



2013 FYSB Mural Contest – The New Generations Mural Project

Submitted by the Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs, St. Albans site at Northwestern Counseling & Support Services (NCSS).

The following words reflect the mural design, as described by the youth who were involved in the process:

THE NEW GENERATIONS MURAL PROJECT REPRESENTS A “NEW WORLD.”

A PLACE WHERE:

THE LONG ROAD HOME IS SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS, AND EVERYONE’S DREAMS COME TRUE.

THERE’S A PLACE FOR ALL AND NO ONE IS LEFT WITHOUT SUPPORT.

A PLACE WHERE:

ACHIEVEMENT IS TAKING THE JOURNEY, AND EVERYONE HELPS EACH OTHER REACH HIGHER.

A PLACE WHERE:

THE GROWTH PROCESS IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS GRADUAL, AND MISTAKES DON’T HAVE PERMANENT CONSEQUENCES

A PLACE WHERE:

DIVERSITY SYMBOLIZES THE COLOR OF THE RAINBOW, AND THE STARS SYMBOLIZES INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

A PLACE WHERE:

EVERYONE EVENTUALLY FINDS THEIR WAY HOME



New Generations is an advisory board for youth in transition, and the members are affiliated with or enrolled in the TLP at Northwestern Counseling and Support Services, a site of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. They are an active group of youth leaders who are dedicated to helping make a difference in the community.

This Mural was designed by youth involved in the group, who meet weekly to focus on issues impacting youth in transition and raise awareness about such issues. They also spend time providing peer leadership to at-risk youth, and host outreach activities to contact and engage more at-risk youth who are transitioning into adulthood. This group designed this mural in connection to the words written on these two pages, reflecting their own experiences and the circumstances of many youth in the St. Albans community. One describes how this image relates to her experiences and how she wants to help other youth in her community through the work that they do in New Generations:

“The sea is where you begin. Sometimes the waters can be rough and other times calm, but no matter where you go you can always see the sky. You see a moon shining brightly in the dark, rainbows of different colors and different people and wonder how you could possibly get there, with such a big space in between. We want to take the young people in our community and have them experience all the possibilities of what they could be. St. Albans may be a very small town, but it’s just like anywhere else. People struggle, they worry about the future, they worry about how things will be and what choices they will make that they can’t go back on. We want to help them feel like they can do and be anything they want to be. The trip up may be windy, but even if you get blown back down or think you’re going in the wrong direction, we will be there to put you back on course. Our group is made up of many different kinds of people and we all respect each other, we’ve learned that working as a team is the best way to help ourselves as well as others. A lot of us are still on our trip to the sky and so far we’re doing pretty great. This is the beginning and we are part of the path to your future”.