

Press Release

For Immediate Release



Homestreet Publishing

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Operation SafeHouse Brings “The Let’s Write Out Loud Program” to Riverside Teens

RIVERSIDE, CA—August 19, 2009—Operation SafeHouse, a non-profit organization dedicated to the safety and well being of children in crisis, is hosting Homestreet Publishing’s *The Let’s Write Out Loud* poetry program for Riverside teens. This dynamic program will take place over the course of four weeks with workshop classes being held every Saturday from September 26, 2009 through October 17, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Operation SafeHouse Riverside Shelter.

The Let’s Write Out Loud program enriches the lives of its participants by teaching youth to express themselves with poetry. The program was designed to help today’s young people embrace the English language and fall in love with words.

“I fell in love with words years ago and I want kids in the community to experience the same admiration and fascination with words that I did,” said Monette “MoPoetic” Miles, creative director, Homestreet Publishing. “Poetry is powerful and I’m on a quest to show our youth their power within and to keep literary arts alive in our schools and within our communities.”

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The Let's Write Out Loud workshops provide students with the opportunity to discover different styles of poetry, to become proficient at identifying figurative language and to create and share their own poetry.

"Many times the kids that come through our shelter have so much to say and I want to let people know about them [and have their voices heard]," said Fonda McGensy, program director for Operation SafeHouse. "*The Let's Write Out Loud* program is the perfect way to increase their knowledge and give them the power to express themselves. Monette has a very special way of reaching the youth she works with and empowering them to become more. We're excited to have her program in the City of Riverside."

As a finale, after participants complete *The Let's Write Out Loud* program, they will be invited to read or recite their original poems at The SafeHouse Poetry and Music Festival to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Coffee Depot in Riverside. This fun night of poetry, music and art is free to the public and will feature performances from Groove Session and Them Novus.

Registration for the program is open to youth 12 to 17 years of age. The nominal fee for this four-week workshop is \$10.00 and includes lunch. Financial sponsorships are available. Space is limited. Interested teens are encouraged to register online at <http://homestr.com/TLWOLP.htm> or in person at SafeHouse in Riverside located at 9685 Hayes Street Riverside, CA 92503.

About Homestreet Publishing

Homestreet Publishing (www.homestr.com) believes that nothing feels as good as being home and strives to bring the community together by providing enrichment programs and internships that support English/language arts, education, community awareness and unity. The company's Let's Write Out Loud written and spoken word poetry program meets The California State Content Standards in English and Language Arts and aids in the implementation of No Child Left Behind. For more information, contact Monette Miles at (909) 910-8026.

About Operation SafeHouse

Operation SafeHouse (www.operationsafehouse.org) is a private, non-profit organization that provides Emergency Shelter, Intervention and Outreach Services to Runaway, Homeless and Other Youth in Crisis. SafeHouse offers at-risk youth positive alternatives to becoming victims of the streets. For more information, contact Fonda McGensy at (951) 858-3701.

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