

BROKEN PLACES

Testimonials

"I think you've produced one of the best documentaries on early childhood adversity that I've seen. The incredible quality of what people shared with you on camera about their personal struggles over a period of more than two decades is a remarkable tribute to your professional skills and to the authentic personal commitment you brought to this project. Congratulations on both!!"

*Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D., Director
Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University*

"Mental Health America honored Broken Places with its 2019 media award because it opens unique windows into the lives of people who were born into adverse circumstances, experienced trauma, and have spent their lives seeking hope, stability, and health. Roger Weisberg has succeeded in opening these windows wider than ever before by revisiting families after two decades, giving us new insights into the effort it takes not just to help people survive adversity, trauma, and mental illness, but to thrive in spite of them."

*Paul Gionfriddo, President and CEO
Mental Health America*

"This documentary is remarkably unique in offering a perspective of lives unfolding over decades. There's nothing more powerful than showing what happens to people, instead of implying or telling...The documentary is sure to be shown tens of thousands of times in communities across the world that are launching and growing their ACEs initiatives, and need some powerful inspiration to create healthy cities, states and countries."

*Jane Stevens, Founder, Publisher
ACEs CONNECTION/ ACEsTOO HIGH*

"This film provides a remarkable opportunity to understand that we must change the way we protect and support children in this country, and that the best way to support children is to support their families. A powerful and insightful film that teaches us about the importance of primary prevention."

*Jerry Milner, Acting Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

"It's a beautiful film and I hope it gets A LOT of public attention...The stories are powerful and moving and the contrast in seeing people as children and then as adults is very powerful. There is enough hope in it to inspire change while not soft pedaling the enormity of the problem...Well done and congratulations."

*Sandra Bloom, Co-Director
Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice, Drexel University*

"The film represents an extraordinary lifelong project. We would live in a better society if this film was required watching for all policy makers."

*Rahil D. Briggs, PsyD, National Director, HealthySteps
ZERO TO THREE*

"How truly unique and very special to have the opportunity to follow alongside these families and their life stories as they have unfolded over so many years...Congratulations on this exceptional documentary. So moving to hear the voices of the children now as adults."

*Renée Boynton-Jarrett, MD, ScD, Associate Professor,
Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center*

"...You did a splendid job laying out the ACEs framework - better than I've seen anywhere. And your protagonists and their stories were remarkable – telling, eloquent and heart-breaking...I was delighted you spotlighted some of the successful trauma-informed interventions which work! So many are prepared to write off kids suffering from complex trauma...Poverty and racism are today's major diseases of childhood."

*Larry Adelman, Co-director & Head of Production, California Newsreel
Producer, The Raising of America*

"The message of *Broken Places* is clear. It says that toxic stress and its downstream consequences are costly. It calls us all to create better interventions based on this understanding. And for this reason, it is a powerful tool for good in strengthening the work of my organization and our partners."

*Elisabeth D. Babcock, MCRP, PhD, President and CEO
EMPath - Economic Mobility Pathways*

"It's a magnificent film. Hearty congratulations for completing it and for the great message it will deliver to audiences around the world."

*W. Thomas Boyce, Departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry
University of California, San Francisco*

"I was amazed by the life trajectories documented here. Very impressive work."

*Dr. Takao K. Hensch, Professor, Molecular & Cellular Biology,
Professor, Neurology (Children's Hospital)
Center for Brain Science, Harvard University*

"I was so profoundly captivated by *Broken Places*...Thank you for spotlighting the child welfare system in a way that no one else does. We need to shine a light on how these programs, policies and institutions affect the young people they are meant to help."

*Lynne Echenberg, Esq., Director, Strategic Initiatives
Good Shepherd Services*

"This is a powerful and informative documentary - congratulations!"

*Brian Smedley, Co-founder and Executive Director
National Collaborative for Health Equity*

"I'm so excited to let communities know about this movie and for them to have another viewing option for community building and sharing about developmental trauma...It was especially powerful to see individuals and families age and over a period of time. I appreciate that you included the voice of all experts (academic and first-hand expertise). As someone with lots of ACEs, that makes it exceedingly relatable and doesn't have the alienating or distancing tone/vibe many documentaries and films can have."

*Christine Cissy White, Community Facilitator
ACE'S Connection*

"This is fantastic...Thanks again for sharing and for highlighting such an important topic."

*Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer
Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County*

"...It is amazing! Congratulations on creating a really intriguing and insightful film on important work."

*Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, Executive Director
New Yorkers For Children*

"I just finished watching the documentary and wanted to let you know how wonderful and important I think this film is. I think this will resonate with everyone who sees it...The documentary is relevant for us all."

*Jordan Hart, PhD, St. Louis Park, MN
Minnesota Association of Family and Conciliation Courts*

"What a magnificent film on such an important topic! Thank you, Roger, for producing it! We have no idea how traumatic our children and young people's lives are and you brought this to life!"

*Sister Paulette Lomanaco, Executive Director
Good Shepherd Services*

"...May I say how impressed we are with the film and the way you have captured this topic with both heart and rigor. We are so grateful to have been allowed access to this piece of art...The screening was a fabulous success."

*Kirsten Lysne, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers*

"I found your film to be a wonderful and true rendering of Intergenerational trauma narratives in all their complexity...Moreover, as a clinician and developmental neuroscientist, the focus of my research has been to understand the minds and brains of traumatized mothers and to create new intervention models based on our findings to interrupt Intergenerational transmission. So, the film rang particularly true."

*Daniel S. Schechter, MD, Director
Stress, Trauma and Resilience, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone*

"As someone who has been working on ACEs and trauma-informed care for nearly two decades I found the film extremely compelling and the panel was a real treat. Even though I think about these issues pretty much all the time, I had a real Aha moment...This notion that a child may have an ACE score of 1 or 2 coming into the child welfare system and could have their ACE score increase significantly at least to a 4+. That has me thinking differently about primary prevention in this new division at the Administration for Children's Services. So, thank you!"

*Lorelei Vargas, Deputy Commissioner for Early Care and Education,
Administration for Children's Services, New York, NY*

"Your film depicts young people and families humanely, honestly and through real-life experiences. In particular, the phone call between two brothers and their mother, as she explains why she could not be in court for a hearing to terminate her rights, and the same brothers learning some time before from their mother about how she could not remain drug-free and would start treatment anew resonated so much.

"The impact of these exchanges on these two boys and your ability to translate that seamlessly into the trajectory of their lives affected me deeply; yet it is a scenario I have observed from many vantage points. It brought back memories of children I represented, of decisions I tried to make well as a judge, of the depth and gravity of trying to both reunify children with their parents and, at the same time, help them feel secure and build trust as they struggle with complex, mixed feelings.

"... Jewish Child Care Association will use your powerful work to advance our work. We have much progress to make. *Broken Places* will help."

*Ronald E. Richter, CEO
JCCA, New York, NY*

"After spending several years as a ward of the state of VA, numerous temporary foster homes, shelter homes, group homes and even drug rehabs...I eventually aged out via emancipation...As a young adult I

faced/experienced numerous struggles; challenges, even homelessness and fell into destructive patterns to survive. Nonetheless, I managed to pull out, work, obtain a college education, followed by a few advanced degrees, a successful career, two amazing children and a pretty productive life. I was shocked to realize the low percentage of people that are successful after aging out. I feel even more blessed after watching your film. Thank you for directing it- thank you for caring, and being a voice for this population."

Barbara J. Hawes, Former Foster Child

"Brooklyn family court Teen day was the most successful one ever! We had over 70 young people from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems attend! We showed clips of the documentary and both Danny and Daniela were there to speak afterwards. All of the young people as well as the Court staff who attended were riveted by the documentary and then even more so by the words of Danny and Daniela.

"Thank you so much for sharing it with me and giving me the opportunity to provide much needed inspiration to all who were there."

*Hon. Jacqueline Deane,
Kings County Family Court, Brooklyn, NY*

"The film effectively addresses the intricacies of navigating through the generational and environmental trauma experienced by some families and simultaneously provides a glimpse into why some kids thrive in and through the trauma while others crumble because of it. A gripping film that will force the viewer to acknowledge the harmful impact of unaddressed trauma in a kid's life and show how resiliency plays a big role in healing."

*Allyn Griffin, Educator
Prescott School District, Prescott, WA*

"Nothing is more powerful than seeing the impact of trauma through the eyes of the child who has experienced it. Broken Places helps us gain an important perspective on the social, emotional and health consequences of abuse and neglect. This sensitive portrayal of the main adult characters, personally known to the filmmaker since they were young, comes through in every frame reminding us that, indeed, many are strong at the broken places. A truly worthwhile exploration of the human spirit."

*Karen G. Foley, President & CEO
Juvenile Protective Association*

"Broken Places tells the story of adversity and child development like no other film. We were completely captivated by the scenes filmed during early childhood and then either profoundly saddened or overjoyed when we learned how these children grew into adulthood. The stories of adversity and resilience were powerful. Every member of our diverse audience was deeply moved by the childhood traumas we witnessed. The film illustrates that for some children, even against formidable odds, risk can be mitigated through predictable compassionate relationships."

*Dr. Robert Allan Shapiro, Director,
Child Abuse Team, Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Professor of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine*

"Our viewers saw themselves and their work in "Broken Places". The film's sensitive and honest portrayal of young people and families struggling with trauma spoke to our audience of local social service providers, advocates, students, and community members. It is ultimately a hopeful film and, based on the discussion after the screening, our group was eager to connect with one another to support their shared interest in the well-being of children."

*Kristin Morse, Executive Director
The New School Center for New York City Affairs*