

# Finding Our Way

## Puget Sound Stories About Family Homelessness

*StoryCorps is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives.*

In partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Seattle University, StoryCorps will be recording conversations in the Puget Sound area about family homelessness and the larger issues that surround it—poverty, unemployment, inequality—with a focus on capturing stories about families. The resulting content will be made available for use by news media, nonprofit advocacy groups, and homelessness service providers, and will be archived in the Library of Congress.

**Finding Our Way** welcomes any members of the community who have been impacted by experiences of family homelessness in their own lives or the lives of those close to them to have a 40-minute, uninterrupted conversation with a loved one or friend.

### Finding Our Way aims to...

- Raise awareness about family homelessness
- Honor participants by preserving their stories as part of our national history
- Transcend political, socioeconomic, racial, and generational boundaries without bias, with the hope that we can learn from one another's stories

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### About the Center For Strategic Communications at Seattle University

The Center for Strategic Communications focuses on public advocacy that advances the university's mission to empower leaders for a just and humane world, increase public awareness, and engage the public to end family homelessness.

### About StoryCorps

Since 2003, tens of thousands of everyday people have recorded their stories with StoryCorps. In addition to being one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, millions listen to StoryCorps' weekly broadcast on NPR's Morning Edition.

### About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.



### HOW TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW

StoryCorps will be recording interviews this summer in collaboration with our local host partners: the YWCA in King and Snohomish Counties and Catholic Community Services in Pierce County.

If you are interested in scheduling interviews for yourself or for your organization's community members, please contact:

[FindingOurWay@storycorps.org](mailto:FindingOurWay@storycorps.org)



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### ABOUT STORYCORPS INTERVIEWS

A StoryCorps interview is 40 minutes of uninterrupted time for meaningful conversation. A trained StoryCorps Facilitator will sit in the room during the interview, and while Facilitators are not interviewers, they may ask a question during the recording.

#### **Participants are the interviewers**

The best StoryCorps interviews take place between two people who know each other well. The relationship between the participants can greatly increase the quality of their experience, but StoryCorps Facilitators are trained to interview participants who do come alone.

#### **The interviews are not scripted**

StoryCorps interviews are not meant to be rehearsed or read from notes. We encourage participants to bring along some questions, while maintaining spontaneity and flexibility during interviews.

#### **Stories are the goal**

The interview is an opportunity for participants to tell stories from their personal experiences and describe vivid memories or reflections---not simply dates, places, and chronologies. We try to avoid using the term "oral history" and refer to the experience more as a "conversation."

#### **Participants decide whether or not to archive their interview**

In order to have their interview archived at the Library of Congress and given to partner organizations, participants must sign our release form. The choice to sign the form is entirely up to the participant.

#### **Participants may remain anonymous**

In consideration of personal privacy and interview participants' comfort, participants can elect to record their story using a pseudonym or may choose to share only limited personal information.

#### **Very few interviews air on NPR**

Each participant pair receives a recording of their conversation immediately after the interview. All interviews are archived with StoryCorps for preservation, however less than 1 percent of StoryCorps interviews are edited for broadcast on NPR.