

Kaitlin Griest, 25, has a smile that is difficult to resist and embraces life with enthusiasm and joy. As a member of On-the-Move Community Integration for the past four years, Kaitlin has had many opportunities to engage with Portland and all the city has to offer. She loves to volunteer at the Oregon Zoo where she makes toys for the animals. She also loves to spend time with her own pets: a cat, Amber, and yellow Labrador retriever, Lucy. Kaitlin was a participant in the spring 2015 workshop at On-the-Move. Her poem “Fun” will be published in the upcoming anthology, *Toward the Sound*.

*Note: Kaitlin used text-to-speech technology as well as staff support for this interview.*



**What made you want to take the writing workshop with Write Around Portland?**  
Write before.

**You wrote before? What kinds of things did you write before?**  
Poems.

**Were you excited to write more?**  
YES! [Big smile!] Poems favorite.

**What was most fun in the workshop?**  
Writing things I like. Hearing others.

**What was the hardest part of the workshop?**  
Ideas.

**Ideas were the hardest? Did you get help with ideas?**  
Yes. Kate [the volunteer facilitator] and Matteson [On-the-Move staff person] help.

**How do you feel about having your poem published in the anthology?**  
Happy! Proud.

**What do other people think about you being published?**  
Cool. Share with cousin.

**You shared your writing with your cousin?**  
Yes!

**Are you still writing?**  
Yes. Write poems every day.

**That's so great. Would you recommend this workshop to other people?**  
Yes. Excited.

**You are excited for them to take the workshop?**

Yes!

**Awesome. Is there anything you would like your readers to know about you?**

Fun things! Disney. New Cinderella movie fantastic. Dancing!

Kaitlin's support staff then shared:

*Kaitlin also takes really great pictures on our outings.* [Kaitlin smiles] *She also plans outings.*  
*She recently planned a trip to the Pixie Project to pet the kitties.* [Kaitlin smiles, nods and  
shows us her pictures from another participant.]

**That is so great Kaitlin! Thank you for sharing with us.**

[Big smile!]