

INTRODUCTION

MEET OUR THREE TRAILBLAZERS

CIVIL RIGHTS ICONS, ACTIVISTS, AUTHORS, SPEAKERS

VOCALESSENCE

WITNESS 

INTRODUCTION

To “keep your eyes on the prize” means to determine what is important and to muster up the courage to take action towards making the vision a reality. This year’s VocalEssence WITNESS School Program introduces us to three women who continue to make a positive impact on our society as they speak out about and stand up for change. As you learn more about them and their life’s work, we hope each of you are inspired to consider, What is the prize that your eyes are on? What issues or causes are you willing to work and stand up for to make our society a better place?

FREEDOM SONG: “WE SHALL OVERCOME”

MEET OUR TRAILBLAZING EXAMPLES



Claudette Colvin
(b. September 5, 1939)
Civil Rights Icon | Activist | Speaker

“When it comes to justice, there is no easy way to get it. You can’t sugarcoat it. You have to take a stand and say, ‘this is not right.’”

-Claudette Colvin

FREEDOM SONG: “WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED”



Ruby Bridges
(b. September 8, 1954)
Civil Rights Icon | Activist | Artist | Author | Speaker

“Don’t follow the path. Go where there is no path and begin the trail. When you start a new trail equipped with courage, strength and conviction, the only thing that can stop you is you!” -Ruby Bridges

FREEDOM SONG: “AIN’T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME ‘ROUND”



Mari Copeny
(b. July 6, 2007)
Philanthropist | Activist | Future President

“My generation will fix this mess of a government. Watch us.”

-Mari Copeny

FREEDOM SONG: “KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE - HOLD ON”