

Mentor's Introduction

Lorrie Blair

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Mentor's Introduction for Stanley Chase

Lorrie Blair
Concordia University

While I am pleased to introduce Stan Chase's paper, I must excuse myself from the role as his mentor. Rather, I stand in admiration of his work with youth whose lives have been affected by violence. Stan's commitment to these teenagers began before he started his doctoral studies at Concordia and, I suspect, will continue long after he completes his studies. For Stan, this work is a life long passion, and one for which he is extremely well suited.

The Leave Out Violence (LOVE) photojournalism project, which Stan introduces in his paper, originated in the basement photo labs in a Montreal college with fifteen teens who had experienced some form of violence. The goal of the LOVE project is to foster change by training teenagers to become teachers of non-violence, and use multi-media tools to promote non-violence in schools and community groups. Together, they produce a biannual newspaper and hold exhibitions of the teen's work. Most recently, the group exhibited at the Musee de Beaux-Arts de Montreal. In addition, they have published two books, *L.O.V.E. works!* and *The Courage to Change: A Teen Survival Guide*. Over 10,000 children and youth have been exposed to this program across Canada.

Stan, a cofounder of the project, has witnessed its transforming effect on both teens and himself as their teacher, mentor, and friend. In this paper, Stan describes how he worked to become an effective Community-based teacher. He begins his journey into the literature of community art education, as well as sociology and adolescent development. His "at risk" population also led him to literature in psychology, public health, and social policy. For his doctoral thesis, Stan plans to revisit some of the LOVE youth to document their transformation from the teenage years to young adults. I am confident that his study, like his previous work, will greatly contribute to our understanding of teenagers and their struggles with violence.