



The Facing Project

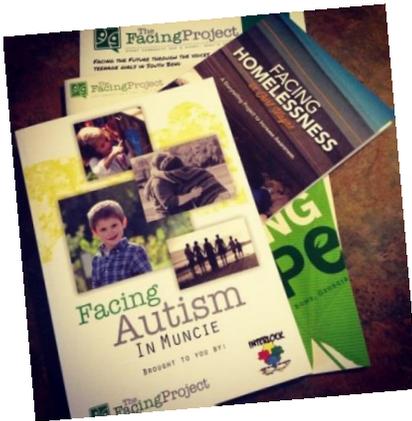
FacingProject.com \ howdy@facingproject.com

Mission:

The Facing Project connects people through stories to strengthen communities.

Overview:

The Facing Project inspires communities to organize and share the stories of its citizens through the talent of local writers, actors, and artists. We provide tools, a platform, guidance, editing, and inspiration so communities can share the stories of its citizens in a way that works best for them.



Our model guides communities as they enlist a team of writers to be paired one-on-one with citizens who are *facing* life circumstances that deserve to be shared to better educate the broader community. Together, the pairs will meet, get to know each other and share stories of triumph and tragedy, of loneliness and community, of hate and happiness, of deep depression and lofty goals. The writers will use their talents to take on the voice and persona of their subjects and write as if they were them—in the first person—bringing to life a voice that has been silenced, while keeping the anonymity of the subjects.

All projects culminate with a book to be shared throughout the community, and acted out by local actors through community theatre and monologues—

bringing a face to the voice.

Through these awareness outlets, communities can begin to sit down together to face the next steps of discovering new, grassroots solutions to the problem.

Background:

The first Facing Project was launched in Muncie, Indiana, in the winter of 2011-2012, under the title, *Facing Poverty*. TEAMWork for Quality Living, a nonprofit focused on empowering people in poverty toward self-sufficiency, featured the project as part of Muncie's first annual *Poverty Awareness Week* in February 2012. Seventeen nonprofit organizations, businesses, Ball State University, the local newspaper, and a community foundation came on board to partner in the project.

Twenty-one stories were told and compiled into a book to share with the community at large. Twenty local actors from the Muncie Civic Theatre and Ball State University performed two nights of monologues to crowds made up of hundreds of community members. Through the stories shared and dialogues created, The Facing Project helped bring the face of poverty to the forefront, breakdown stereotypes, and open the door for those in poverty, and those who work with those in poverty, to have their voices added to the conversation.

The Facing Project has now expanded its reach into other communities from coast to coast, including:

- Atlanta, Georgia's Facing Sex Trafficking – **FEATURED ON NPR!**
- Fort Wayne, Indiana's Facing Homelessness – **FEATURED ON NPR!**
- Washington & Lee's Facing Sexual Violence
- UCLA's Facing Depression
- Kansas State's Facing Hunger
- Knox County Kentucky's Facing Addiction

So You're Interested in The Facing Project: Here's How to get Started -

Form a Committee:

If The Facing Project sounds like something you want in your community, one of the first steps is forming a planning committee to begin conversations about what needs to be “faced.” This committee could include representatives from nonprofits, educational institutions (k-12/higher education), government, writers, or other volunteers in your community. If you need help during this early stage, feel free to email The Facing Project for guidance.

Discuss a Topic Area to Face:

A few examples of what could be faced in a community include:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Poverty | - Refuge |
| - Homelessness | - Autism |
| - Fatherhood | - Eating Disorders |
| - Single Parenting | - Welfare |
| - HIV/AIDS | - Abuse/Violence/Domestic Violence |
| - Death | - Bullying/Cyber Bullying |
| - War | - Hunger |
| - Teen Pregnancy | - Unemployment |
| - Coming Out/GLBT Stories | - Religion |
| - Immigration | - Childhood Obesity |

These are just a few examples to get your creative juices flowing. Ask yourself—what is important in my community but not being discussed? How will The Facing Project fill this gap?

Select a Host Organization:

The host organization is the main organization overseeing your community's Facing project, and will serve as the entity that signs off on the Terms of Use with The Facing Project. The topic you choose and/or who is on the committee may determine the host organization for your community.

Sign On with The Facing Project:

Once the host organization has been determined, contact The Facing Project to sign the Terms of Use that outlines what communities are committing to doing and what they receive in return through The Facing Project and pay a 12-month first-time licensing fee of \$1,500 (\$750 per project on any future projects after that). If you are on a college campus and would like to start a student organization chapter of The Facing Project, please contact us for details.

What Communities Receive as a Result of Signing On with The Facing Project:

- The Facing Project Toolkit – The Toolkit is a guide to help communities plan and launch The Facing Project. The 75 + page Toolkit consists of examples, worksheets, checklists, consent forms, recruitment flyers, and templates.
- Branding – Use of logo and mission as an affiliate of The Facing Project.
- Web Hosting – Each community will receive their own website through The Facing Project that tells your community's story and connects you to other communities around the world doing Facing Projects. The Facing Project will host this website for one year.
- Web Site Training – Training on how to access your site and upload content at your own convenience.
- Writer Training – Up to 30-minute training session/video with project writers.

- Each community will be assigned a Facing Project expert who will walk you through the toolkit and act as your liaison with the Facing Project HQ.
- Each community will be assigned a Facing HQ editing team who will review your stories and provide feedback.

In addition, The Facing Project will -

- Give credit to the Facing Community and all authors in any reproduction in print, web, or for advertisement purposes.
- If requested handle design and printing of Facing Community's books at the cost of the Facing Community (price to be determined at a later date based on community's printing preferences and quantities – not included in the licensing fee).
- Connect the Facing Community with other Facing Communities (if requested).
- Promote the Facing Community's project across The Facing Project's online networks.

Optional Services Not Included in the Licensing -

- Speaking – Keynotes and motivational plenaries on the power of stories.
- Workshops – Grant Writing and Funding a Project; Writer Development (half-day); and Community Engagement Curriculum Development.

The Faces Behind The Facing Project:

The Facing Project was formed as an official organization in 2012 by J.R. Jamison (jrjamison.com) and Kelsey Timmerman (kelseytimmerman.com) because they believe in the power of first-person stories to enact community change. As writers and active community members, the two have witnessed this firsthand and are passionate about helping other communities tell their stories.

J.R. has spent the past decade promoting community engagement in higher education. His work has been adopted by more than 40 campuses and communities across the globe, and he has written and won over \$5 million of grants to support communities in their efforts. His writing has appeared in national journals and books, and he has been featured in The Huffington Post and on NPR.



Kelsey, a *New York Times* Bestselling author, has spent the last decade helping people share their stories. He is the author of *WHERE AM I WEARING? A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People That Make Our Clothes* (Wiley, 2008) and *WHERE AM I EATING? An Adventure through the Global Food Economy* (Wiley, 2013). His writing has appeared in publications such as the Christian Science Monitor, Condé Nast Portfolio, and has aired on NPR. WEARING and EATING have been adopted as a common reader by over 150 high schools, colleges, and universities.

Both regularly speak at colleges, universities, high schools, and speaker series around the nation and the world. They can't wait to work with you to help your community tell its story!