

## NEXUS

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Nexus:

*Definition: A connection, link. A connected group or series.*

*For this column: Interconnected moments, actions, and attitudes in work with youth. Also the name of an agency with several programs for youth.*

Her house is in a neighborhood with gangs, drugs, and violence. She is alone in her room with an inexpensive video camera. The camera scans her room, focuses on the desk, a fan, venetian blinds. She runs a white comb slowly in front of the lens, then shifts to a close-up of her face, and slowly begins to talk, "You know, I've been waiting."

Excerpt from a powerful video series by Sadie Benning (1995).

*"Pay attention to the soul...Focus less on assessment, words, and trying to get in kids' heads, and more on being with youth in the spaces of daily living, the walks, playing, moments of being together."*

The words of Victor Malarek, a Canadian journalist, who had been abused as a child at home and in the Canadian child protective service system, as he spoke to us at the National Organization of Child Care Worker Associations' 1997 International Child and Youth Care Conference in Toronto.

*"Youth workers don't build trust mechanically, like carpenters build houses, they are in the world with youth, and in so being disclose trust as fundamental to being together as human beings."*

A musing from Mike Baizerman, 1994.

*"The most important lesson I've learned is the importance of being present in the moment."*

Gerry Fewster at the end of his novel, *Being in Child Care: A Journey Into Self*.

*"We urge readers to not focus on the narrower issues alone, however, such as the name, or on the traditional 'political' disputes, but rather to hear it deep..."*

Jerome Beker (1996) inviting contributions to the dialogue about the soul of the child and youth care professions.

*"Three youth are hanging on the corner. Cars pass. This is a place where they can anticipate something will happen."*

Example of a finding from Herb Childress' dissertation.

These are the spaces, moments, and places in which work with youth occurs.

## **Reference**

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