

OUR VOICE gives my voice 'purposeful volume'

There is no greater gift then to be able to publicly voice my own thoughts and concerns, and hopefully influence the masses.

The rewards of writing for OUR VOICE are unbelievably satisfying; especially, when someone is sincerely thanking me because I wrote on their behalf in one way or another.

What I find especially appealing about writing for OUR VOICE is that I have the freedom to continually explore more in depth issues to do with social justice, issues that may not, otherwise, receive just exposure.

The over-all theme of this paper, as I have come to understand, is to empower the marginalized. My experience so far has also taught me that more people live on that very margin or edge of life than what some may find comprehensible.

We can see the more obvious reflections of the problem in the people that survive on the streets of our City. We must, however, realize that the issues run much deeper. Much more effort is needed on the part of the community. It is all about helping humanity at its weakest.

Many of the issues the public may associate with street people are really universal among everyone including death; addiction; loss of family, friends and income; and mental illness to name just a few.

I can truly say is that OUR VOICE has given me real world experience in perfecting this art of writing and an unbreakable resolve to see just how far I can go and how many people I can help along the way!

Darryl Learie
OUR VOICE Columnist