

Through Their Eyes - Original Project Documents

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Background of "Through Their Eyes"

Ever since my father died, I've been wondering what would happen to his tape--I hated to think his story would never be told. As I gave tours and saw the impact of a survivor telling his/her story to the students I began to try to figure out a feasible way for students and any adult group requesting a survivor to hear the story once survivors like my father could no longer do so. Thus began my idea to create this project.

About five years ago, I created an outline for the project and after trying out my ideas on a number of survivors, 2nd generation friends, and educators from both HMM and USHMM, I wrote a plan incorporating some of suggestions from those individuals. I worked with HMM's director of education, director of the museum and our grant writer. I created a curriculum to use in teaching a group of seven daughters of Holocaust survivors and conducted four sets of classes. Classes encompassed an overview of the historical period, the situation particular to each Survivor's geographic area and each Survivor's adult child's own emotional journey through viewing her parent's story.

Once we were funded by mid-summer and I created a set of instructions on how to edit the tapes. I have worked more closely with the professional film editor on this editing process and once my father's had been produced we've better "perfected" the process and am now assisting each of those trained, in editing their parents' tapes and writing the accompanying narrative.

I'm now in the process of creating a "how to" set of instructions on how to create this program in one's own community. It will contain a proposal sample for funding as well as instructions on how to obtain permission from the Shoah Foundation to edit one of the tapes they created. It will also cover editing suggestions and a sample curriculum.