

Malden

PHOTOVOICE 2026



A PROJECT OF CAMBRIDGE HEALTH ALLIANCE'S
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH



ABOUT MALDEN

PHOTOVOICE!

Malden Youth Photovoice is an initiative of the Cambridge Health Alliance's Department of Community Health, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling Services.

During the 2025 - 2026 school year, Malden High School students met weekly after school to explore issues related to youth problem gambling, and prevention strategies. They also gained advocacy and photography skills while learning about health disparities and equity, the historical role and power of youth voice, and healthy risk-taking.

This program seeks to empower youth by providing problem gambling education and supporting youth in expressing their own prevention message through photography.

This year the group's Community Action Plan is dedicated to advocating for increased access to and awareness of mental health resources for youth, parents, and caregivers.

**For more information: YouthInitiatives@challiance.org
<https://challiance.org/community-health/youth-initiatives>**

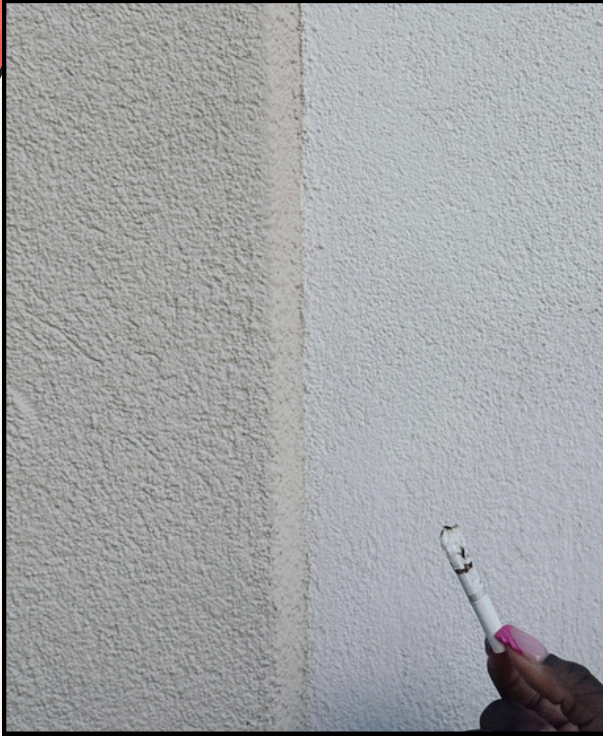
ANGELINA



Watching the city buzz around it—people rushing to work on the sidewalk below—really highlights how much our community is growing. It feels like a symbol of our collective ambition; we’re building toward the future while still holding onto our history.

Looking at it, though, it also makes me think about our responsibility. If we’re going to keep growing like this, it’s a good reminder that we should be pushing for more sustainable, eco-friendly designs. It’s not just about building taller; it’s about building better so that our progress actually helps the environment instead of just taking up space.

ANN



A hand holding a cigarette, fingers curled like they know the weight of time. The smoke drifts, carrying stories that never got told. Every moment shared becomes part of the community, even the quiet ones we don't notice. This photo reflects how unspoken struggles quietly pass, carried like smoke that everyone sees but rarely addresses.

Life goes by fast. Make memories worth it. The experiences can make it seem faster. Every moment shared becomes part of the community's, even the quiet ones we don't notice. It reminds us that time connects us all shaping who we are together as much as who we are alone.



ANNE-CHRISTIE



Time froze, the silence whispers, in the cold winter. Two birds on a wire, letting the silence talk for them. The mystery of those two birds, they could have been friends, cousins, lovers. One joined the other without a sound, letting the breeze envelop them. It doesn't require much, the presence of the other is enough, and that's all that matters. Life is simple; either it's gray or white, even if you are surrounded, you just got to find a place and breathe.

BETU



This photo shows kids playing basketball, representing the importance of having safe and positive space for youth in our community. Basketball is more than just a sport, it gives kids a place to stay active, build friendships, and express themselves in a healthy way.

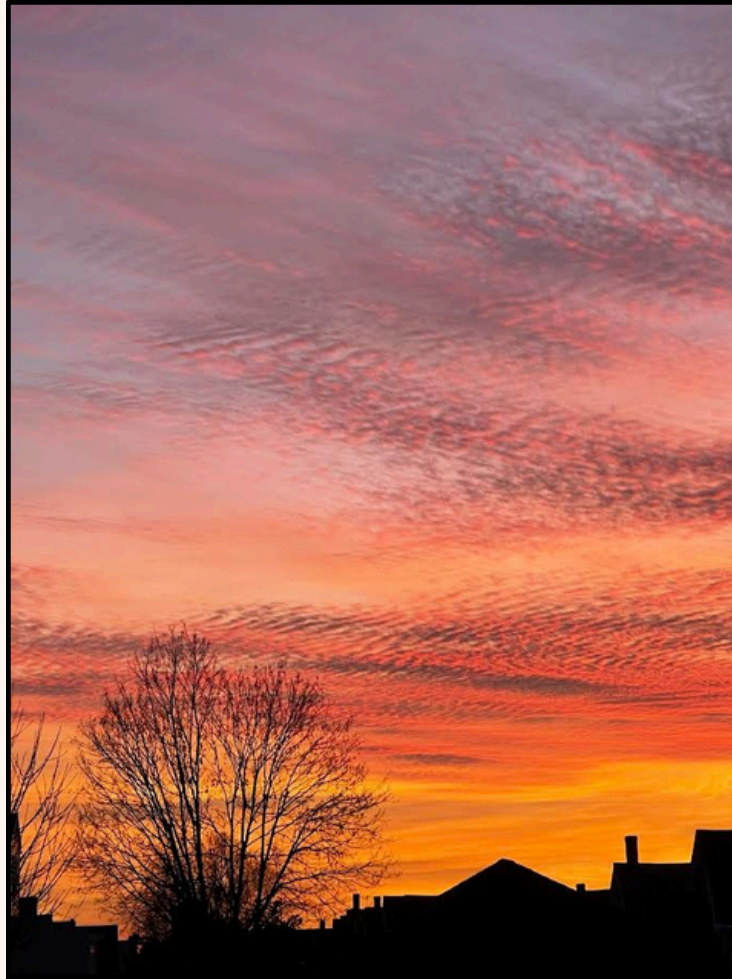
Not everyone has access to places like this even though many enjoy playing. This image highlights how important it is create more spaces where young people can spend their time doing something meaningful instead of being in negative environments. It shows that when communities invest in activities like sports, It can lead to growth, discipline and stronger connections among youth.

BETU



This image represents places like Encore, which attract a lot of people with entertainment and gambling. While it may seem fun, it can also lead to negative habits, especially for young people who don't have many positive alternatives. In communities where there are fewer safe and productive spaces, places like this can become more appealing. This highlights the need for better options, such as sports, programs, and youth centers that encourage healthy choices. This contrast between this and positive spaces shows why its important to guide young people toward opportunities that support their future rather than harm it.

CHESKIA



I took this picture for the views. The views were gorgeous and I love to watch the sunset. It feels peaceful and dramatic at the same time. It was late afternoon at 5:30 and I was walking and I saw it and I took it. This image was taken in Everett. This picture shows the importance of nature and we need to protect it from pollution in our community. This picture is a lovely blend of personal new beginnings.

CHRSITABEL



I took this picture because when I was walking through this area I thought to myself that we should have more places like this– this is in assembly row and it had several shops including a paint bar, a clothing shop, and a food spot which are things that are good for a proper outing environment. I believe there should be more places like this made reachable to people because it promotes health and well being.

CHRSITABEL



This is a picture of the Malden public library opposite of Malden High School. It is a big brown building with spaces to study, several books and access to so many other materials and resources. This photo was taken after school, and it shows mainly the books because I wanted to showcase the vast amount of books in the libraries. This is just part of it! I believe that our city needs more libraries and places to acquire knowledge for free. A lot of kids hang out in the library because they don't have other spaces to hang out and that makes a lot of noise, so I believe there should also be more spaces available to teens for recreation.

DINA



The ambulance

I took it because it captured an important and urgent moment that stood out from a normal day. The ambulance is likely going to help someone, while the people and cars around it continue with their daily routines. This shows that I live in a busy area where emergency services are always active and ready to respond when something happens. It also shows how in my community, serious situations can happen at any time, even during regular everyday life. The picture was taken in late fall or winter because the trees are bare, on a city street, using a phone camera at street level with no editing, which keeps the image looking real and natural.

DINA



This picture shows a grocery store with a display of apples and pears in the front and other vegetables on shelves in the back. I took it because it shows a normal everyday moment of shopping and how food is organized and sold. People are shopping and picking out fresh fruits, and there is a sale sign showing the price, which shows how stores try to attract customers. This picture shows that in my community, people have access to fresh food and grocery stores where they can buy healthy options. It also shows part of my daily life, like going to the store for food.

ESTHER



I took this photo because I wanted to show that even in a busy central area like Malden Square, litter from smoking is a constant issue that can affect the appearance of a local business. It was photographed close up, looking down. This perspective makes the viewer feel like they are standing right over the mess making it impossible to ignore. This photo says to me that high traffic areas often bear the brunt of the environment. This image was taken on March 10th, at 2:50 pm.

ESTHER



I took the picture in Malden square in front of the vape store. I took this photo because seeing a store near Malden high school can affect teens so much by starting to vape or smoke. Older friends or siblings might buy for younger ones even with age laws, so a shop being nearby increases the chances of social access.

I want people to consider the impact of having this kind of shop and retail so close to a school environment where thousands of teenagers gather daily.

JANBI



I took this picture next to Malden High School. It shows a piece of land that is broken, full of trash, and completely empty. I took this picture because no one is using this space. This picture shows that empty spaces like this could be turned into farms, where people can grow healthy food. By turning this land into farms, we can make it useful, help the community, and provide fresh food for everyone. These farms could also give young people a place to learn about gardening, nature, and healthy eating. Instead of being wasted, this space could bring life, education, and health to the neighborhood.



JANBI



This picture shows a church in another community in Peabody, and a temple in New Jersey, but it also shows a big need. My community does not have enough places where people can pray, meet, and get support. Many families and young people have nowhere to go when they are going through hard times.

By creating more community spaces like churches, others religious spaces, youth programs, and family support programs we can give hope, safety, and help to others. My community needs these religious places, and I hope you will make them a priority.

JOSEPH



The Teen Fun Place

In Everett there is a place called the Rec. They usually have a teen party on Fridays, and I think that we should do the same. I took this picture because this is where teens hang out. I want to say that the Malden Teen Enrichment Center should have more kids, and more teens should know about it. This picture was taken in March. I want people to know that if they have a kid and don't have time to watch them, they could send them to the teen center to make new friends and have fun.

KHKOLA



This picture is of it snowing in the Malden area. I wanted to show that there needs to be some programs that provide an amount of money for teenagers and youth so they would be able to shovel. The shoveling materials should also be also provided by these programs along with an amount of money.

MAEDOT



A wall of lottery scratch-off tickets in a store shows how easy it is to just grab one and try out your luck. A lot of people buy lottery tickets hoping to win money even though it doesn't always work out. It shows how common this is in my community and how people sometimes rely on luck.

NEHEMIAH



This photo reveals a place with atmosphere that helps students, workers, teachers, and everybody better-educate themselves and gives them a place to also find their peace. This is important for me to share this so others can also be informed about this wonderful place. This picture was taken right in front of the Malden High school.



NEICHKA

The statue of the Amitayus Buddha in Japan, from the Edo period or 17th-19th century in Japan, represents a pure land Buddhism, meaning Buddha descending to welcome the deceased into the Pure Land. This photo was taken in the museum of fine arts of Boston. I took this picture because Buddhism is an old religion and there are different types of religions, different ways people go to church, mosque, or pray to connect to God. For me, I value this because its more spiritual and provides deep guidance when following God. I think there should be more places for every religion in Malden to help others to feel a connection and belonging.

ROSE



This picture shows the ground outside and on the ground there is also a small piece of cigarette. I took this picture to show how harmful cigarettes are to people how they can destroy them or make them unhealthy. It can affect people physically and emotionally.

SABRINA



This picture has a park and a CVS pharmacy behind it. I took a picture of this because it shows how kids can get exercise while having fun and socializing. This picture tells us that kids are able to take care of their health by exercising and also being able to have access to medicines at pharmacies when they're sick. It shows how accessible essential resources are for young people.

SABRINA



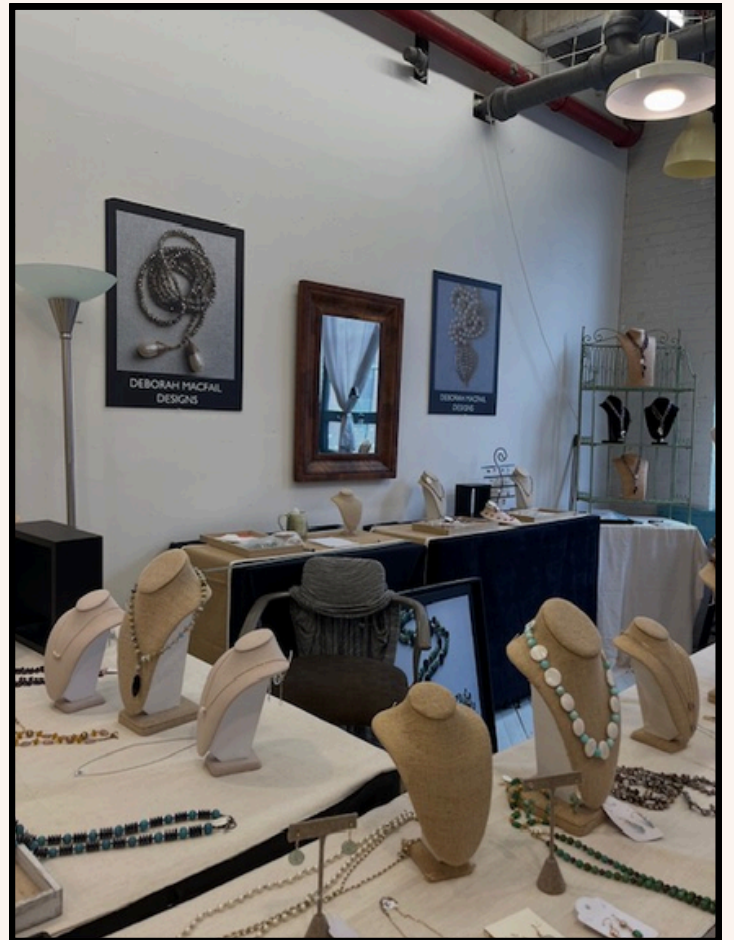
The picture has students at Malden center. The students are protesting for the principal. I took a picture of this because it shows how the youth are coming together— when needed. It tells that students are willing to leave school to protest for what's right. There are opportunities for us to improve our schools due to the strong relationship between staff and students.



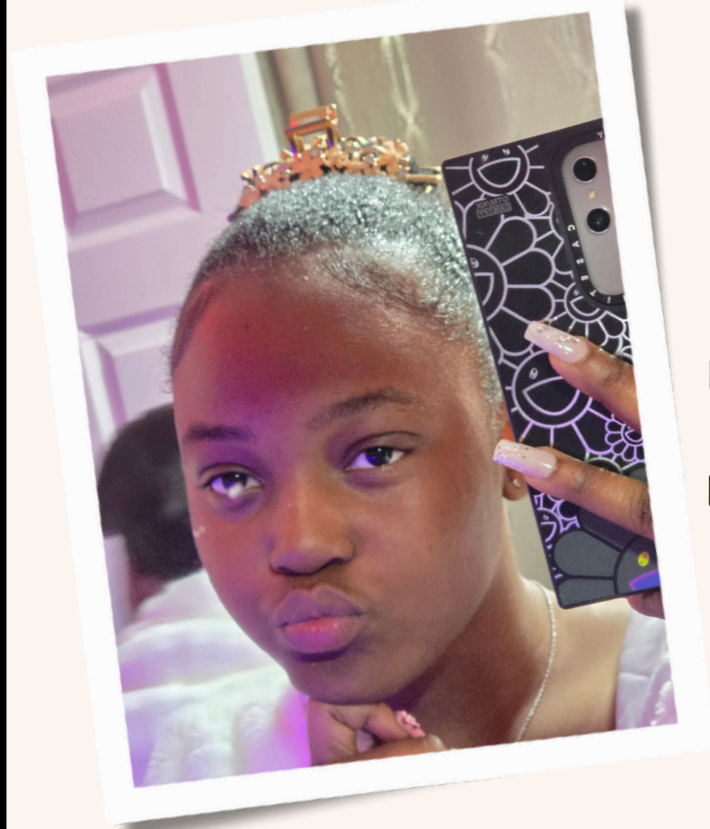
SAFA

A look inside a colorful artisan studio filled with beautiful art and unique tableaus. This creative workspace is small, bright, and full of inspiration.

Exploring a beautiful artisan studio in Boston. Every piece of jewelry and handmade art here is crafted with such amazing detail.



MEET THE STUDENTS!

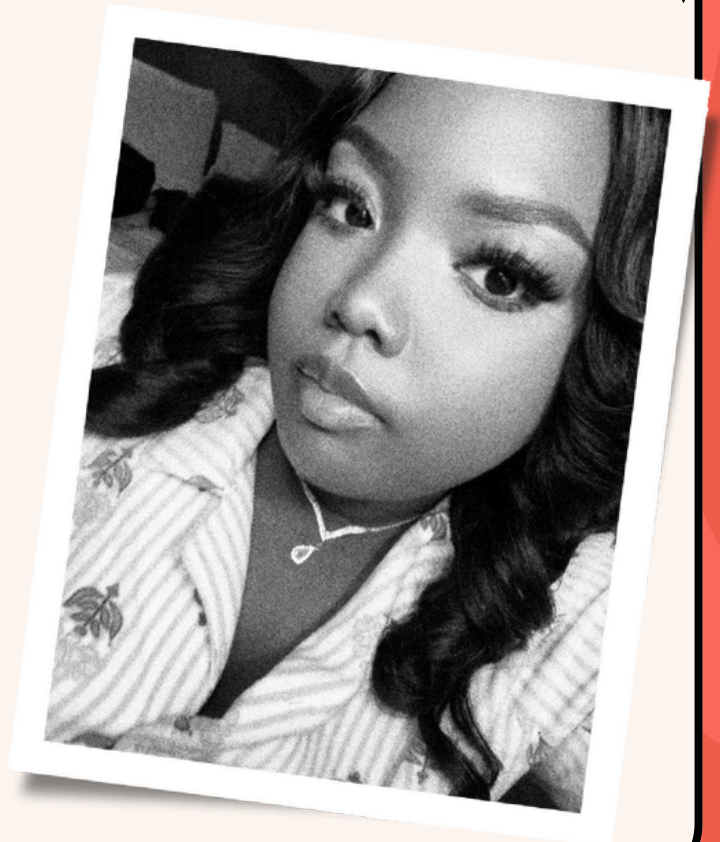


ANGELINA

My name is Angelina Jean Baptiste. I'm a senior at Malden high school. I'm a student who is passionate about taking pictures, that's why I join the Photovoice program because in it, I found my passion. I like to laugh, I'm a little shy, and I love my entourage of friends!

ANN

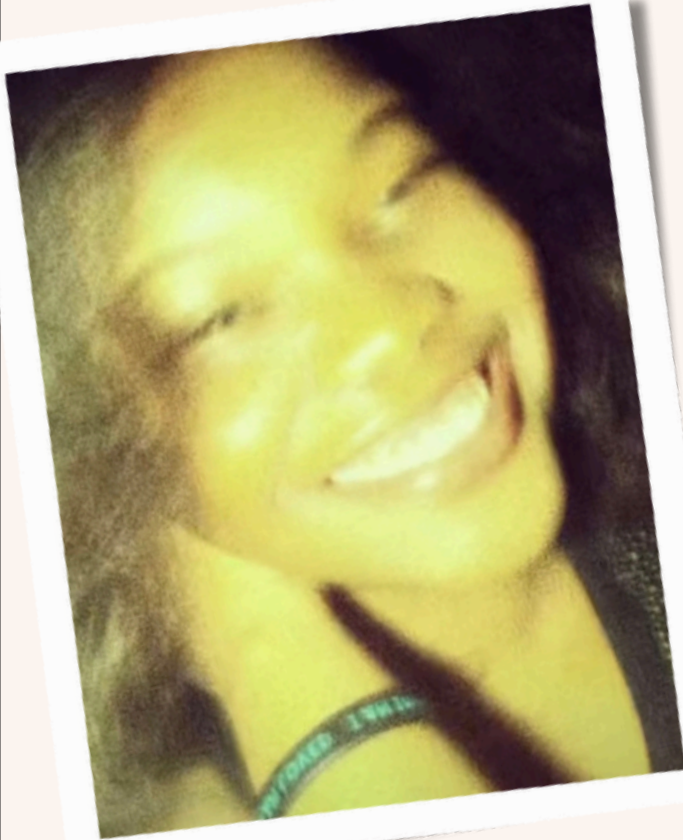
Ann is a student at Malden High School, and an active member of the Photovoice program.





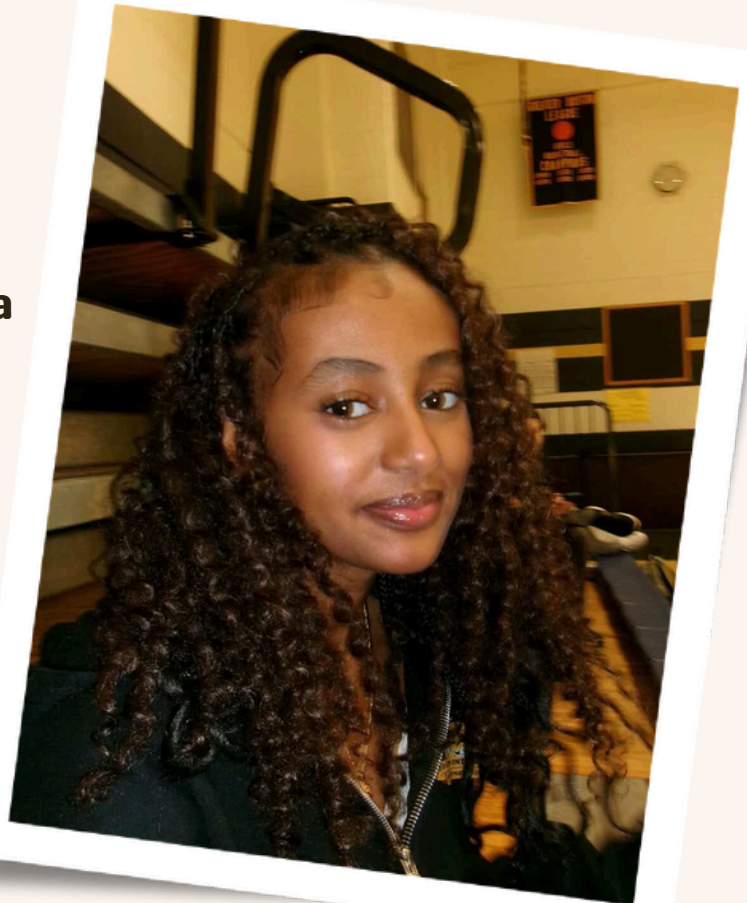
ANNE-CHRISTIE

My name is Anne, I'm a junior. I love art, I like to write, I love the rain, and I like to be with my friends.



BETU

HIII my name is Betu, I am a sophomore, Just trying to enjoy life and be the best version of myself 💕!



CHESKIA

Hi I'm Cheskia, but my family calls me "Chesoue, key or Sofia." I enjoy listening to music it helps me relax, I'm someone with many goals that I want to achieve. I love laughing for no reason at all; I chose this photo because I like seeing myself laugh and enjoying life that's all thank you.



CHRISTABEL

Hi, My name is Christabel
I am a big art and book lover
I like to spend my free time
reading novels, drawing, coding,
crotchet and cooking or baking.





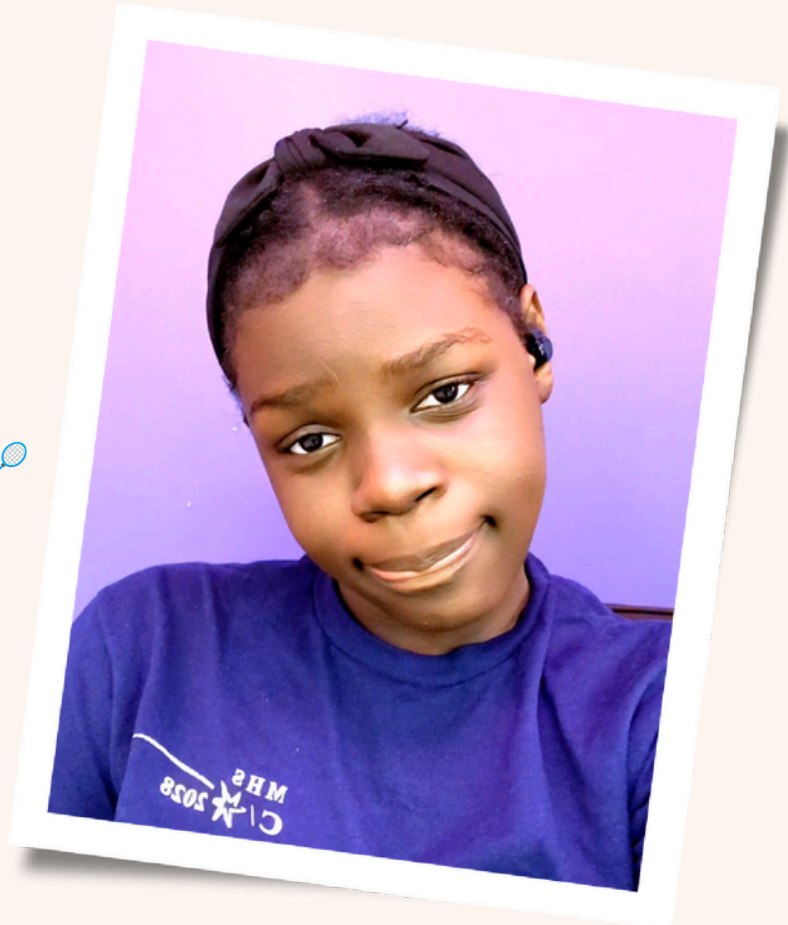
DINA

I'm Dina ,I'm a sophomore
and I like to Dance for fun



ESTHER

Hi my name is Esther.
I like to play badminton 🏸



JANBI

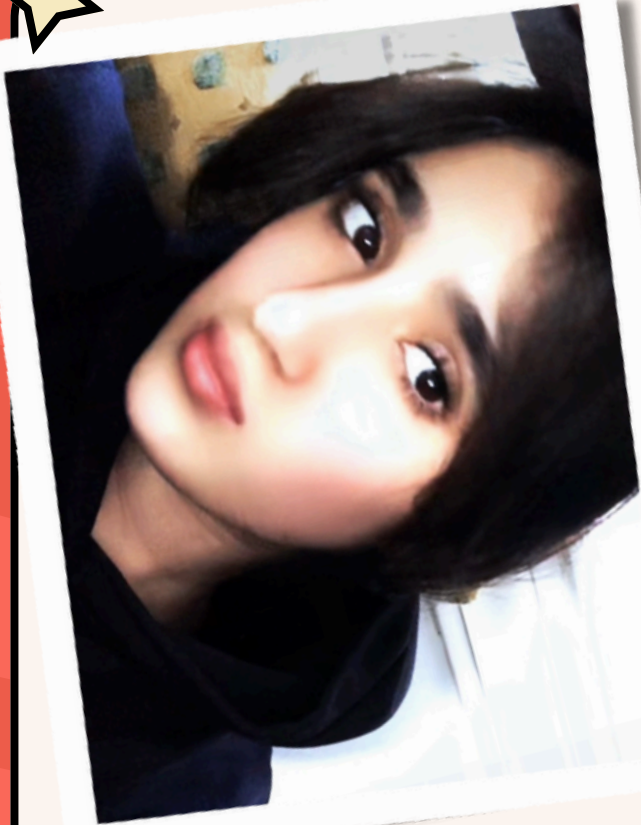
My name is Janbi. I am currently studying in 10th grade. My hobbies are riding motorcycles and traveling to different places, especially in nature.



JOSEPH

Hi my name is Joseph, I am in 9th grade at Malden high school. I play basketball and I like to play video games. I make Haitian content on TikTok for fun.(tt Josephsamueljo)



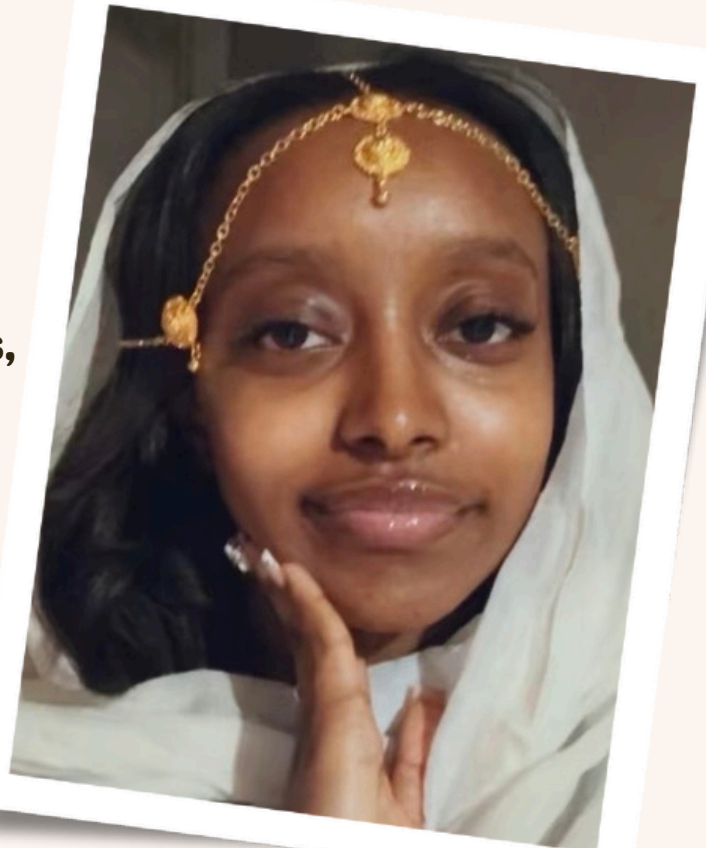


KHKOLA

My name is Khkola Niazi. I am a student and reporter at Malden High School in Massachusetts, serving as a writer and staff member for the Blue and Gold. I have participated in local civic projects, including initiatives like Photovoice, which empower youth to document and share stories about their community.

MAEDOT

I'm a high school student just trying to balance school, friends, and figuring out life as I go.





NEHEMIAH

**Hello my name is Nehemiah
and I am a Malden high
school student.**



NEICHKA

**My name is Neichka
Guyllaume and it's a
pleasure for me to be
participating in this
program this year and I
accomplished a lot of
things.**





ROSE

I'm Rose
I'm in 11th grade, and I love
music. 🎵

SABRINA

Hi my name is Sabrina and I'm
a sophomore at Malden High. I
joined Photovoice because I
like taking photos. It taught me
how to share stories with
photos and express myself
more.



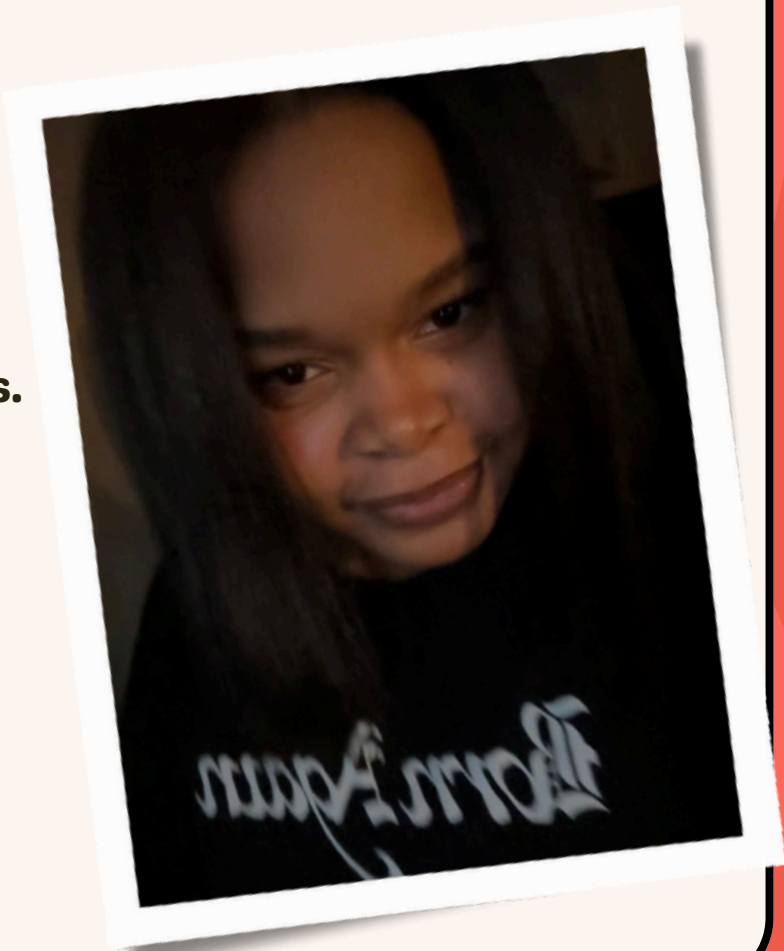


SAFA

Safa is a student at Malden High School, and a member of the Blue & Gold - Malden High School's newspaper.

BERNICE

Hi im Berenice and I love cats.



SPECIAL THANK YOU!

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the partners who make this project possible:

Mayor Christenson and the city of Malden, Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Problem Gambling, Emily Bhargava and everyone at the Massachusetts Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling Prevention, Cambridge Health Alliance's Department of Community Health, Marie Motley and the Malden Public Schools, CRG Graphic Services, Dawn Zanazzo and 350 Main Street, and all the parents and caregivers of this year's participants.

Thank you, the reader, for taking time to hear the voices of Malden's youth!

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jlederer@challiance.org

LOCAL RESOURCES!

- ❑ **CHA Behavioral Health Center, Malden**
195 Canal St Malden MA | Walk-ins welcome of people of all ages
24/7 line - 833-222-2030

- ❑ **CHA Malden Teen Health Center, 77 Salem St (behind CVS), 781-338-0101**
For additional health care, including behavioral health services at Cambridge Health Alliance visit www.challiance.org

- ❑ **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**
24/7 Availability | Text or Call 988 | <https://988lifeline.org/>

- ❑ **LGBTQI+ Crisis Line-** Dial 988 and press 3.

- ❑ **Massachusetts Behavioral Helpline-**
A call or text line available 24/7, 833-773-2445. MA Substance Use Helpline: 1-800-327-5050, gamblinghelpline.ma.org; helpline.ma.org

