HEALING HOME

Health and Homelessness in the Life Stories of Young Women

Based on research that was awarded the Governor General's Academic Gold Medal, *Healing Home* is an exploration of the lives and health of young women experiencing homelessness. Vanessa Oliver employs an innovative methodology that blends sociology and storytelling practices to investigate these women's access to health services, their understandings of health and health care delivery, and their health-seeking behaviours. Through their life stories, Oliver demonstrates how personal and social experiences shape health outcomes.

In contrast to many previous studies that have focused on the deficits of these young people, *Healing Home* is both youth-centric and youth-positive in its approach: by foregrounding the narratives of the women themselves, Oliver empowers a sub-section of the population that traditionally has not had a voice in determining policies that shape their realities. Applying a strong, articulate, and systemic analysis to on-the-ground narratives, Oliver is able to offer fresh, incisive recommendations for health and social service providers with the potential to effect real-world change for this marginalized population.

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*To my mothers
Susan Phillips Oliver
&
Nellie Green Oliver
Who taught me the most valuable things I know:
Love
Compassion
Determination*

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