

# AWBW / A WINDOW BETWEEN WORLDS

## Children's Windows Participant Voices

**My inner self sparkles.**

Participant, age 11, *Inner-Self Portraits*  
Women in Distress

**My heart is lots of colors. I like rainbow colors because they make me feel bright and happy. I am happy here because nobody is yelling at us anymore.**

Participant, age 12, *Shrinky Dink Blessing Charms - Holidays with HeART Series*  
Marjaree Mason Center

**My stone is heart-shaped because love is what carries me through hard times.**

Participant, *Stepping Stones*  
Korean American Family Services

**My guardian jar is bright and beautiful, just like me and just like my mom. This will bring a lot of light and angels when we need it.**

Participant, age 9, *Guardian Jars*  
Saving Grace

**I love this group! It feels like a family here. You can just share anything and everyone still cares about you.**

Participant, age 9, *Children's Windows Workshops*  
Family Advocates, Inc.

**I feel better after coloring hard.**

Participant, age 5, *The Aggressive Crayon Warm-Up*  
Union Rescue Mission - Hope Gardens Family Center

**In my necklace, I used words such as you are kind, you are smart and you are important. These words will help me feel loved.**

Participant, age 11, *Words Are Like Charms*  
Seeking Peaceful Solutions

**I have a happy face when I come to group.**

Participant, age 3, *Emotion Hats*  
Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse

**I will change the world by being kind.**

Participant, age 7, *Superhero Power Pourers*  
Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network

**Even when things are bad outside, I will remember the light inside me and keep it safe.**

Participant, *My Inner Light*  
Marjaree Mason Center – Clovis

**Sometimes I pray that my dad gets help and stops acting scary. But I do know that it is not my fault. I learned that here.**

Participant, age 11, *Children's Windows Workshops*  
Saving Grace

**I drew a stop sign because if someone touches you in an unsafe way you say stop, you walk away, and you tell an adult.**

Participant, *Safe Rocks*  
Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.

**I am going to give my lotus to my mom. I wrote 'hope' in the center. I think she really needs it.**

Participant, age 15, *The Lotus Flower*  
Raphael House of Portland

**How do I know I am brave? Well, I come to this group and that reminds me that I'm brave to be healing from sexual abuse.**

Participant, age 10, *Feelings Target Warm-up*  
Haven Women's Center

**I drew a house with rainbows all over it so that me and my family will always be safe.**

Participant, age 9, *Creating a Safe Place*  
Domestic Violence Center of Santa Clarita Valley – Outreach

**When I wear my crown I feel so powerful! Like I can do anything!**

Participant, age 9, *Crowned with Esteem*  
Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV - Enrichment Services

**Today was a good day for me, the workshop was so much fun. I feel like I can be more open about my life and also letting people in and having the chance to discover me.**

Participant, age 13, *Children's Windows Workshops*  
Desert Sanctuary, Inc./Haley House

**I am like a butterfly, I am changing and growing every day into something very beautiful.**

Participant, *Journey Butterflies*  
Aiding Women in Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc.

**In my peaceful world there would be no yelling, no fighting and no bullying. Not ever!**

Participant, age 11, *Children's Windows Workshops*  
Haven Women's Center



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## Children's Windows Leader Voices

Art is a magical tool in the healing process for a child. It provides them the opportunity to feel safe, build self-worth and confidence. They are able to set forth new visions and hope for the future.

Leader, Rainbow Services

We continue to see the connections built with ongoing group members, as well as seeing the development of their innate resiliency.

Leader, Advocates of Ozaukee

It is rewarding witnessing a child's progression and branching out of their shells after participating in consistent art workshops.

Leader, CORA - Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse

The workshops allow the children to explore their feelings freely and openly. They are very innocent, want to feel loved, protected and accepted. It is a pleasure watching them be themselves.

Leader, House of Ruth – Emergency

AWBW workshops give the children a forum and safe place to express themselves, and allowing them time to simply 'be' without the expectation of performance or its accompanying pressure.

Leader, Etiwanda School District

Through AWWB, I have been able to witness significant growth within the participants including openness with communication and expressing needs.

Leader, Human Services Association

The teens really opened up to share deeply personal experiences of trauma. They used the art workshops to release a lot of raw emotion into their creations.

Leader, Haven Women's Center

The training, curriculum and supplies allow our staff to reach child clients in a way that 'talk' therapy can't. It offers a unique approach and effective tool to help clients heal from the past and look to a brighter future.

Leader, United American Indian Involvement

Windows activities dissuade bullying, as kids connect with each other in a more intimate and safe way.

Leader, South Bay Community Services

Some of the children we currently have in the program have been through a great deal of trauma and seeing them blossom and smile and laugh in the art program has been very rewarding.

Leader, Marjaree Mason Center – Clovis

The AWWB trainings and workshops have led me to see the importance of creating a space where our clients can respect and honor what is in their hearts. This healing space truly supports our capacity to guide our clients toward a life free from violence.

Leader, WomenShelter of Long Beach (WSLB) - Youth Services

While words can be a challenge for people to use to express their feelings, AWWB reminds us communication and human connections can be shared through creativity.

Leader, Center for the Pacific-Asian Family

Children come into the shelter quiet, scared and traumatized due to the violence they witnessed or experienced at home, but thanks to A Window Between Worlds they learn to speak up about their feelings without fear.

Leader, Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter

As a crisis agency, we can get stuck in the crisis part – but with the provision of all the directions and materials support, we are able to do a 1-2 hour very healing play activity that draws in the whole family.

Leader, Center for a Non Violent Community

The way the children listened as others shared and complimented each other on their art projects was really touching. These kids seem to be bonding more quickly than in any previous group I've led.

Leader, Haven Women's Center

The children have learned to use the art to communicate their feelings and they know that if they do not want to speak what they are feeling, they can express it by drawing.

Leader, Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter

It is rewarding seeing students gain a sense of their own power through art and tap into that inner voice that tells them what they really need.

Leader, Capistrano Unified School District

