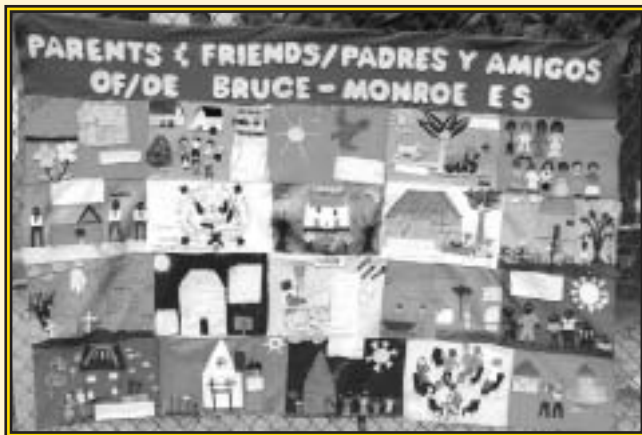


## Supporters

The Tellin' Stories Project would not be possible without the help of our generous donors:

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Brimstone Fund
- Bruce-Monroe Elementary School (DC Public Schools)
- The Columbus Foundation
- DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
- DC LEARNs
- DC VOICE
- Hattie M. Strong Foundation
- Humanities Council of Washington, DC
- Initiative to Strengthen Neighborhood Inter-Group Assets
- Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- Peppercorn Foundation
- Spencer Foundation
- Threshold Foundation

Join our effort to support our parents in advocating for the schools that our children deserve with your tax-deductible contribution.



Teaching for Change  
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Washington, DC 20056  
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WEB SITE [www.teachingforchange.org](http://www.teachingforchange.org)

*"Because of the Tellin' Stories Project,  
I live my life differently.  
Their trainings have helped me  
realize my own power to demand a  
quality education, not only for my child,  
but for all children in my school."*

—Parent, DC Public Schools





“...through the Tellin’ Stories Project, parents go beyond the traditional ways of being involved. Tellin’ Stories has empowered parents to become an integral part of the school.”

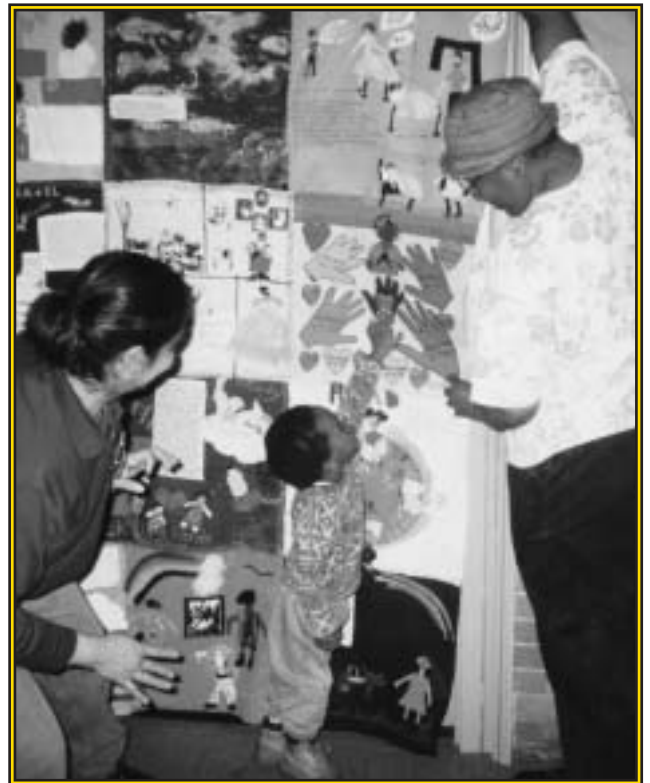
—Principal, District of Columbia Public Schools

## Tellin’ Our Story: How Tellin’ Stories works in schools...


### **Tellin’ Stories Project** CONNECTING FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

The Tellin’ Stories Project believes that for schools to provide the quality education our children deserve, families, schools and communities must be involved as purposeful partners in the education process. At the heart of Tellin’ Stories’ efforts to engage families and staff is the power of story to connect people from diverse backgrounds, to pass on valuable information and experiences and to organize collective action.

School-based workshops and meetings provide families and school staff with unique forums to bridge differences and achieve shared goals. By recognizing and cultivating the knowledge, strengths and personal stories of African American and immigrant families, Tellin’ Stories increases parents access to schools and broadens their school-based roles as supporters, educators, advocates, decision makers, and ambassadors. In claiming these roles, parents use their power collaboratively to transform schools.



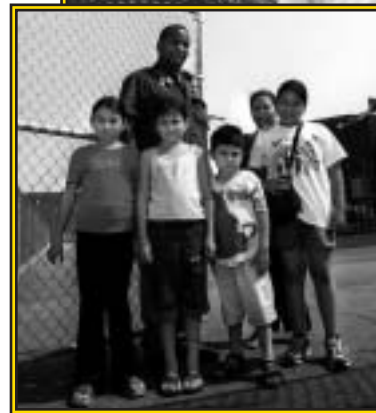
**COMMUNITY BUILDING** • Tellin’ Stories creates opportunities for families to connect to each other and to their school—often for the first time—through the power of story. In our Story Quilting series, each participant shares a story from his/her history and culture on a felt square. As the squares are sewn together, so too are the lives of those who made them.

 **Tellin’ Stories** is the family/school partnerships project of *Teaching for Change: Building social justice starting in the classroom*. *Teaching for Change* is a nonprofit organization working in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and nationally to promote social and economic justice through public education. *Teaching for Change* provides resources, training and support to teachers, parents and students who seek to promote equity in schools and beyond.



## Tellin' Our Story: *How Tellin' Stories works in schools...*

**GATHERING INFORMATION AND DEVELOPING SKILLS** • Parents gain the tools they need during regular parent meetings to analyze the school climate, the facilities, and the quality of teaching and learning at their school.



**COLLABORATING** • Tellin' Stories facilitates collaboration among all members of the school, beginning the year with a

parent-led community walk. Efforts such as these—where the foreman, staff and families join forces to secure a back gate for the playground—ensure a safe, healthy learning environment for the children.



**IDENTIFYING AND PRIORITIZING CONCERNS** • By learning to ask the right questions,

parents prioritize concerns and determine who has the power to address them most immediately and effectively. Tellin' Stories supports parents in voicing their concerns at teacher meetings, school board and city council hearings, and in sessions with district-wide officials.



**TAKING ACTION** • At the 4th District Police Station in Washington, DC, a group of outraged parents demand crossing guards at a busy intersection near their school. Since this visit, a police officer has been assigned to the post.



**EVALUATING AND SUSTAINING THE WORK** • Every aspect of Tellin' Stories' work involves action and reflection. In addition to an in-depth action research project examining the meaningful role parents play in their children's schools, Tellin' Stories involves all key stakeholders in assessing our work to increase our impact. Sustainability relies on the development of local leaders.

## Presentations

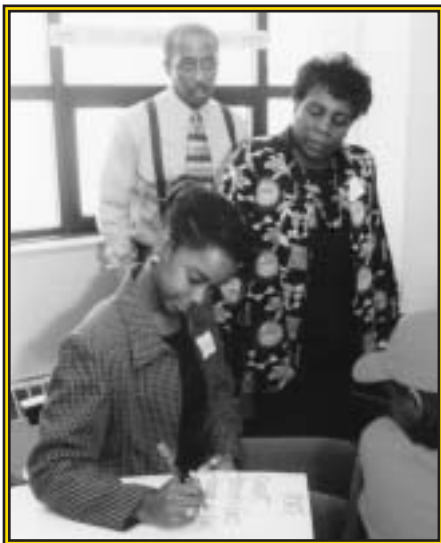
**Between Families and Schools: Creating Meaningful Relationships** engages participants in rethinking parent involvement and traditional approaches to parent-school relationships, and offers more effective alternatives.

**Affirming Cultural Identity through Sharing Stories** demonstrates strategies to apply the power of story to connect families across cultural, linguistic and racial divides, and engage them as storytellers in the classroom.

**Parent Advocacy: Asking the Right Questions** teaches a powerful self-advocacy technique to address educational, social or economic issues, developed by the Right Question Project, Inc. in Massachusetts.

**Strategies Mobilized Parents Use to Improve Their Schools** arms participants with proven tools developed by parent leaders to improve school facilities and energize school culture.

Other Tellin' Stories workshop series include **Story Quilting**, **Setting Up Your Parent Center**, **Planning an Effective Parent-Teacher Conference**, **Storytelling**, **Bookmaking** and **Diversity Training**.



*“Tellin' Stories provided the best workshop I've been to in my six years in Alexandria.*

*It was so relevant.”*

—Teacher, Alexander City Public School

## Publications



**Life's Treasures: From the Heart of a Child** • An inspiring collection of stories—written by sixth graders at Bruce-Monroe Elementary School in Washington, DC—celebrating the rich traditions, memories and recipes of their families.



**Between Families and Schools: Creating Meaningful Relationships** • A report of a year-long study by parents, teachers and a student to better understand meaningful roles parents play in their children's schools. This action-oriented, user-friendly guide summarizes eight findings, stories from DC schools and suggested actions for strengthening family-school partnerships.

## Recognition

- ★ PBS airs “To the Contrary,” a nationally televised feature on Tellin' Stories, July 2002
- ★ MetLife Foundation 2001 Teacher-Parent Engagement through Partnerships for Professional Development Award

*“The Tellin' Stories Project is breaking ground by guiding teachers and parents to work together as educators and researchers.”*

— Anne Henderson, Senior Consultant,  
Institute for Education and Social Policy