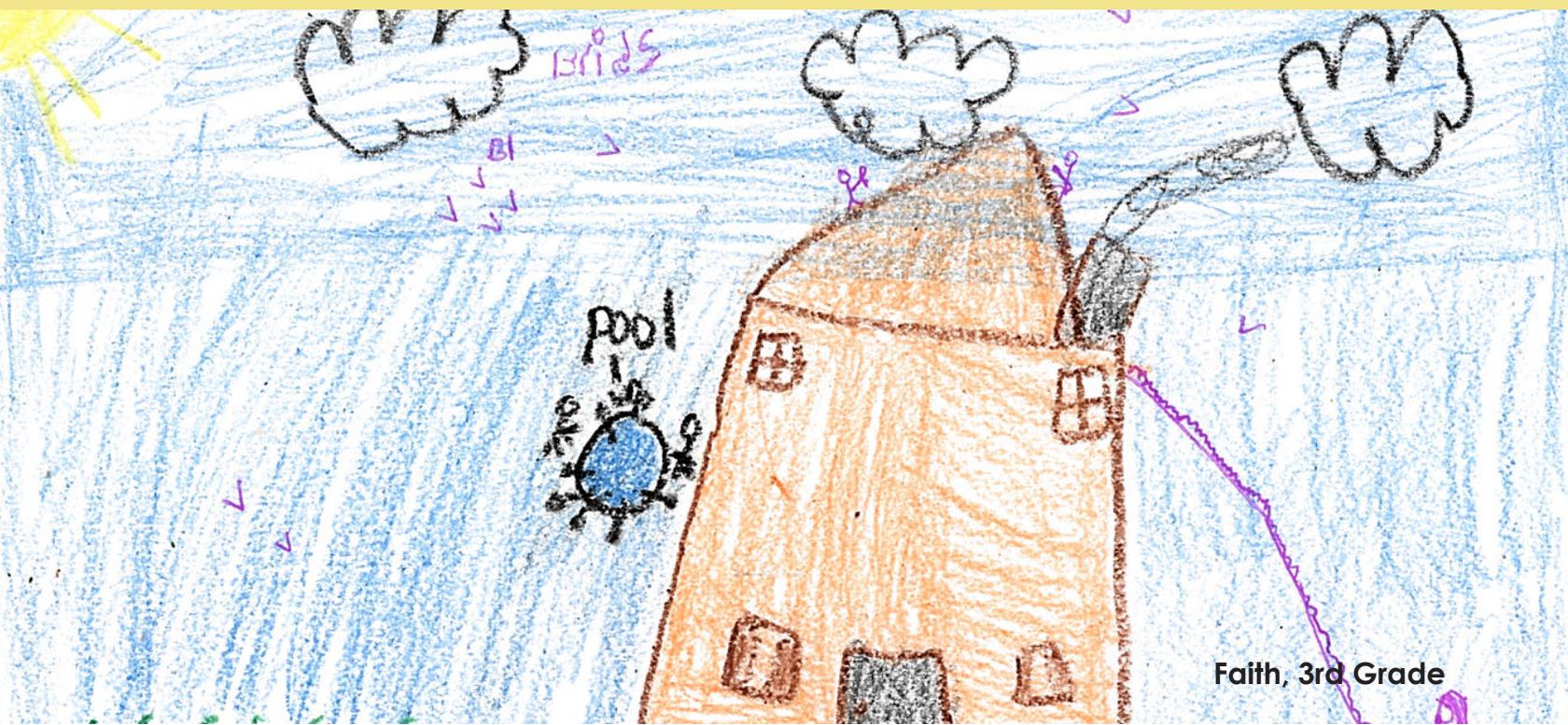
First, I would fix the buildings for the homeless so when it is cold outside, they could just go home or the shelther and they could warm up. Also, by fixing the houses they can sell them more easily. Our neighborhood would look nicer with fixed houses on our streets.

We have Motown pride, so we need to make things better.

Demarcus, 5th Grade

I wish that Detroit can be beautiful in the future, with no trash or littering or crimes. And the abandoned houses can be fixed.

Monaija, 3rd Grade



Faith, 3rd Grade

I love Detroit because people is helping the homeless get jobs, homes and food. One time I helped a homeless person. The man had asked others for money but they did not hear him, so I gave him the money I had. I love helping homeless people. They can get the things they need. Detroit is a good place because more people are helping homeless get the things they need.

Antonio, 3rd Grade

I wish that Detroit would have beautiful houses. I wish that people would not burn them down, even ones that are ugly. That does not mean that we can burn them down.

Kenya, 2nd Grade



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