

DEDICATED TO MAKE A CHANGE



Dear friends of DTMAC,

Poetry Posse team members practice

Winter will end. Probably. At this point we can't provide any guarantees. It's been so cold for so long we can't remember how to dress for 50-degree weather. But regardless of whether spring is actually coming, March is upon us, and we're ringing it in the best way we know how: with the creative work of young people.

This Saturday, March 1st, the Poetry Posse, one of our newest programs, will send 5 youth to Shapiro Undergrad Library and The Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor for Michigan Louder Than a Bomb, a statewide youth poetry slam. The teens have been preparing for weeks, writing and practicing poems, learning about slam poetry and gearing up to share their work with other youth from around Michigan. They'll

attend writing workshops and competition bouts, celebrating the power of words and meeting new people who share their love of writing. We see Michigan Louder Than a Bomb as an important moment in the formation and growth of Poetry Posse, but also as a launchpad for further creative activity on the part of our youth. We highly encourage everyone to attend the event and check out poetry in action: festival bouts are at 1pm and 3pm in Shapiro, and finals are at 7pm at the Neutral Zone. Our team: 10th graders, Darius Gracey, DeShawn Delaine. 9th graders, Octavia Arnett, Zakiya Johnson, Steven Craig. These five students attend Ypsilanti Community School. 8th

graders, Devyn and Dominick Carthage from Keystone Academy in Belleville.

Also this past month, we've finished up our second session of Prevent & Prevail. To date, we've educated 30 youth between the ages of 10 and 17 about safer sex, HIV prevention, sexuality and empowerment. We want to thank the Corner Health Center for giving participants a tour of their facility this session, and we're excited to build on the mentoring we've developed and provided as part of P&P.

That's all for now - best of luck to our poets on Saturday, and here's hoping we all get warm soon. Best wishes,

Dedicated to Make a Change, L3C



Under the Corner with Monique.