

CEPA Gallery Presents...

# BUFFALO

## PORTRAIT OF A CITY



# BUFFALO: PORTRAIT OF A CITY

is a collaboration between the Center for Exploratory and Perceptual Art (CEPA Gallery) and the Babcock and Butler Mitchell Chapters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo. This six week youth mentoring project gave children an opportunity to express themselves, while learning about Buffalo, their neighborhoods, the people in their communities, and most importantly about themselves. CEPA provides opportunities for children to become educated about, exposed to, and engaged in the arts and their communities.

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

photo by:  
Nico Howard



*Buffalo: Portrait of a City* encourages community participation through neighbor to neighbor contact, helping children to understand that everyone has a story to share, and that you can seek a better understanding of a person's history just by asking. The old familiar phrase "you can't judge a book by its cover" holds true, and until you speak with someone or try and walk in their shoes, you will never really know who they are or what they've accomplished in life. Through these stories and images, a portrait of Buffalo emerges, alive with the history and vitality of its residents.

The children's journey began with homework and classwork assignments that prepared them for the interviewing and photography portions of the project. Students were challenged to develop several open-ended interview questions and learned through hands-on darkroom work at CEPA. Students made photograms and pinhole cameras to understand the basic concepts of light and how a camera works. Students were then awarded cameras and tape recorders, to document the stories and images of their neighbors and surroundings.

At first, club members hesitantly approached strangers asking for permission to take their picture, and for an interview. After that "initial" approach, you could see the overwhelming confidence on their faces and in their strides as they went after more photographs and interviews. Their questions became more complex, and one nine year old student was asking for opinions on Buffalo's "Peace Bridge Twin Span" project. The children met people of all ages, racial backgrounds, and walks of life including: educators, business men and women, health-care professionals, and avid Buffalo sports fans.

Following the "field" component, club members returned to CEPA, and learned how to enlarge their photographs. They used CEPA's computer facility, and learned how to place images into a writing assignment about their documentary experience.

Throughout this project, I saw children who wanted to participate, come to

*(continued on inside back cover)*

# **Boys & Girls Club Members**

**Babcock**

**Jillian Bace**

**Katelin Bace**

**Victoria Bailey**

**Kayla Block**

**Jamie Bracero**

**Clarissa Clayton**

**Nina DePasquale**

**Nico Howard**

**Jennifer Jobson**

**Travis Moscato**

**Renee Mullane**

**Jake Reinhardt**

**Luz Santana**

**Craig Sarvis**

**Matt Sitarski**

**Stephanie Steele**

**Terran Turner**

**Butler Mitchell**

**Julian Boney**

**Michael Eleczko**

**Cebrin Hill**

**Tranita Jones**

**Orlando Lawrence**

**Royce Mitchell**

**Dominique Morrow**

**Kristina Pagan**

**Luis Resto**

**Rolando Rosado**

**Charnay Sanders**

**Michael Taylor**

**Amanda Terry**

**Chris Terry**

**Jameelah Terry**

**Marcellus Terry**

**Carmen Velez**



# The Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo

The Boys Club of Buffalo, was established in 1926 by the Rotary Club of Buffalo. The Rotary's intent was to create a youth agency which would provide after school programs and guidance to the juvenile delinquent problems of the year. In 1982 the Board recognized the need to include girls, reincorporated it as the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo. Presently, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo has six club houses located throughout the inner city.

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs is to provide appropriate and diversified programs and activities that serve to attract and hold area youth to the clubhouse. The Boys & Girls Clubs serves over 3,000 children, ages 6 to 18, six days a week; and the goal is to promote personal and educational development, cultural enrichment, social recreation, health and physical education, citizenship and leadership development, and outdoor and environmental education. To further enhance the programs of the Boys & Girls Clubs, collaborations and/or partnerships have been formed with local agencies.

## Diane L. Rowe

*Diane L. Rowe is the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo.*

My first summer working for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo was spent with the kids and CEPA Gallery working on a documentary photography project. Since this was my first experience with photography, I learned along with the students how to take and develop pictures. I also learned about the hardwork that goes into completing a project of this nature. CEPA provided an opportunity for children to go into their communities, and learn about their neighbors by taking pictures and interviewing.

This project gave the club members an opportunity to develop relationships with different people in their community including Crystal, the mentors, and myself. We traveled with the children through the city of Buffalo as they learned how to interview and photograph their neighbors. I was impressed when I saw them developing into professional interviewers and photographers.

The many people they approached were willing to cooperate, offering us insight into their lives. The community was very supportive of the kids' project, happy to see them involved in something positive that offers a healthy learning atmosphere.

I enjoyed the time I spent with the kids and CEPA. This has been a great opportunity for all involved.

*Dawn Del Giudice is the Fine Arts Coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo.*



**Dawn Del Giudice**

Photo by: Crystal Tinch

**Picture this: you're walking down the street and five little kids come running up to you armed with cameras and tape recorders. They tell you they're from the Boys & Girls Club, and ask for your picture and interview for a photography project. What do you say as they anxiously await your response?**

# Babcock Interviews: The Lovejoy District

The Lovejoy District, with a population of over 35,000 people, spans from the northern border at E. Delavan Street down South Park Avenue. Bailey Avenue and Cheektowaga generally represent the western and eastern borders.

Lovejoy has five distinct neighborhoods: Schiller Park, Lovejoy, Kaisertown, Seneca-Babcock, and The Valley. Each of these neighborhoods is rich with cultural heritage and diversity including Polish-Americans, Italian-Americans, Irish-Americans, African-Americans and German-Americans, just to name a few.

The Lovejoy District has been predominately home to "working class" Americans. Much of the labor force has changed in Buffalo, affecting the district, as well as other parts of the city. However, Lovejoy remains a family-oriented community. Residents have been successful in maintaining homes and keeping it a low crime area. Single and double family homes are available at a reasonable price and many young families buy their first home in Lovejoy. Due to the number of families, the needs of children

are a priority in Lovejoy. There are several community centers, parks, and organizations which support and provide services for children. The Seneca-Babcock Boys & Girls Club is one of these organizations.

The success of any community is dependent upon its members. Lovejoy has been home to many who have worked hard to have a great community. Educational programs such as this one at CEPA Gallery highlight the excellence our community has to share.

Richard Fontana  
Lovejoy District Council member

Contact CEPA to schedule a program tailored to meet your group's needs.



## JEREL WILLIAMS #1

Interview by Trinita Jones, age 7; Luis Resto, age 11; and Orlando Lawrence, age 9

Q: What is your favorite sport?  
A: Basketball.

Q: What is your favorite hobby?  
A: My favorite hobby is working with kids.

Q: What do you like about Buffalo?  
A: I like the Bills.

Q: How long have you lived in Buffalo?  
A: For 27 years.

Q: How old are you?

A: I am 27.

Q: What high school did you go to?  
A: McKinley High School.

Q: What college did you go to?  
A: Texas A&M.

Q: What do you want to be when you grow older?  
A: I wanted to be a fire fighter but that didn't work out.

Q: Do you play sports?  
A: I play basketball.

Q: Where did you play sports?  
A: In high school and in college.

Q: Why aren't you in the pros?  
A: There's one in a million shot at the pros. I chose to work with kids instead but I could go to the

pros tomorrow if I wanted to.

Q: Why didn't you play over seas?  
A: Knees, bad, knees. (The kids look down at his knees.) How are you going to look down at my knees and see what's inside them?! Are you finished because I have some work to do?!

*\*Jerell Williams is a staff member at the Babcock Boys & Girls Club.*

## BARBARA #3; daughter, MEGAN with "Mr. McGoo" #2

Q: How long have you lived in this area?  
A: About 10 years.

Q: What high school did you go to?

**A: Fosdick Masten.**

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

**A: Birds and ceramics. We have 31 birds, we breed them. We have babies and eggs.**

Q: Where? Inside your house?

**A: Yes. In the front we have big birds and the little birds are in the back.**

Q: Do you like Buffalo?

**A: Yeah, I like Buffalo. The smell and everything.**

Q: What do you like about Buffalo?

**A: The weather, the changing seasons. I don't want to live somewhere that is hot all of the time.**

Q: Has a lot changed since you

## SHARON MABRY #4, 4A

Interview by Tranita Jones, age 7, and Charnay Sanders, age 7

Q: How old are you?

**A: How old am I?!? Well, I am over 45.**

Q: What is your favorite sport?

**A: Lacrosse.**

Q: What is lacrosse?

**A: It is a game played with sticks and you pass the ball. It's almost like playing hockey in the air.**

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

**A: I like to swim in Lake Erie and go to the beaches. I love to swim.**

a lot of employees that use the buses. There is a lot of activity that goes on over here and in the clubs. We love being in Buffalo.

Q: Are you from here?

**A: No, we actually moved here from Philadelphia.**

Q: That's where the company was?

**A: No, the company has always been in Buffalo. We moved here from Philadelphia when we bought the company.**

*\*Sharon Mabry is the Vice-President of Flexo Transparent Inc. Flexo, located at 28 Wasson Street in the Lovejoy District, manufactures polyethylene bags.*



lived here?

**A: Yes.**

Q: Do you like Stone Cold Steve Austin?

**A: Who????**

Q: The wrestler. Do you like wrestling?

**A: No. Megan watches wrestling but I don't.**

Q: Can the bird talk?

**A: Yes, the bird says Megan, bye bye. Megan bye bye. They talk, they are very smart. When we put him in a cage at night we have to put a lock on it because he knows how to open it.**

*\*Barbara let the club members into her home to view her birds.*

Q: How long has Flexo been a business in Buffalo?

**A: It has been a company in Buffalo for 45 years. It started out as a company that makes burlap bags and now it makes flexible packaging.**

Q: How long have you owned the company?

**A: For 11 years.**

Q: Your family owns it?

**A: It is a corporation and my husband owns it. We have over 90 employees and we have 3 shifts.**

Q: How do you like being in Buffalo?

**A: We love it in Buffalo. We love being in the city because people can get to our company. We have**

## ALEX BASHIR #5

Q: How long have you been in Buffalo?

**A: Five years.**

Q: What's your favorite sport?

**A: Soccer.**

Q: How many kids do you have?

**A: Four.**

Q: Where are you from?

**A: Bangladesh.**

Q: Where is that?

**A: It's next to India.**

## DAVID TORI

#6

Q: Do you like Buffalo?

**A: Yes, I like Buffalo.**

Q: Do you have a wife?

**A: Yes, I do.**

Q: Are you the man of the house?

**A: Well, I try to be.**

Q: How long have you lived here?

**A: Twelve years.**

Q: How many kids do you have?

**A: Four.**

Q: Do you like working there?

**A: Yes, I do.**

Q: How long have you worked there?

**A: Three years.**

Q: How long have you lived in your house?

**A: Six years.**

Q: Do you like your house?

**A: Yes.**

Q: Do all of your kids go to the Babcock Boys & Girls Club?

**A: Yes, they do.**

Q: Do they like it?

**A: Yes, they do.**

**A: I was 18.**

Q: What's your favorite sport?

**A: I like a lot of sports: basketball, football, hockey...the good stuff.**

Q: Do you have any kids?

**A: I have 2 girls. My oldest daughter is Sharita, and my youngest one is Jessica.**

## MICHELLE

#9

Q: How long have you been working here at Cigars?

**A: Two years.**

Q: What kind of hobbies do you enjoy?

**A: I like to sew.**

Q: How did you start working here?

## TONY GLOSEK

#7

## WILLIE MASON

#8



**Interview by Luz Santana, age 11**

Q: How long have you lived in Buffalo?

**A: Thirty years.**

Q: Do you like Buffalo?

**A: I love it.**

Q: What are your hobbies?

**A: I play softball, I coach little league baseball, and I go fishing. That's probably it.**

Q: How many kids do you have?

**A: I have four boys.**

Q: Do you have a wife?

**A: No, I'm engaged to Allison Joyce.**

Q: What's your job?

**A: I work at Home Depot as a sales associate.**

Q: How long have you been in Buffalo?

**A: I've been here all my life.**

Q: What kind of hobbies do you enjoy?

**A: I enjoy carpentry, I like drawing, painting, and I like playing instruments.**

Q: What kind of instruments do you play?

**A: I play 5 instruments. I play the drums, piano, organ, synthesizer, and the bass guitar.**

Q: Are you in a band?

**A: Yes, I've been in a band before. My band was called the "Soulistics."**

Q: How old were you when you were in the band?

**A: A friend of mine told me that they were looking for a bartender here at Cigars and I applied.**

Q: Has this bar been around for a long time?

**A: Yeah. It gets a lot of business. It's busier at night.**

Q: What school did you go to?

**A: Southside.**

## CECIL WASHINGTON

#10

Q: What do you like about Buffalo?

**A: Well, I think Buffalo is a good place to be. There's a lot of**

activity that goes on here. A lot of places we can go to, a lot of camping places, amusement parks. Plus, I like the change of seasons.

Q: What's your favorite part of Buffalo?  
A: Delaware Park.

Q: Do you like sports?  
A: Yes. I like the Buffalo Bills. I think Buffalo has a good professional football team, and hockey team. Even minor league teams that are pretty good. The Bisons, the lacrosse team, the soccer team.

Q: Who do you like better: Doug Flutie or Jim Kelly?  
A: I'd say Jim Kelly back in his younger days. Doug Flutie is not a bad quarterback.

best suggestion you would tell him?

A: That's he's too young for that. If he's going somewhere to like a sleep over, then that's fine. I can take him and pick him up. But as far as being out after 12, he can't stay out that late because he's too young.

Q: What do you say about drugs?  
A: No drugs.

Q: If you could change anything in Buffalo what would it be?  
A: The racism. I would want everybody to get along with each other and have no racism in Buffalo.

## FRAN #11

Q: What do you like about Buffalo?

with a brass band and fireworks.

## WENDY MAJTYKA #12

Interview by Nico Howard, age 12

Q: How long have you been working in fire stations?  
A: I've been working about a year and four months.

Q: Do you like it at the fire station?  
A: I love it.

Q: What do you think about the Sabers and the Stanley Cup?  
A: No goal.

Q: Are you originally from Buffalo?  
A: Yes, South Buffalo.



10



11



12

## TIMOTHY DIXIE

Interview by Dominique Morrow, age 8

Q: What do you think of Buffalo?  
A: I think Buffalo is a great town to live in.

Q: Do you have kids?  
A: I have 3 kids.

Q: Do you worry about them when they're on the streets alone?  
A: They're 10, 9, and 8 and I don't let them go out on the street alone.

Q: When your 10 year old wants to go somewhere late at night, like twelve o'clock, what is the

A: I like the friendly people. The economy here is not that great so people come here to get a discount instead of going to Tops or Wegmans.

Q: What can you tell us about the Clinton Market?  
A: I know the market has been here since the 1800's. It's been dwindling down but the farmers still come here on Tuesdays and Saturdays. We're vendors and we sell from the local farmers.

*\*Although the origin of the Clinton Market is unknown, it is listed in the city directory as early as 1862. Back then, Buffalonians could get a live chicken for 50 cents, a dozen eggs for 12 cents, and enjoy a 4th of July carnival, complete*

Q: How long have you been working here?  
A: For almost three months.

Q: What's it like being a firegirl?  
A: Actually, everyone's treated all the same. No one is treated differently. I sleep in the same room with the guys. We have a respect thing going on.

Q: Are you the only firegirl here?  
A: At this house yes, but not in the City of Buffalo.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?  
A: I'm a substitute teacher for the City of Buffalo at School 90 and School 70. I'm also getting my graduate degree from Buffalo

State College.

*\*Wendy is a "firegirl" at Ladder 15, Engine 35, located at 1512 Clinton Street.*

## DAVID ROBERT

Interview by Travis Moscato, age 9

Q:What do you think about Buffalo?  
A: **It's a very nice town.**

Q:What do you think about the Peace Bridge Twin Span idea?  
A: **I think it's a good idea. It will give more people a chance to get back and forth to Canada and Buffalo, bringing more tourists into the area.**

Q:Where you born in Buffalo?

Q:Do you like Buffalo?

A: **Yes I do.**

Q:How long have you lived in Buffalo?  
A: **I don't live in Buffalo. I'm from Pennsylvania. I'm a truck driver and I haul stuff out of Buffalo.**

Q:What kind of stuff do you haul?  
A: **I haul wood and steel out of Buffalo, and right now I'm hauling wood to make boxes with.**

A: **I know the owner, and since I'm in between jobs right now, he hooked me up. I'm trying to get into construction work.**

Q:Do you like Buffalo?  
A: **It's not bad. It's been real hot this summer. I'm a winter type of guy so that's why I like it.**

*\*LaNova Pizzeria is located at 371 West Ferry on Buffalo's Upper West Side.*

# BUTLER MITCHELL INTERVIEWS

## JAMIE BORGES #15

Q:What is your favorite sport?  
A: **Football.**

Q:How tall are you?



A: **No, I live in North Tonawanda but I've worked here in Buffalo for the last 6 years.**

Q:Do you work with lumber?  
A: **Yes, I'm a forklift driver.**

Q:How long has this company been in Buffalo?

A: **Our division has been here since 1994. We make industrial wooden boxes.**

*\*Wisconsin Box Co. is located at 95 Dorothy Street.*

## MEL NOBLE #13

Interview by Matt Sitarski, age 10

## THE NIAGARA DISTRICT

Population: 37,871

## TOM DARCY #14

Q:Where do you work?  
A: **LaNova Pizzeria.**

Q:Do you like it?  
A: **Yeah, I like it. Sometimes it gets a little rough just like any other job, but all in all it's pretty good.**

Q:What do you like about LaNova?

A: **5'7".**

Q:How long have you lived in Buffalo?  
A: **24 years.**

Q:Where are you from originally?  
A: **Puerto Rico, but I've lived in Chicago.**

Q:What brought you here?  
A: **Buffalo is a good city.**

Q:Is it colder here or in Chicago?  
A: **Chicago is the windy city, but it's colder here. You're learning how to interview, that's very good. Why don't you interview my son?**

*\*Jamie Borges is Hymen's father.*

# HYMEN BORGES

Interview by  
Orlando Lawrence, age 9

Q: How long have you lived in Buffalo?  
A: I've been here a week.

Q: Where are you from?  
A: Originally from New Jersey, but I lived in Chicago. I just left Chicago last week.

Q: Why did you come here?  
A: To stay with my father, and get my life back together.

Q: What are your hobbies?



A: I like to build model airplanes.

Q: Do you like Buffalo?  
A: Right now, yeah.

Q: Which do you like better, Buffalo, Chicago or New Jersey?  
A: I really couldn't tell you. I prefer New Jersey, that's where I was born.

Q: What do you mean by get your life back together?  
A: I used to be in a gang in Chicago, and I got cut pretty bad. I got stabbed. I have gang wounds. Out here I can change, I can get help.

Q: How old are you?  
A: I'm 26.

Q: What can you tell us about being in a gang?  
A: I'm going to tell you something right now. I don't gang bang anymore, I've been shot at, I've been cut. I was in prison for 4 and a half years for stuff that I did that I shouldn't have done. You see, when you get into gangs they don't do anything for you. The only one that is going to really do something for you is your family. All gangs are there for you to do is shoot somebody. That's all they care about. They don't care about you. If you get locked up, what's gonna happen to you? I used to go to this school in Illinois and tell people about gangs and what they do to you. If you want a wound like this then you come and talk to me. (He shows us this GASH from his stomach to his back.) That's a gang wound. And I got more than that. That's a stab wound. It took 47 stitches. Think about it. The gangs they don't care about you. Yeah, you make your money. What are you gonna do when the police stop you and say, 'Hey sir come here. What are you affiliated with? Oh, you're a gang member? Let me see your tattoos.' I got tattoos, I have them all on my legs. I don't show anybody my gang tattoos.

Q: How long were you in the gang?  
A: I was in a gang since I was 11 years old. I'm 26 now, I dropped out when I was 24.

Q: Did you get beat out? Is that true?  
A: I got beat in, and I got beat out, bad. I got hit in the back of the head with a baseball bat. I got shot at, everything. It's no fun. When you

walk through the gang line, all you see is 60 people on this side and 60 people on this side, and you walk through.

Q: That was to get out?  
A: No, that was to get in. When you jump out, there are 280 of them. Get your life together and do what you can. When you guys do this stuff (interviewing, etc.) it helps the community and it helps other people stay out of trouble with the police, gangs, drugs and alcohol. Everyone has to prosper in life and it's hard. Life is hard. You guys do what you have to do for your lives. Don't let anybody put peer pressure on



you to do drugs, drink or gang bang. It's not worth it. I was in a prison when I was a young boy in St. Charles, IL. You go there for problems. Like if you jump on your parents, or you knife somebody. It's bad. I don't want to see anything happen to you guys. I'll come down to the Boys & Girls Club, give a speech and maybe we'll start turning around lives. Behave for your mother and father, respect your parents. They're gonna be the ones there for you. Respect your brothers and sisters. To get respect you must give respect.

*\*Hymen Borges belonged to one of the most notorious and well-known gangs in Chicago.*

## TONY #18

Q:What do you like about Buffalo?  
**A:The weather. We have long winters and beautiful summers. People from Florida come up here in the summertime, and go back to Florida in the winter. The bottom line is, Buffalo has a lot of things to offer. Everyone talks about the paintings and the museums, but they don't talk too much about the people here, and sometimes they need to.**

## TINA DEFORREST #19

Interview by Julian Boney,  
 age 8

## SHAWN BEAMAN #20

Interview by Luis Resto, age 11

Q:What do you like about Buffalo?  
**A: I like the different changes of seasons. It's nice that I can ski in the winter, and enjoy warm weather in the summer.**

Q:Where do you ski?  
**A: Kissing Bridge, Holiday Valley.**

Q:Why do you like to ski?  
**A: It gives me a chance to go outside in the winter.**

Q:What do you like about your job here?  
**A: I like that I get to talk to different people everyday.**

Q:What do you do here? Are you

**A: Uniondale High School in Long Island.**

Q:What classes do you take at Buff State?  
**A: My major is Health and Wellness and I'm a Bio minor.**

**Steve:**How long have you been interviewing people?

**Orlando:**For about a week.

**Steve:**Do you enjoy it?

**Orlando:**Yes.

Q:What do you like about Buffalo?  
**A: It's close to Niagara Falls, and to Toronto. I have family in Toronto so I can go there to see them. Buffalo has a lot of history, and the schools are very diverse, and that makes it a little more exciting.**



Q:Do you like Buffalo?  
**A: Yes. I like Buffalo. I just moved here a year ago and bought a new home. I enjoy working here also.**

Q:Why did you come to Buffalo?  
**A: Because I have family here and I wanted to live around my family and own a home here.**

Q:Do you like sports?  
**A: Yes, I like the Bills, the Sabers and the Blizzard.**

Q:Why do you like those teams?  
**A: I like the action and I like the spirit from all of the fans in Buffalo.**

a doctor?  
**A: I'm a medical student. I go to the University at Buffalo.**

Q:Why did you choose UB?  
**A: Well, I'm from Buffalo and I went to school in Pittsburgh. I got lucky and was accepted at UB. It's a good school, it's at home.**

## MR. STEVE #21, 21a

Q:How long have you lived in Buffalo?  
**A: I don't necessarily live in Buffalo, but I've been going to school at Buff State for 4 years. I'm a senior.**

Q:What high school did you go to?

**\*Mr. Steve is a staff member at the Butler Mitchell Boys & Girls Club.**

## BOBBY AND BRENDA #22, 22A

Q:How long have you been living in Buffalo?  
**A: All our lives. We've been married for 25 years, and have 7 kids.**

Q:Where did you go to high school?  
**A: I went to Lafayette High School, and she went to Hutch Tech.**

Q:What do you like about Buffalo?  
**A: The friendly people and atmosphere, especially on the West**

**Side. And I like the little kids like you, very handsome and inquisitive, asking questions, getting smarter in the world everyday.**

Q:What are the changes you have noticed?

**A: We have cameras here to get the criminals now. So you might see us on *America's Most Wanted* on Saturday night. See the camera back there? There's a new police station on Grant Street that monitors these cameras. So, we'll all be on TV this Saturday.**

## SAL

#23

Q:What do you like about Buffalo?

**A: The people.**

**sealed envelope with their specific price, and the lowest bid is awarded the contract. That's how the process works.**

Q:Are you replacing something?

**A: The line I'm cutting to the back of the curb will be replaced with exposed aggregate concrete.**

## TIM CORREA

#24

Interview by Orlando Lawrence, age 9

Q:How long have you lived in Buffalo?

**A: I'm 36, so I think about 30 years.**

Q:Where do you go to school?

**A: I go to college at ITT. I graduated from McKinley High School in 1982.**

**Orlando:** For a journal from the art gallery.

Q:What the name of your business?

**A: Crystal Clear.**

## JIM COLANTUONO #25

Interview by Michael Eleczko, age 8

Q:Where do you work?

**A: LaNova's Pizzeria.**

Q:How long have you been working here?

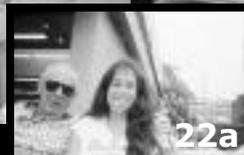
**A: About 6 months now.**

Q:Do you like it?

**A: Best job I ever had.**

Q:Do you work in the kitchen?

**A: No, I do deliveries.**



Q:Where did you go to high school and college?

**A: Clarence High School, and at UB.**

Q:What do you do at your job? What is that machine?

**A: I do a lot of things at my job. What I'm doing today is cutting concrete with a wet, walk behind saw. The diamond blade is connected to the saw. There's a hose attachment and the blade is covered by the water while it spins and cuts the concrete.**

Q:Why are you digging up the sidewalk?

**A: Because the Mayor wants it done, I think. It's a competitive bid. Each contractor submits a**

Q:What kind of business do you have?

**A: A window cleaning business.**

Q:How long have you had it?

**A: Six years.**

Q:How many people do you employ?

**A: No one right now. I cut it all down, to just myself.**

Q:You live here on the West Side?

**A: I live right here on 15th Street. I used to go to the Butler Mitchell Club. Matter of fact, I was picked as an exchange student to go to South Africa. I was picked, but I turned it down, my parents wouldn't let me go. The trip was all paid for.**

**Tim:** What is this interview for?

Q:Where do you deliver?

**A: All over the West Side, East Side, Riverside, Tonawanda and North Buffalo.**

Q:Do you like working in Buffalo?

**A: Yeah, it's pretty good.**

Q:Originally born in Buffalo?

**A: Yes.**

Q:Has anyone ever tried to take your pizzas from you?

**A: No, but there are a few guys who work here that have been robbed before, but I've never been robbed.**

Q:If you could change anything in Buffalo what would you change?

**A: I would put the University at Buffalo downtown, like in the Theater District instead of way out in Amherst. That would bring a lot of business to the city because after 6:00 pm the city is dead. If there was a college downtown, the city would be thriving. They made a big mistake when they put it out in Amherst.**

*\*LaNova Pizzeria is located at 371 West Ferry on Buffalo's West Side.*

## MAILIEN

#26

Q:Are you originally from Buffalo?  
**A: Originally, the Town of Tonawanda.**

school?

**A: Kenmore East.**

Q:And to college?

**A: Buffalo State.**

Q:What is your job?

**A: I am a manager of the Left Bank Restaurant.**

Q:What are your hobbies?

**A: I sing in an alternative band called Candy, and I like to run.**

*\*The Left Bank Restaurant is located at 511 Rhode Island Street.*

## ABRAHAM

#28

Q:How long have you lived in Buffalo?

you hurry up, put on your suits and get in the fire truck?

**A: When the bell rings, that means there is something going on that we have to take care of.**

Q:Why did you become a fireman?

**A: Becoming a fireman was something I wanted to do for a long time. My father was a fireman and my brother is a fireman.**

*\*Mike Angrisano is a fireman at Engine 37, located at 490 Rhode Island Street, in the Niagara District.*

## MICHAEL CARTWRIGHT

#30

Q:How long have you been doing construction?

**A: About 5 years.**



Q:What is your favorite thing about Buffalo?

**A: I like the people, and the nice restaurants.**

Q:What is your least favorite thing about Buffalo?

**A: I don't know, I really don't have anything, I never really thought of that.**

Q:Where do you live in Buffalo?

**A: Actually, I live in Kenmore, near Buffalo.**

Q:If there was one thing you could change about Buffalo, what would it be?

**A: Maybe the crime.**

Q:Where did you go to high

**A: All of my life - 31 years.**

Q:What high school did you go to?

**A: South Park.**

Q:Who's your favorite football player?

**A: Doug Flutie.**

Q:Do you like the Bills?

**A: Oh yeah. I'm a Bills fan all the way.**

Q:Do you go to the games?

**A: No, usually it's too cold for me.**

## MIKE ANGRISANO #29

Q:When the bell rings, why do

Q:Where do you work?

**A: I work all over the City of Buffalo in the streets fixing sewers and water lines.**

## BUFFALO

PORTRAIT OF A CITY was made possible through Mayor Anthony M. Masiello's 1999 Neighborhood Matching Fund.





27



28



29



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31



**"I liked learning the different things a CEPA. I liked learning how to develop pictures. I liked seeing the paper go from all white to having a picture on it. I like the red lights in the darkroom. I learned that I like taking pictures with a real camera rather than the pinhole camera because it is much easier." Luis Resto, age 11**



**"The interview I liked was when we met the man that was in the gang. He told us not to be in a gang when we grow up because they do not care about you. I will not be in a gang when I grow old because I love myself and my family." Marcellus Terry, age 11**



# Kids QUOTES



**"I come from the Butler Mitchell Club and I go to CEPA and take pictures. My favorite is the man with the scar, the one that was in a gang. He told us he got shot at and hit with baseball bats to get in. When I saw his scar I was scared. I wouldn't want that to happen to me one day. I had fun at CEPA with David, Brian, Beth, Ilene, Crystal and Dawn." Orlando Lawrence, age 9**



**"I worked with a pinhole camera at CEPA. I was very surprised that you can take pictures with a paint can. We went in the darkroom and I had a great mentor, Ilene. I'm glad that I joined this program because I like developing pictures, and want to do it in the future!" Clarissa Clayton, age 13**



# Buffalo, New York



47



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**"CEPA was a nice experience because the staff was very kind to us. I learned that when you use a pinhole camera you can only uncover the hole for so long, and that you have to use special paper to take the picture." Terran Turner, age 11**



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**"I am here visiting my cousin Charnay, who is a member of the Butler Mitchell Club. At CEPA I learned about making and taking pictures. I also learned about Buffalo, through the people that live there, because I am from Atlanta, Georgia." Trinita Jones age 7**



58



59

# Kids QUOTES



**"I interviewed people and took their pictures around the club. My favorite was the guy that works at LaNova, the pizza place. He told us that he enjoyed his job, because it gave him a chance to meet a lot of different people." Julian Boney, age 8**



**"At the CEPA Art Gallery I learned how to take photographs and interview people we met on the street. The best interview I did was on Babcock Street at the corner store. We met this man named Paul who talked about how he's been working in the store for the past 8 years. When we got done interviewing him he gave us free slush puppies. That was my favorite interview." Jameelah Terry, age 12**



# Buffalo, New York

# CEPA Mentors Note

Serving as a youth mentor this summer at CEPA was a rewarding experience for me. It provided me with a chance to work with children, and allowed me to see the diversity within the City of Buffalo. My group had the opportunity to hear a shocking story from a former member of the Latin Kings. We heard his first-hand accounts of gang life and he took the opportunity to turn his interview into a lecture. This program provided me with a great opportunity, and I hope to participate in more programs like this in the future.

*Beth Kontrabecki currently attends Oberlin College in Ohio.*

Working with the children from the Boys & Girls Clubs and CEPA Gallery was truly a mind-opening and great learning experience, and provided me with a better understanding of how to interact with children. Living in a suburb of Buffalo, the *Portrait* program brought me to downtown Buffalo every Monday and Wednesday. From my experiences being in downtown Buffalo and interviewing its inhabitants, I realized that Buffalo is a very interesting city and has much more potential and ability to grow than I ever knew!

I enjoyed getting to know and developing friendships with the children, other mentors, Dawn and Crystal. It's great to know that a place like CEPA exists where anyone in Buffalo can go to create art, or enjoy art for free.

*Ilene Solomon is currently attending Yale University majoring in art/graphic design.*



Ilene Solomon

Photo by: Rolando Rosado



62



63



64



65

# BUFFALO

PORTRAIT OF A CITY



66



67



68



70



72



69



74



76



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8

# Photo Credits

1. Luis Resto, age 11
2. Trinita Jones, age 7
3. Nina DePasquale, age 9
4. Charnay Sanders, age 7
- 4a. Tranita Jones, age 7
5. Luz Santana, age 11
6. Dominique Morrow, age 8
7. Luz Santana, age 11
8. Amanda Terry, age 9
9. Amanda Terry, age 9
10. Chris Terry, age 7
11. Stephanie Steele, age 13
12. Nico Howard, age 12
13. Jake Reinhardt, age 11
14. Orlando Lawrence, age 9
15. Tranita Jones, age 7
16. Crystal Tinch
17. Marcellus Terry, age 11
18. Orlando Lawrence, age 9
19. David Davis
20. Mike Eleccko, age 8
21. Royce Mitchell, age 6
22. Crystal Tinch
- 22a. Royce Mitchell, age 6
23. Orlando Lawrence, age 9
24. Royce Mitchell, age 6
25. Charnay Sanders, age 7
26. Luis Resto, age 11
27. David Davis
28. Kristina Pagan, age 7
29. Royce Mitchell, age 6
30. Crystal Tinch
31. Nico Howard, age 11
32. Carmen Velez, age 7
33. Dawn Del Giudice,
34. Beth Kontrabecki
35. Nina DePasquale, age 9
36. Crystal Tinch
37. Chris Terry, age 7
38. Victoria Bailey, age 10
39. Beth Kontrabecki
40. Jake Reinhardt, age 11
41. Terran Turner, age 11
42. Chris Terry, age 7
43. Rolando Rosado, age 7
44. Beth Kontrabecki
45. Victoria Bailey, age 10
46. Renee Mullane, age 6
47. Michael Taylor, age 7
48. Amanda Terry, age 9
49. Kayla Block, age 11
50. Victoria Bailey, age 10
51. Terran Turner, age 11
52. Amanda Terry, age 9
53. Terran Turner, age 11
54. Jamie Bracero, age 12
55. Rolando Rosado, age 7
56. Chris Terry, age 7
57. Amanda Terry, age 9
58. Carmen Velez, age 7
59. Michael Taylor, age 7
60. Jake Reinhardt, age 11
61. Victoria Bailey, age 10
62. Brian Kavanaugh
63. Dawn Del Giudice
64. Jameelah Terry, age 12
65. Luis Resto, age 11
66. Trintia Jones, age 7
67. Travis Moscato, age 9
68. Ilene Solomon
69. David Davis
70. Victoria Bailey, 10
71. Jake Reinhardt, age 11
72. Craig Sarvis, age 12
73. Julian Boney, age 8
74. Michael Taylor, age 7
75. Julian Boney, age 8
76. Nina DePasquale, age 9
77. Kayla Block, age 11
78. Nina DePasquale, age 9
79. Victoria Bailey, age 10
80. Luz Santana, age 11
81. Beth Kontrabecki
82. Crystal Tinch
83. Nico Howard, age 12
84. Luz Santana, age 11
85. Jake Reinhardt, age 11

Front Cover: Ilene Solomon, Project Mentor



Back Cover: Brian Kavanaugh, Project Mentor

# **CEPA** Education Program

**CEPA** provides a context for understanding the aesthetic, cultural, and political intersections of photo-related art as it is produced in our diverse society. The gallery supports, encourages, and funds the projects of both established and emergent visual artists, and is committed to supporting artists from groups that have been traditionally under represented in cultural spaces.

The education program is committed to providing meaningful aesthetic educational experiences for children and adults. The program supports artists working in photography and is dedicated to delivering innovative programs for youth and adults that have significance to students' lives, heritage, and future. The education program is committed to promoting a supportive artistic environment and to providing learning opportunities for students of all ages.

**CEPA's** Youth Mentoring Education program serves youth from Buffalo's inner city with projects that improve communication, cognition and creativity skills, and promote cultural understanding. The program as a whole positively impacts the lives of youth by providing a means to become exposed to, educated about, and engaged with the arts and their communities. By matching program participants with mentors, the program provides role models and individual attention.

**CEPA** has been completing community projects since its establishment in 1974 and has a history of exhibiting student photography. CEPA collaborates with public schools, community centers, arts organizations, block clubs, and youth centers to develop technical mentoring programs and workshops that match the educational and cultural needs of the community. Student exhibitions of past CEPA educational projects have been displayed throughout Buffalo and have traveled to galleries and museums in the United States and Canada.

**CEPA** has partnered with a number of community based organizations including the Pratt Willert Community Center, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA), Father Belle Community Center, Lakeview Housing Project, West Side Block Club, the Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy, Buffalo Public Schools #71, #45, #63 and Grover Cleveland High School, Hamburg Elementary School, the Buffalo Community Partnership, People Inc., the African American Cultural Center, and four chapters of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo.



## **CEPA Gallery**

At the Market Arcade 617 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Suite #201, Buffalo, NY 14203  
Tel: (716) 856-2717 • Fax: (716) 856-2720 • Email: cepa@aol.com • Website: cepa.buffnet.net

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Brian Kavanaugh, Project Mentor  
Beth Kontrabecki, Project Mentor  
Ilene Solomon, Project Mentor

### **CEPA HOURS**

Office, Upper Gallery, & Underground Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm Saturday 12 - 4pm  
Passageway & First Floor Gallery 7am - 9pm Daily

**CEPA** is a not-for-profit arts center founded by Buffalo artists in 1974 as a resource for photographic creation, education, and presentation. This CEPA project is sponsored by the City of Buffalo Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Fund. CEPA programs are made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), a state agency. Additional funding includes: The National Endowment for the Arts (a Federal Agency), Erie County, City of Buffalo, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, M&T Bank, HSBC, Chase Manhattan Foundation, John R. Oishei Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, General Mills Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts, Gunk Foundation, Benton Foundation, Buffalo Board of Education, The Buffalo News, Printing Prep, Spectrum Slides, The Campos Group, and CEPA Members.

Internet services provided by Buffnet.



# BUFFALO: PORTRAIT OF A CITY



*(continued from inside front cover)*

every session, and work diligently in the darkroom and computer lab. They took over two thousand images, and interviewed over one hundred people. Two life-size digital murals were designed from the students' photographs, and located at each club. These murals will serve as constant reminders of the hard-work and dedication that made this positive community experience possible.



The last day of this education program was both sad and exciting. Sad because the mentors and I had established a special bond with these children, but exciting because of the outcomes of this project. We even exchanged addresses with the club members and promised to write each other.



This journal celebrates the efforts of the Babcock and Butler Mitchell Club members who wanted to do something different this summer. I can't wait to see the expressions on their faces when they see their images and words in print.



I want to personally thank the mentors: David Davis, Brian Kavanaugh, Beth Kontrabecki, and Ilene Solomon, who volunteered their time and worked closely with 34 club members. I'd also like to thank Dawn Del Giudice, Boys & Girls Fine Arts Director, who devoted time, energy and excitement to this project. The enthusiasm of Dawn and the mentors helped in making *Buffalo: Portrait of a City* a success.

Lastly, I would like to extend a very special thank you to the neighbors who took a moment to pose for our cameras, and share a chapter of their history.

## - Crystal Tinch

*Crystal Tinch is the Community Education Coordinator at CEPA Gallery. This newly created position allows Crystal to design and implement CEPA Youth Education Programs at community sites throughout Erie County. Crystal was the Project Coordinator for the 1998 Buffalo: Portrait of a City Program.*



*Buffalo: Portrait of a City* was made possible through Mayor Anthony M. Masiello's 1999 Neighborhood Matching Fund.

# **CEPA**

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## **GALLERY**

CEPA Gallery  
617 Main Street, #201  
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