



STORYCORPS' 2023 GREAT THANKSGIVING LISTEN INVITES PEOPLE NATIONWIDE TO RECORD MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS OVER THE HOLIDAY USING THE STORYCORPS MOBILE APP

**Having Recorded Over 645,000 Americans in Its First 20 Years,
StoryCorps Encourages the Public to Contribute Their Stories to
Its Archive at the Library of Congress**

"Imagine it: During the holidays, instead of using gadgets to ignore each other, we might use them as an excuse to look each other in the eye and listen."

—*The Wall Street Journal*

Brooklyn, New York, November 1, 2023—**StoryCorps**, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping us believe in each other by illuminating the humanity and possibility in us all—one story at a time, announces the **2023 Great Thanksgiving Listen**. The organization, currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, has recorded over 645,000 Americans in meaningful conversations about their lives, making its archive—publicly accessible online, and preserved at the **American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress**—the world's single largest collection of human voices. With the Great Thanksgiving Listen, StoryCorps invites people nationwide to record their own StoryCorps conversations over the holiday, using the organization's free mobile app or the StoryCorps Connect remote recording platform. The annual initiative—StoryCorps' most important public engagement event—gives families an opportunity to connect deeply at a time when national and global politics are driving so many apart.

Dave Isay, Founder and President of StoryCorps, said, "In our first 20 years, StoryCorps has recorded, preserved, and shared with the world stories that show the poetry and grace of the lives being lived all around us. We have sought out the voices least likely to be captured in history books or covered by the media, and by amplifying them have continually reminded Americans of our common humanity. This Thanksgiving, we invite people across the country to give their loved ones one of

the least expensive but most meaningful gifts they can give: a StoryCorps interview, which affirms that their life and story matters, and that their voice will be preserved for future generations.”

The Great Thanksgiving Listen encourages Americans to record a conversation with an elder, mentor, friend, or someone they admire. To foster participation among people of all backgrounds, StoryCorps has created a free toolkit, available at thegreatlisten.org. It includes everything families and students need to know about how to record a StoryCorps interview and add it to the StoryCorps archive at the Library of Congress. This year, StoryCorps has also created [a free printable placemat](#) with some of the best questions to ask loved ones around the dinner table.

While everyone is encouraged to take part, teachers nationwide are adopting the program as part of their curriculum, and thousands of students (age 13 and over)—from middle school to college—are participating. In particular, The Great Thanksgiving Listen allows students to engage in intergenerational conversations, asking their interview partners about who they are, what they’ve learned in life, and how they want to be remembered. For classrooms, specific activities within the toolkit align with Common Core Standards.

Since 2015, the Great Thanksgiving Listen has encouraged people across the country to record interviews using the StoryCorps App, which the organization originally created with the \$1M TED Prize awarded that year to Dave Isay. The App, updated last year, is helping StoryCorps achieve its aspiration to become an institution that touches the life of every American. The year the StoryCorps App was first released, StoryCorps recorded more interviews over the Thanksgiving holiday than it had gathered in the organization’s twelve-year history.

This fall, for its 20th anniversary, StoryCorps is revisiting and updating classic StoryCorps stories [on NPR’s Morning Edition](#), in a new slate of [animations](#), and in a new season of [the StoryCorps podcast](#). They are a great way for Great Thanksgiving Listen participants to get inspired for their interviews.

The Great Thanksgiving Listen 2023 is made possible by the Gruber Family Foundation.

Recording Interviews with the StoryCorps App and StoryCorps Connect

The StoryCorps App, available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store, allows anyone, anywhere, to conveniently prepare for, record, and archive a high-quality, in-person StoryCorps interview. The app also seamlessly enables users to explore StoryCorps’ rich content (weekly broadcasts, animations, podcast seasons,

and more), curate personalized interview collections, and share StoryCorps stories on social media. In addition, users have access to StoryCorps Communities, enabling them to add their interview to a community they've joined, as well as see content from other community members.

People who are interested in participating in the Great Thanksgiving Listen but are not in the same room can use StoryCorps' video-based remote recording platform, StoryCorps Connect.

About StoryCorps

Founded in 2003, StoryCorps has given over 645,000 people, in all 50 states, the chance to record interviews about their lives. StoryCorps helps people believe in each other by illuminating the possibility and humanity in all of us—one story at a time. The award-winning organization preserves the recordings in its archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered, and shares select stories with the public through StoryCorps' podcast, radio broadcasts, animated shorts, digital platforms, and best-selling books. These powerful human stories reflect the vast range of American experiences, engender empathy and connection, and remind us how much more we have in common than what divides us. StoryCorps is especially committed to capturing and amplifying voices least heard in the media. The StoryCorps MobileBooth, an Airstream trailer that has been transformed into a traveling recording booth, crisscrosses the country year-round gathering the stories of people nationwide. 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of StoryCorps. Learn more at storycorps.org.

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