

Community Transition and the Fine and Performing Arts

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Video Link: <http://www.brainline.org/content/multimedia.php?id=852>

Adam J: Do you feel really happy that we're going to sing your song, and record your song, and Eric is going to film it on his camera?

Jimmy: Yeah.

Adam J: Yeah, he said yeah. We're gonna sing it good, Jimmy will you come sing it with me man?

Jimmy: Yeah.

Adam J: He said that's cool, yeah, that's my man right there.

[Music Starts]

Group Sings: Broken brain, broke again, don't light a fire. Fire, fire, fire, fire, fire, fire, fire, fire, fire, fire.

DJ Greg Gattine: Now we are getting ready for another show tonight, a very special show at the Calling Café in Woodstock.

Female Brain Injury Performer: I have a brain injury on this side of my head. It's a bitch! (laughter) It's a bitch to be poetic. I sometimes can't find doors. You know what I mean.

Gerry Brooks: Lives that are so intensely lived are lives that absolutely require expression.

Female Brain Injury Performer: It's God's world, everything is alive and so am I. In God's universe there are many blessed and living things. God came to me in my dreams and that everything will be ok eventually, well he does, I want to know when. I'm impatient, I'm impatient, I'm not a patient woman, I am not, right, right?

Female Host: Thank you so much. (laughter and claps from audience)

Adam J: May the Lord be with everyone that has a brain injury, it's the worst thing that ever happened to me in my life.

Rick Soshensky: Well Adam is a neighbor at Northeast Center he came in and clearly had some musical talent. He was a drummer, we could clearly see he had a good ability to drum, but he never sang before, he didn't know he could sing. Just through fooling around in various musical situations we discovered this amazing talent.

Adam J: Had no idea, not at all. (singing) Some people take walking for granted, some people talk trash all day. But for me life's an everyday struggle, wish I could fly away.

[Guitar Solo]

Elizabeth C: I just started painting here about 3 years ago since I came here. My whole attitude changed as far as my happiness, not being so mean, not just wanting to do nothing but lay in bed. I can actually say I'm happy when I'm down here working and it brings up my self esteem. I think with my painting my story is in the paintings the happy side of me that I never got to see.

Thomas M: Having one of your poems published is like someone tell you you did a good job. It's very encouraging it makes me want to get out experience life and write about it. It's a little like the feeling you get on Christmas morning. You wonder what kind of presents you're going to get. Like the son of Atlas, I bear the beams of love on my shoulders. It's not easy. Because, I don't know what to do with the love. But I am learning.

Adam J: (sung) Alive, alive alive alive. Only to be alive. Alive alive alive alive alive. Oh oh oh, oh oh oh. Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh, alive baby.