



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA
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StoryCorps™
The Conversation of a Lifetime

Dear Fellow Community Member,

In your day to day life, how many stories do you hear? My guess is many! Working with people who have disabilities, we hear stories every day that move us, change us, and drive us towards better living and service to others. As humans, all of our collective and individual experiences matter, and when they are shared, the experience brings us closer to who we are. We are individuals, yes. More importantly, we are individuals who, in the larger context, affect one another, especially when we share our experiences.

The mission of the StoryCorps Project is to honor lives through listening to our stories. Since 2003, this nationwide project has recorded 35,000 interviews with everyday people, people whose stories have moved others, whose stories have needed to be told. Those recordings, stored in Library of Congress and aired on National Public Radio, have been shared with millions and preserved for future generations. Perhaps you have heard some of them on Friday mornings on our local station? If so, you know that StoryCorps is a worthy project, indeed.

The San Luis Obispo County SELPA is partnering with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and spearheading a StoryCorps Project for people living with and supporting those who have disabilities. Two people with a story to tell will sign up through the SELPA. Their stories will be digitally recorded by StoryCorps' technicians in a question and answer interview format using state of the art equipment. The participants will receive a free CD of the recording to share with others, and the story will become a part of the StoryCorps library.

Just think of the people you may know whose personal stories have inspired you! Perhaps they are people who have overcome odds, faced challenges, or found hope. Think of what this project can mean, not just to people with disabilities, their families and support systems, but also to future generations who will look back, listen and learn.

We are asking for your help in bringing StoryCorps to life here in San Luis Obispo County. For \$2,500 you can sponsor six interviews, a whole day of recording, or for \$1,250 you can sponsor a half day. Together we can foster a better culture of understanding, and participate in recording oral history, right here in our own backyard.

Donate today by calling (805) 782-7301 or mail a donation to: SELPA StoryCorps Project, 8005 Morro Road, Atascadero, CA 93422. Donations by personal check should be made to San Luis Obispo County SELPA. For more information, visit www.sloselpa.org. Better yet, call and one of us will come to you and present information to your organization in person.

At StoryCorps they say it best. Listening is an Act of Love. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Jill Heuer
SELPA Director

Janet Anderson
CAC Chairperson