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Teens Create Change in their Communities: The Picturing Health Venice Arts Project, Part 3

Recently, I had the opportunity to look at photographs for *Picturing Health: Photographs by Youth Across Southern & Central California*, a documentary project of Venice Arts, funded by the California Endowment. *This is part 3 of a 3 part series*.

Last week, we looked at some of the photos and listened to an interview clip featuring teen pregnancy. In addition to raising awareness of the high rates of young parenthood, the project also focused on creating change and improvements within their communities.

I know the photos definitely made a long-lasting impression on me, and made it more interesting than just a set of statistics. Do these photos send a powerful message to you? Does it make you think about teen pregnancy prevention in your own town or city?

As Cristian age 17 of East Salinas said about the project, "I learned the stories of people's lives. I noticed things about my own city that I never even noticed, went to locations I didn't know existed, and saw the power of photos."

Click on the photos to see the rest of the Southern Kern Gallery.



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A Young Family, courtesy of Veronica Ramirez, age 15, and Venice Arts (From Picturing Health: Southern Kern)

"This is the family portrait of a young couple with two little girls."

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Family Portrait, courtesy of Yaya Rico, age 16, and Venice Arts (From Picturing Health: Southern Kern)

"This picture was really fun to photograph, but also very difficult. I was trying to get the kids and the moms to look atme at the same time. Kids can be very challenging!"

Click here to read part 1 of this series.

Click here to read part 2 of this series.

¹ "Picturing Health, Photographs by Youth Across Southern & Central California." Picturing Health Press Release. 2011. Print. 21 Feb. 2011.



Picturing Healthis a documentary photography project that consisted of photographs taken by eighty teenagers. The Picturing Health project was created by Venice Arts (www.venicearts.org) for the California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities Initiative, which seeks to create meaningful change in 14 low-income communities across California.

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