



### Media Praise for The Facing Project

“Absolutely wonderful project. To produce stories from The Facing Project during ‘Morning Edition’ and ‘All Things Considered’ was impactful and we were excited to present these documentary snippets to our listeners.”

**-NPR**

“Do you remember the moment when the word autism first impacted your family? The thoughts and feelings about what the future would hold rushed through you. What if those moments could be recaptured as a way to educate the broader community? That’s happening through The Facing Project.”

**-Autism Companion Magazine**

“The Facing Project is one of three oral history projects everyone should know about.”

**-The Huffington Post**

“The Facing Project is the most intriguing community engagement program we’ve come across in a really long time. J.R. and Kelsey are making a difference in the world. They’re challenging us to listen to the stories of people for a change.”

**-Indiana Talks Radio**

## Stories bind us. They connect us to our past and guide the narrative of our future.

In a world connected more than ever before, place and time have become vast expanses well beyond our own communities. The hallmarks of community—newspaper memberships, voter turnouts, community organizations—have all been in decline for decades. Many of us have lost sight of our community and our stories.

To reunite the two, J.R. Jamison and Kelsey Timmerman co-founded The Facing Project to re-connect people through stories to strengthen their communities. From homelessness to human trafficking to autism to dyslexia and more, The Facing Project is in communities across the U.S. to combine the passions of writers, artists, educators, students, nonprofits, and business leaders to build community and learn from the first-person stories of their neighbors.

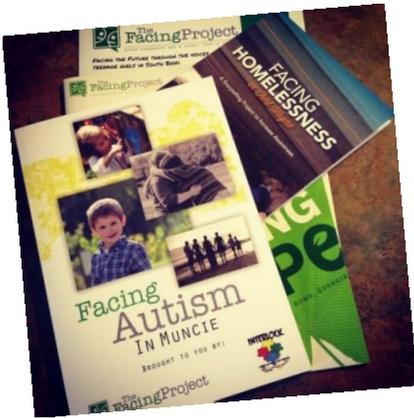
As acclaimed public speakers, J.R. and Kelsey are passionate about inspiring communities to tell their stories and giving a voice to those who often go unheard.



## What We Do

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. The pairs 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 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.



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 issues.

### The Facing Project: Quick Stats

- 20,000 Facing Project books currently in distribution with hundreds of first-person stories being used to inspire and inform.
- Facing books are being used in classrooms, by pediatricians and clinics, and Mayors' offices across the country.
- More than 100 Facing Projects will be underway in 2016 with over 200,000 Facing books and thousands of first-person socially conscious stories in print and on the web.

### Testimonials

"The Facing Project provides a successful model of going into the community to listen and learn with people and not just doing research to the community."

**Amy Newcomb Rowe**

**Talloires Network: Boston, Massachusetts**

"Poverty is not just about economics. It's about having access to the education, opportunities, and resources that are essential to helping us thrive in our daily lives. The Facing Project gave a voice to the voiceless in our community while helping others find HOPE when they needed it most."

**Juliana Breithaupt**

**Georgia Highlands College: Rome, Georgia**

"We believe that community awareness of poverty is the first step to addressing it. Working with The Facing Project to produce 'Facing Poverty in Delaware County' helped raise the awareness of our work and bring people to the table who previously weren't engaged with our mission. In the past 18 months we have gained a great deal of visibility in our mission to 'empower people in poverty toward self-sufficiency.' To that end, our agency is now a United Way partner, and we were blessed to be the beneficiary of a \$79,000 fundraiser conducted by Old National Bank. We are constantly amazed at the power of stories of struggle and hope to ignite the passion it takes to create change in the community."

**Molly Flodder**

**TEAMWork for Quality Living: Muncie, Indiana**

## J.R. Jamison & Kelsey Timmerman

### BIO

As acclaimed public speakers and co-founders of The Facing Project, J.R. and Kelsey are passionate about helping communities tell their stories and giving a voice to those who often go unheard.

J.R. has spent more than a decade connecting higher education and nonprofits through meaningful community engagement partnerships. 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 engagement efforts. His work has appeared in national journals, books, The Huffington Post, Harlem World Magazine, and on NPR.



Kelsey has spent more than a decade traveling the world and helping people share their stories. He is the *New York Times* Bestselling author of *WHERE AM I WEARING? A GLOBAL TOUR TO THE COUNTRIES, FACTORIES, AND PEOPLE THAT MAKE OUR CLOTHES* and *WHERE AM I EATING? A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GLOBAL FOOD ECONOMY*. His work has appeared in the Christian Science Monitor, Condé Nast Portfolio, TIME Magazine and has aired on NPR.



### SPEAKING

J.R. and Kelsey have spoken to hundreds of conferences, universities, and speakers' series around the nation and the world. Their talks share their own journeys of becoming engaged citizens which then led to the founding of The Facing Project. Through humor, readings, and good old-fashioned storytelling, the two will connect the accomplishments of previous Facing Projects to the narrative of the nationwide movement, all while helping the audience understand how to use their own passions to build and strengthen their own communities.

### Talking Points:

- Connecting people through the power of stories
- Community building
- Community service and volunteerism
- Utilizing skills and passion for good
- Creating understanding across difference
- Empathy
- Globalization
- Travel
- Finding your "Axis of Awesome"

**Please contact [howdy@facingproject.com](mailto:howdy@facingproject.com) for more information and booking.**