



School for Creative and Performing Arts students partnered with veterans from Joseph House to tell stories through photos. (Photo provided by Badriah Salim)

## SCPA students tells homeless veterans' stories with photography, writing

By Roxanna Swift, WCPO Contributor  
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SCPA students and homeless veterans shared their stories and the story of their city through photography. (Photo provided by Demetrius Ogletree)

CINCINNATI — High school students are finding their voices and telling veterans' stories with the help of a local arts organization.

Under the guidance of Prairie, Inc. founder David Rosenthal, creative writing students from [Cincinnati's School for Creative and Performing Arts](#) recently teamed up with homeless veterans to create a collection of photos and writing.

“As creative writers, this isn't just a single-genre exposure,” said Wendy Braun, head of creative writing for SCPA.

The students' and veterans' works will be on display in an exhibition, which opens at 6 p.m. Friday, in the Mayerson Foundation studio space at 1313 Walnut St.

The project is the latest from Prairie's New Voices program, which partners high school students with members or guests of community organizations including Over-the-Rhine Community Housing, Elementz and City Gospel Mission.

The program began in 2009 as a way of giving voice to SCPA students and homeless individuals at Drop Inn Center – now Shelterhouse – in the midst of controversy over the school's relocation.

“Everyone was talking except students and the people at Drop Inn Center,” Rosenthal said.

The program has since expanded to include about 12 schools and 12 organizations, with Rosenthal working with about six each year.

SCPA students have taken part in New Voices programs every year since its inception. While they generally work with different organizations each year, this is the second time they've teamed up with residents of Joseph House, a housing and chemical dependency treatment center for veterans in Over-the-Rhine.

**Become a [WCPO Insider](#) to read more about SCPA's photography project with homeless veterans.**

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