

Welcome Home Contest Winner - IN THE HEIGHTS comes to UNCP

Well, as a kid I grew up in the city. A place called Curtis Bay. It is on the south side of Baltimore, Maryland. We lived in a row home and the neighbors were close. In the summers, our parents would get together at our house and we would have a big pizza party. We would bake big sheet pans of pizza. The whole neighborhood would hang out. The grownups would be talking, cooking, singing and laughing. It was happy times especially for us kids. We got to stay out after dark and we would play games like Red Rover, Mother May I, Hide and Seek, Black Widow. We could skate in the streets without worry of getting hit by cars. The unprinted sign at the end of the street read " Drive Carefully, Kids at Play." They would look out for us when we were on our bikes. We were safe children having fun

I had to walk 3 blocks to school, but back then we didn't worry, because along the concrete path to the school yard were grown ups keeping vigil. We were safe children having fun.

In the winter we would get the snow. Young and old would gather at the highest hill on the end of our street and sleigh ride. If our gloves got wet we would use socks as gloves. The parents would take turns supervising us so we wouldn't run into each other going down the hill. We were safe children having fun.

I went back to the old neighborhood recently. It was run down and dirty. And I knew in my heart that children are no longer safe.

Sandy Williams