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FROM: StoryCorps / Seattle University

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**STORYCORPS, THE GROUNDBREAKING ORAL HISTORY ORGANIZATION,
TO RECORD INTERVIEWS IN PUGET SOUND REGION THIS SUMMER**

**Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish
will host recordings with families who have experienced homelessness**

June 19, 2014 – StoryCorps, an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving and sharing the stories of people from all backgrounds and beliefs, will visit the Puget Sound region in July and August. StoryCorps will partner with Catholic Community Services of Western Washington-Southwest and YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish to record 15 days of interviews about family homelessness and the larger issues that surround it—poverty, unemployment and inequality—with a focus on capturing stories about families.

All King, Pierce and Snohomish County residents who have experienced homelessness as part of a family, in their recent or distant pasts—or know someone who has—are encouraged to participate. Those interested can contact StoryCorps at findingourway@storycorps.org. Registration is required.

The recordings are for a new StoryCorps project called “Finding Our Way: Puget Sound Stories About Family Homelessness.” StoryCorps will record 30 stories each in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties this summer — a total of 90 interviews across the three counties.

- **Pierce County:** Catholic Community Services, Tahoma Family Center in Tacoma, July 15-19
- **Snohomish County:** YWCA, Family Village Lynnwood, July 29-Aug. 2
- **King County:** YWCA, Opportunity Place, Seattle, Aug. 11-14; and YWCA, Greenbridge Center, South King County (Seattle/White Center), Aug. 15

More information about “Finding Our Way” is also available via the [Seattle University Project on Family Homelessness](#), which is assisting StoryCorps by working to find stories from local residents who may not be connected to a nonprofit service provider.

The project is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

StoryCorps interviews are conversations between two people who know and care about each other. A trained StoryCorps Facilitator guides the participants through the interview process. At the end of each 40-minute recording session, participants receive a CD copy of their interview, and with their permission, a second copy is archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. A very small percentage of all of the interviews StoryCorps records are produced for national broadcast on NPR’s *Morning Edition*. All of the interview materials recorded at CCS and YWCA will also be made available for the Gates Foundation and other local nonprofits to use in their advocacy efforts to prevent and end homelessness among families.

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“StoryCorps tells the true American story—that we are a people defined by small acts of courage, kindness and heroism. Each interview reminds people that their lives matter and will not be forgotten,” said its founder, David Isay. “By strengthening connections between people and building an archive that reflects the rich diversity of American voices, we hope to build StoryCorps into an enduring institution that will touch the lives of every American family.”

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About StoryCorps

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 their stories. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 50,000 interviews with nearly 95,000 participants. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, and millions listen to its weekly broadcasts on NPR’s *Morning Edition* and on [its website](#).

About Catholic Community Services

We believe in compassion, love and respect for all people, especially those who are poor and vulnerable, and we believe every person has the right to a safe, affordable place to call home. [Catholic Community Services](#) provide a continuum of care for homeless and low-income people throughout Western Washington. Through day centers, emergency shelters and emergency services, we provide warm, safe refuge from the streets.

About the YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish

The YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish has a proud history of improving the quality of life for women of all ages, races and faiths, and their families. Since 1894, the YWCA has provided services to meet critical needs, promote self-sufficiency, reduce violence and achieve equal opportunities for all people. The YWCA touches the lives of 49,000 women and families in King and Snohomish counties each year with these critical services: housing, basic needs, employment training, job placement, domestic violence advocacy, health care services and child and youth development. For more information, visit ywcaworks.org.

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.

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