



**WELCOMED ME
WITH OPEN ARMS**

Earlier this year, I joined an adult theater group as a backstage girl. I was the only kid there and felt unsure about joining, but the group welcomed me with open arms and made me feel accepted. Whenever I made mistakes, they were tolerant and accepting and helped me fix it. Every day, they would make me laugh and smile. The performance was a blast, and I plan on doing it again next year.

—Canaan Memorial High School