

Finding Kurt

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Honors Research Project

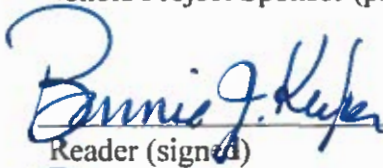
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Introduction

In November of 2020, Jordan Work, Video Producer at The Chapel in Akron, met a homeless man named Kurt. Kurt and Jordan formed a friendship, but after several meetings, Kurt vanished. Without address, phone number, or last name, Jordan was left unable to contact Kurt. The only way to reach him would be through the homeless network. *Finding Kurt* documents Jordan's quest across Akron as he uncovers leads to where his friend may have gone. The resulting journey is an unexpected dive into a world hidden behind Akron's streets, revealing a new angle on the all too familiar theme of homelessness.

This project began in April 2022 and was finished in April 2023. The process consisted of strategic pre-production, six months of production, and rigorous post-production. Many of the individuals in the documentary signed a media release form. Due to the fact that homeless individuals are not easily contacted, we were not able to follow up with some of the individuals to have them sign a media release. However, each person included in the documentary gave verbal consent at the time of filming.

Most academic studies do not take place in abandoned houses or in tents on the outskirts of cities. This project does. By taking the audience on a journey across Akron, *Finding Kurt* examines homelessness through a new lens, through the eyes of those who are on the streets. We learn of words that homeless people use to describe their world, such as bando (an abandoned house) and flying-the-sign (panhandling). Through the words and experiences of homeless individuals, this documentary addresses topics such as drugs, mortality, violence, and tragedy. However, as hopeless as homelessness may seem, *Finding Kurt* will remind us of hope in hopeless situations and that perhaps the greatest gift we can give to someone else is simply a heart of compassion.

Jordan Work was a great help and integral part of this project. As the Video Producer at The Chapel in Akron, Jordan uses video storytelling to share the message of the Church, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, at The Chapel. Jordan has a love for people. He extends that love to the homeless, which led him to become friends with Kurt. Once Kurt disappeared, Jordan and I decided to team up, combining a homelessness project with a manhunt, to create *Finding Kurt*. As co-writers, directors, and producers of this project, Jordan and I are excited to share with you the journey of *Finding Kurt*.

Academic Impact

The impact of this documentary will, hopefully, be widespread. Not many projects like this exist. In contrast to other projects, this documentary hopes to show, instead of tell, some of the technical, statistical impacts of homelessness and to do so along with the heart of humanizing people. Too often are homeless individuals viewed as “others,” instead of neighbors.

This project pulls together concepts I have learned from my studies as a communication major at the University of Akron, like Uncertainty Reduction Theory, Microcultural Context, and Nonverbal Communication. During interactions with homeless people, reducing uncertainty was necessary to form mutual trust. This meant that there was no way we were going to approach an individual with a camera rolling. We approached each individual as their own person, looking to provide for any needs they had, pray for them, and get to know them. Once we had established a mutual trust, Jordan and I politely asked, without any pressure, if they would like to help us with a video project. Of the twenty-seven individuals we talked to, only nine preferred not to be filmed.

It was a joy to jump headfirst into a microculture of Akron. We learned some of their exclusive vocabulary, witnessed how they lived, and observed their unique culture. Within the

homeless community, there is an inconsistent loyalty. Many individuals explained how homeless individuals tend to look out for one another, but will simultaneously steal from one another.

Homeless individuals believe that the less you know, the better. We learned words that they use, such as bando (an abandoned house), flying-the-sign (panhandling), and the sickness (the drastic effects of withdrawal). Many had adjusted to a new way of living, including using cardboard as tent insulation or flying the sign as a way to make a wage. It was fascinating to witness an underground way of living right in Akron, Ohio.

Nonverbal communication was key for situation evaluation. Oftentimes, Jordan and I were in situations where drugs could be present, where weapons were around, and where others were suspicious of us. By using nonverbal communication skills, we were able to put others at ease and also know with whom we should not engage. We would smile, give hugs or high fives, not stand in threatening ways, and not get invasive with the camera. This awareness made situations more comfortable and facilitated the forming of friendships.

Methodology

We could not have done this without God's help. As Christians, we prayed first and waited on God to lead us through the homeless community. The adventure that followed from these prayers was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and makes me excited for what a future of prayer might hold.

Through a process of pre-production, Jordan and I brainstormed the best strategy for approaching a homeless individual. It was something that we had done before, but this time, we would be asking to film them, not knowing how they would respond. We decided that the best way would be to approach them without a camera and try to form a rapport with them, then politely ask if they would like to be in our video. If they said yes, I would return to the car, grab

the camera, and get rolling. Once we did an “on-the-street” interview, we would sometimes ask to do a sit-down interview with them, to go deeper into their personal story and experience with homelessness.

We executed this plan with consistency throughout the production process. Sometimes, there would be more spontaneous moments that came from an interaction. For example, on two separate occasions, we were invited to see a homeless camp. Another day, someone wanted to walk us around downtown as he shared his experience with homelessness. On other days, we would take individuals in the car to get Wendy’s as they shared their story.

Post-production was rigorous. With over thirty hours of footage, it was hard to decide what was cut and what remained. Through many drafts and revisions, the documentary was formed into what it is now.

The dates for the documentary were as follows -

April-May 2022: Plan for production

May-November 2022: Shoot *Finding Kurt*

December 2022-April 2023: Post-production; complete honors project deadlines for the Honors College at the University of Akron

Literature Review

Weeks pass as homeless men and women face the elements, danger, and the critical eye of the passerby. Around 11,000 Ohioans experience this scenario every day (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2020). Homelessness is an increasing problem in the United States (Fishman et al., 2021, p. 10). It appears that a solution to homelessness is not going to be a one-size-fits-all approach, but a coming alongside homeless people with person-specific

strategies (Nichols, 2016, p. 1; Fishman et al., 2021, p. 8). It is necessary to acknowledge the prevalence of homelessness around the country, and here in Akron.

Homelessness permeates the country. It is estimated that 12.7% of the United States population, or 40.6 million people, lives in poverty (Cadaret et al., 2018, p. 870). The most visible of this group are those who are homeless and those who panhandle (Cadaret et al., 2018, p. 870). In 2015, the population of this group was over 550 thousand Americans (Galea, 2016). That means that 550 thousand people in America did not spend the nights in their own house, their own room, or their own bed. That number increased to over 580 thousand in 2020, and recent studies show that those experiencing homelessness have only increased due to the COVID-19 Pandemic (Sillick, 2022, p. 62). Compared to recent years, we are living in a time with the highest homelessness numbers. There are 1,000 homeless people in Akron alone (Kano, 2020). These numbers may not startle everyone, but we must realize that homelessness does not only affect those experiencing it.

Homelessness increases the taxes of the general public. Each year, a single homeless person costs the government around 40,000 dollars (Ponio, 2021; Caring Works, n.d.). This adds up, especially considering that there are over 580 thousand homeless people in the United States today. Apart from financially hurting society, homelessness poses a security threat to both homeless and non-homeless individuals (Galea, 2016; Ponio, 2021). Furthermore, homelessness impacts the availability of healthcare services, impacts the workforce, and breaks down community life (Caring Works, n.d.; Ponio, 2021). Researching and attempting to solve this problem is no small task, and contributing to the solution of homelessness could drastically improve the lives of millions.

There are many organizations dedicated to helping homeless individuals. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) has made strides in helping those under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness (McDonald & Michael, 2021). This program resolved to help youth because:

[T]here is no one to teach a young person how to apply for a job or do laundry, no one to cosign an apartment lease, and nowhere to go over summer break when college dorms close. The result is a youth who is completely alone on life's journey. (McDonald & Michael, 2021)

Since homelessness is not the same for each individual and is not experienced equally across age groups (Ignácio de Espíndola, 2020, p. 6), YHDP focuses on one specific group of homeless individuals with similar needs. There are also many faith-based organizations dedicated to helping the homeless, including Haven of Rest in Akron. Faith-based organizations have played a vital role in helping the community throughout history and continue to help on the homelessness front today (Costoya & Breen, 2020, p. 43, 45). Faith-based organizations:

[H]ave an additional value added that stems from their capacity to, on one hand, link government, civil society, business, and other stakeholders to the resources and knowledge rooted in local congregations; and on the other hand, network and pool congregational resources and knowledge to channel the structured participation of these faith communities into initiatives like enhancing social service provision, building affordable housing, creating social enterprises, and the like. (Costoya & Breen, 2020, p.57)

Using a variety of strategies and methods, we can help people out of homeless situations. It is unlikely that a universal solution will be applicable to the problem of homelessness (Nichols,

2016, p. 1; Fishman et al., 2021, p. 8). Whatever the solutions are, they need to be more than only “flipping a coin to a beggar,” and need to target the entire issue of homelessness (Cadaret et al., 2018, p. 871).

Drugs. They are a hard reality of homelessness. It is hard to find a homeless individual who has not been influenced by drugs or alcohol in some way. One of the common marks of homelessness is “widespread and frequent use of psychoactive substances,” (Ignácio de Espíndola, 2020, p. 2). Drugs and homelessness have a close relationship. In fact, “[s]ubstance abuse or dependence, particularly regarding illicit drugs, is a predictor of homelessness among adults, and is also a risk factor for the chronicity of such conditions,” (Ignácio de Espíndola, 2020, p. 2). The pathway of addiction can lead people into a homeless situation. On the other hand, homeless individuals may be introduced to drugs for the first time on the street (Doran, 2022, p. 1). Sadly, many individuals do not recognize addiction’s ramifications until it is too late. They are already addicted, and they are socially isolated with no one to help. Furthermore, drug addiction adds to the increased mortality rate of being on the streets. The mortality rate of homeless individuals is seven times higher than the general public (Ignácio de Espíndola, 2020, p. 2), and in one Massachusetts study, the mortality rate from overdose was fifteen times higher than the adult population (Doran, 2022, p. 1). Homeless individuals face death, danger, and drugs at every turn. The leading causes of death for homeless individuals are infectious diseases, heart conditions, and substance abuse, as well as external factors such as accidents, suicide, and homicide (Ignácio de Espíndola, 2020, p. 2). It is clear that drugs are closely connected to homelessness. However, this does not give us the right to look past them as human beings or refuse to help them with addiction.

After extensive research, it seems that people suffering from homelessness need to be humanized to the general public. In other words, these people need to be seen as humans and not as problems. Jordan and I sought to help every group of people experiencing homelessness by creating a documentary that reveals the humanness in every homeless person featured. *Finding Kurt* showed the public the individuality of people on the streets and what they suffer on a daily basis.

A documentary on homelessness needed to follow the lives of the homeless, and not only capture an elevator pitch of their cry for help (Nichols, 2016, p. 1). There is a lack of research involving community-based participatory research like documentary filmmaking (Burns et al., n.d., p. 119). Documentary film has a role to play in research on homelessness. Images and documentaries have had a long tradition in ethnographic research (Burns et al., n.d., p. 120). One documentary recently produced focused on finding professionals that work in the field of homelessness, but lacked extensive portrayal of homeless people (Gunter, 2019). Following this documentary, there continues to be a gap in documentary film getting up close and personal with the individuals experiencing homelessness. I hope to fill this gap with *Finding Kurt*.

Documentary is useful to engage the audience in issues that relate to the historical world we all share (Nichols, 2001, p. xiv). A documentary has the ability to humanize the individuals that experience homelessness. A film like this is bound to a high fidelity between reality and what is on screen (Nichols, 2001, p. xvi). There are ethical implications for a documentary surrounding vulnerable individuals. Since we can both believe in the truths of fiction and non-fiction, the documentary filmmaker must forfeit the right to performance (Nichols, 2001, p. 6). The filmmaker must realize that the very act of being in a film and in front of a camera can modify behavior, and thus alter the reality they are trying to portray (Nichols, 2001, p. 6). As I

entered the world of documentary filmmaking, I was tasked with minimizing harmful effects and authentically portraying homeless people.

Good documentary practices were critical to the execution of this project. Mark Bone, an award-winning documentary director, shares that a key component of any documentary is having a theme that informs every scene the director shoots (Bone, 2020). The theme for this project was to let the audience walk alongside someone who is living on the streets and to shed light on harmful stigmas that surround homelessness. This theme was solidified before the filming of *Finding Kurt*. Another key practice in documentary filmmaking is to be aware of one's biases (Chasse, 2019, p. 7). Biases can come out during filming and change the way the director shows the film. There are many stigmas surrounding homelessness, such as the thought that they are lazy (Raleigh, 2021). Being aware of negative biases such as this one helped me to be more open-minded about homelessness, which was imperative for a successful end to this project. Furthermore, one should not be too attached to a single idea, or be set on making a feature-length documentary. The story should determine the length and any creative choices made. If the story would be best served as a thirty-minute documentary, then that is what ought to be done (Chasse, 2019, p. 16). These conceptual ideas helped inform my documentary, and so did picking a documentary style.

Documentaries are entertainment. Inspiring and informative, yes, but also compelling, emotionally expressive, visually interesting, and experiential for the viewer (Chasse, 2019, p. 31). This is why it is necessary to pick a style and have a clear idea of what the documentary will say, or in other words, document. There are six different modes of documentary, including poetic, expository, participatory, observational, reflexive, and performative (Chasse, 2019, p. 33-36). The style I aimed for is observational with a hint of participatory. Observational is when

the filmmaker simply records events happening, while participatory is when the filmmaker is involved in the journey (Chasse, 2019, p. 35-36). Since most documentaries focus on two modes (Chasse, 2019, p. 37), these were reasonable expectations for my film. As I set out to capture life on the street, I was able to witness and record several key events while also being a part of the action through interviews. Understanding what my film would encompass prepared me for filming and editing.

The three-act structure is present in every story ever told (Chasse, 2019, p. 121). For a documentary to be effective, there must be a story: a beginning, middle, and end (Bone, 2022). I was able to see this three-act structure taking place in my documentary before filming. I envisioned setting out to find Kurt. Then, interacting with and talking to various people who may know Kurt. Then finally, possibly finding him. Since I had a handle on how my documentary could play out, *Finding Kurt* was set up for success. Additionally, this project involved much interviewing as well as filming. Therefore, not only did this project require the best documentary practices, but it demanded the best interviewing techniques.

A key part of my documentary is interviewing and talking with the homeless individuals I came across on the journey. A hopeful research finding is that vulnerable populations are likely to derive benefit from participating in interviews (Biddle et al., 2012, p. 356). For example, many people find that talking through their situation is relieving (Biddle et al., 2012, p. 356). Although this is true, the interviewees must always be aware that they are being recorded (Chasse, 2019, p. 97). As Jordan and I conducted these interviews, we were able to adapt to each individual we encountered. An interviewer must understand what kind of interviewer they will need to be; a soft, gentle interviewer, a tough and direct interviewer, or anywhere in between (Chasse, 2019, p. 99). I processed this perspective as I got to know each individual I came

across. Good interviewers listen to their interview (Chasse, 2019, p. 100). They ask prompting questions and give time for the subject to speak (Bone, 2020). Most importantly, they make sure that the interviewee feels comfortable and safe (Chasse, 2019, p. 100). Since we could have possibly come across as intimidating, we made sure to approach each interaction with humility and an attitude of respect. We were careful not to use any language that could upset or inadvertently victimize the subject (Clark, 2017). We incorporated all of these interviewing techniques into the production of the documentary.

While interviewing and talking with various subjects on set, I kept in mind several communication theories and concepts. One of these theories is uncertainty reduction theory. This theory states that “when strangers first meet, their primary goal is to reduce uncertainty and increase predictability in their own and the other person’s behavior,” (Neuliep, 2020, p. 292). This means that the people I met had a high level of uncertainty about me. According to this theory, in order for me to have a good interaction with someone, I had to reduce uncertainty about myself and my intentions. I did this by introducing myself and explicitly stating that I would like to record our interaction for a project. Uncertainty reduction theory explains various strategies humans use to reduce uncertainty (Wernecke, 2021). In order for me to reduce uncertainty about my subjects, I had to employ strategies to help me be comfortable with the interaction. One strategy was asking them about themselves. I also used the passive strategy of observation to determine information about those I was looking to approach. Having uncertainty reduction theory in mind while I filmed allowed me to facilitate better communication between myself and the subject.

Another communication concept I kept in mind during my project was nonverbal communication. Nonverbal communication, or messages not communicated through speech, can

be sent through kinesics, oculesics, paralanguage, proxemics, haptics, olfactics, physical appearance and dress, and chronemics (Neuliep, 2020, p. 252). During interactions with homeless people, I had to be aware of all these channels of nonverbal communication. For example, if someone was keeping their distance from me, they could have been communicating to me through proxemics, or space, that they do not want to be around me. If I were to perceive this, I would leave the situation to remove them from discomfort. Nonverbal communication was key since many homeless individuals have lower language levels, especially auditory comprehension and oral expression, than expected (Pluck et al., 2020, p. 343). This means that, at times, I had to over-communicate my meanings and complement my verbal codes with my nonverbal codes. Although nonverbal communication could improve interaction, I could not assume a homeless individual is in any way less intelligent than the average person. I had to respect differences and honor them with all of my communication, verbal and nonverbal. These communication theories and concepts improved my effectiveness in communicating with those I encountered on the street.

I was able to create a documentary that held to a high standard of ethics while accurately portraying the homeless population of Akron. This documentary was able to humanize the individuals Akron citizens see on the side of the street and highlighted the struggles and desires of these individuals. Through this documentary, the current body of research on homelessness will be enhanced. Homelessness is a real issue that affects everyone. Upon completion and exhibition of this project, the audience was more inclined to act to fight homelessness and become more compassionate to those experiencing homelessness.

Goals

This project has always had two main goals:

- 1) Find Kurt
- 2) Humanize the homeless

The documentary itself will reveal whether or not these goals were achieved.

Reflection

This journey was amazing. Nothing about us was overly special, we only prayed and followed what we thought God wanted us to do. However, many of the homeless individuals, Big Joe, Robert, Jason, Kenny, Keith, all mentioned how much of an impact we have had on them. Robert said he saw it in our eyes. As we told him, he saw the love of Jesus. Jason started weeping as we prayed for him. Later he said it was no coincidence we saw him that day. Kenny thanked us for everything we did for him. Most everyone we met expressed deep gratitude. But the crazy thing is, we never gave these men and women a house, \$100, a car, or anything that would break a college student's budget. Jordan likes to say what we have given has not been the natural, but the supernatural. The love of Jesus Christ.

“Normally these guys will instantly refuse a camera, something you're doing is special,” said a professor of mine. Usually, people say no to being recorded. Conversely, when we went out, people would usually say yes to being recorded.

We hope this video is successful in bringing people's minds to the point where barriers break and the homeless population suddenly becomes approachable. This is what happened to me during this process. The scary person on the corner turned into a human who needs help, and, more than likely, just needs a friend. This project has changed Jordan's and my view. I no longer get anxious when I see someone asking for money. I've seen where they've come from, where they sleep, how they've hurt. I've seen the stereotypes, and that they aren't completely wrong. However, I know some people just run down on their luck. On the corners, we can see they're

dirty. Are they faking it? Maybe. We talked to a man named Robert who told us he had a whole new set of clothes, but had to “keep on the disguise.” We shared a laugh.

We walk up to someone on the corner and ask their name. We share ours and usually offer some food and water. We spend some time talking, getting to know their story. At some point, Jordan says, “we are doing a little video going around Akron trying to get perspectives from people who have been on the street. We want to let these people,” he pauses as he gestures to cars passing by, “know what it's like on the street, and we don't know,” he points to us, “but the best way to find out is actually being homeless, or talking to someone who is.” At this point, the person we are talking to usually says yes, sighs, and then says something like, “it's hard out here.”

It is hard out there. That we know of, three people we talked to out of twenty-seven people have died. One heart attack, one overdose, one murdered. Another's toe fell off and was waiting on surgery but couldn't get it because his lungs were partially collapsed, which made him unable to receive anesthetics. Slow to stand up, sweat beading down his face on a cool evening, he knew his heart was failing too.

Some love drugs, some hate them. Others are caught in the cycle of addiction. Many have put drugs behind them. Lots of people get injured working a physical job. Several people we met have fallen from a roof or ladder, were fired, and then unable to work because of injuries. Others were hit by cars, terribly injured, then streetbound due to inability to find work.

“Why not a Mcdonald's?” Jordan asked.

“I can't flip patties. It hurts.”

Prior to my research, I didn't realize these individuals needed money for more than just drugs. We discovered the homeless need batteries, socks, lighter fluid, tents, flashlights, and bus tickets. However, they do spend money on drugs and alcohol as well.

It's also been interesting to see this culture.

"Everybody knows everything down here," Robert told us on one visit. The next time we came down he said, "you better not bring that camera down here anymore, they all know you and they'll steal it."

There are many connections in the homeless group. Everyone knows everyone. Yet it's not unheard of for someone to drop off the grid entirely. One day you notice you haven't seen Chip in a year. Where could he have gone? Dead, in another state, rehab. Hopefully, off of the street.

They leave water bottles at locations for others. Not too sanitary, but dehydration kills faster than a virus. There is kindness, and yet, homeless will rob other homeless. Tommy told us of a time when he came back to his tent and it was slashed open. Which is ironic, since tents don't lock.

Living such a tough life, they find the smallest things to enjoy. They enjoy nature. They see the birds, deer, and they tussle with the racoons. One camp even had its own cat. They enjoy a hot meal whenever they can get it, cooking over an open fire in the woods. But most notably, they enjoy each other. There is an unspoken bond and camaraderie with one another. Having a friend by their side makes even the toughest of streets bearable.

Speaking of streets, they have names for street corners. The four corners near the St. Rt. 8 exit are simply named one, two, three, and four. One and three are the most lucrative.

Swallowing pride, taking verbal abuses, they stand there for hours outside on the corner to make money. Good money, sometimes, but other times, only about \$10 a day.

They have to stay outside in the winter. Some that we've talked to are given below-zero-rated sleeping bags that keep them quite warm.

What about homeless shelters? It's complicated. One guy had paranoia schizophrenia, depression, bipolar, and more. He can't go to a shelter and be okay. Others don't like the structure. Others can't hold a spot. Others get kicked out. Others don't like the religious ones. Others like them and prefer the structure. Others would rather be in the woods. It is difficult to put into words the entire homeless experience. Everyone's story and experience are different, and it has been a privilege to have gotten to get to know some of them.

A journey like this was something I only dreamed about when I was a child. Now, I get to share the experience through a documentary. I will have many stories to share in the future about my experience with homelessness, and I will be more bold to talk with homeless people. We are not unique in the sense that we are the only ones who could have had or have had this kind of experience. I believe, with God's help, anyone can be bold to help the people around them.

Making a Documentary

Not many people have made a documentary by the time they graduate college. It has been a joy and a journey from pre-production to premiere. If I had the opportunity, I would love to make another documentary film. Seeing as this was my first documentary, I had many experiences that gave me insight for next time. However, there are several things I would keep the same if I did it again.

I learned that having a team is important. A solo documentary would be extremely difficult. Since Jordan was able to help me, the production load was significantly lightened.

Having an even bigger team would be even more helpful. During this project, the two of us managed everything. It was doable, but next time, a bigger team would help smooth out the production process. Something I learned through this project was to focus on capturing the moment. While filming a documentary, one does not usually get the opportunity to shoot a second take or reschedule a shoot. It was always a must to bring extra cards and batteries and to focus on the moment over the frame composition. To help us get a good-looking image, we talked through each outing beforehand. This allowed me to know how I would film a scene before getting there, freeing me up to focus on the moment. I also learned that staying organized in the edit is a must. Next time, I will make sure all multicam sequences have correct audio before cutting any footage. For the most part, I was able to stay organized, but making some audio adjustments up front would have saved me more time in the editing process. Before starting *Finding Kurt*, I researched best methods from other, more accomplished filmmakers. That little bit of research helped immensely in the long run and gave me a headstart on the project. It taught me how to best organize a large project, how to best capture the moment, how light to pack, and how to capture high-quality images.

Making a documentary is a fun and adventurous process, but sometimes it gets hard. Whether it's busyness or a creative wall, things can get in the way of production. During those moments, we had to remember that we were doing it for God and had to remain faithful to our commitment to finish the project. This was especially true during the editing process. The edit is finally where the filmmakers get to get into the sandbox and play with the paint, but it is a beast of an undertaking. We had to persevere with hard work through the process in order to see the project completed. And we are glad we did.

Further Recommendations

Though I am no expert on documentary filmmaking, nor a scholar on homelessness, I would like to share some humble, and hopefully helpful, recommendations for anyone wanting to undergo a project like this in the future.

- 1) Pray about your project.
- 2) Provide for the interviewees' needs practically.
- 3) Be there to listen.
- 4) Have compassion.
- 5) Pack light.
- 6) Let the story and the interviews happen naturally; don't try to force a comment.
- 7) Plan far in advance, but be ready for curveballs.
- 8) Organize your project file as you film.
- 9) Rewatch your interviews and take notes.
- 10) Have a partner or two.

Credits

A goal is seldom accomplished alone. I will be the first to tell you I could not have done this project alone. I would like to thank the following people: Jesus, Jordan Work, Juan Contreras Barberena, Kathleen Clark, Bonnie Keiper, my family, and the many friends that helped, supported, and prayed for me throughout the process. Finally, I would like to thank each individual I got the chance to meet on this journey. Thank you for letting the world into your world through this documentary. Jordan and I pray your experiences will bring ever-increasing compassion to those on the streets.

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Appendix

Please email rjb139@uakron.edu to request access to the final documentary. Public access will not be available until the film finishes its course in festivals and has premiered in Akron.