

StoryCorps

To: 9/11 Families and Friends
From: StoryCorps
Date: September 2005

We would like to let you know about a new initiative to preserve stories of the victims of the September 11th tragedy. StoryCorps enables you to record your memories of those lost on 9/11 and preserve these stories at the Library of Congress for generations to come. On July 12, 2005 StoryCorps opened a new facility on the concourse level of the PATH station at the WTC site. StoryCorps-WTC provides a welcoming and respectful environment for 9/11 families to commemorate their loved ones and also stands as a timeless testament to the lives lost. The booth includes a soundproof studio for recording stories as well as an enclosed seating area for visitors waiting to conduct an interview. Please join us – come to our soundproof recording booth at the World Trade Center or visit our original booth in Grand Central Terminal with an interview partner, and honor your friend or loved one who perished on that tragic day.

The idea is simple. First you call 646-723-7025 to make a reservation. Please let us know that you are a family member when you call. Then, come to the booth with your interview partner at the reserved time for your 40-minute session. At the booth, a trained facilitator explains the process and helps you choose questions to ask during the session. We also provide an on-line ‘Question Generator’ at our website, Storycorps.net for you to prepare for your interview. A special password protected web page has been set up for family members at, Storycorps.net/wtc, the password is “remember.”

After this brief orientation, you and your partner will enter the recording booth with your facilitator. For the next 40 minutes, you will record the interview inside the booth, which we’ve designed as a peaceful, safe space conducive to genuine conversation. At the end of the session, you receive an audio CD of your interview to take home. With your permission, the second CD becomes part of an oral history of America at the Library of Congress, our partner on this project. We also plan to donate a copy of your CD to the World Trade Center Memorial Museum. These recordings will preserve the legacies of your loved ones and will allow future generations to remember all that was lost on that day.

Norene Schneider, who lost her brother Tommy Sullivan on September 11th, interviewed her mother at our World Trade Center Booth. “I have to tell you - that this was HUGE for us!” She wrote “The experience of recording and talking about Tommy is so overwhelmingly happy - and invigorating - I am STILL smiling...I absolutely beyond the shadow of a doubt - recommend this to everyone - this is something you HAVE to do...What an experience - and the booth and the facilitators were - FABULOUS! Perfect - that's the best way to describe it. Perfect. What a happy, memorable day for us. We finally got TO DO something...for Tommy.”

Alison Crowther, who lost her son Welles on September 11th, said, "It was a deeply moving and beautiful process for my husband and I to record our memories of our beloved son Welles through StoryCorps. The StoryCorps staff was gentle and kind, and encouraged us to open up our hearts and souls. We truly felt that we were serving Welles by preserving his memory in such a profoundly meaningful way for all posterity. It is a way of keeping his spirit and memory alive for generations to come."

StoryCorps launched in October 2003, in Grand Central Terminal. Created by the award-winning documentary producer Dave Isay, the project is designed to give everyday individuals the opportunity to interview anyone about his or her life. In the last year, we have recorded more than 3000 interviews. You can listen to excerpts of some of these interviews at Storycorps.net.

If you would like to make a reservation, please email Tracy Serdjenian, tracy@storycorps.net, or call: 646-723-7025. For more information please read our "Frequently Asked Questions" list. We are here for you to capture your memories and celebrate the lives of your loved ones.