What is the #justB Storytelling Project?

The Hepatitis B Foundation recognizes that engaging community members in speaking out about obstacles to hepatitis B screening, prevention, and care is essential to reducing stigma, encouraging screening, and improving services for those living with hepatitis B. We are collaborating with StoryCenter on the #justB Storytelling Project to make the real voices of every-day people living with / affected by hepatitis B a key ingredient of our prevention and advocacy efforts. We will first engage people in sharing their own stories as short videos in a digital storytelling workshop. Then, we will train and support them to act as spokespeople in their local communities and nationally, to help increase hepatitis B awareness and promote the importance of hepatitis B screening and care.

What is the Digital Storytelling Workshop?

StoryCenter’s “Digital Storytelling Workshop” brings a small group of people together to share unique, personal stories from their lives as short digital videos. The workshop is participatory: those who attend share a story verbally, in a group “Story Circle”; write a script for the story; record the story into a microphone; choose and take photos and video clips for the story; and collaborate with workshop facilitators to combine these materials into a short video. The workshop includes time for participants to talk about how their stories can be shared publicly to educate viewers and inspire action. Visit www.hepb.org/justb to view the types of videos that are produced in the digital storytelling workshops.

The next digital storytelling workshop for the #justB project will be held in Berkeley, California in the late spring or summer of 2019. Participants must be able to attend all three days of the workshop (see schedule below; exact dates TBD). The Hepatitis B Foundation will arrange and pay for all participant travel and lodging costs, and meals will be provided for the duration of the workshop. Participants will also receive a stipend to help compensate for missed work time.

Workshop Schedule

- **Thursday**
  - Participants arrive in Berkeley by Thursday evening
  - Optional Welcome Dinner
- **Friday**
  - Day 1 of Workshop: 9am to 5pm
  - Group Dinner: 6pm
- **Saturday**
  - Day 2 of Workshop: 9am to 5pm
  - Group Dinner: 6pm
- **Sunday**
  - Day 3 of Workshop: 9am to 1pm
  - Participants travel home Sunday evening
What kinds of stories / storytellers are needed for this project?

The Hepatitis B Foundation is committed to representing a diversity of people and perspectives with this project. We’re looking for women and men (18 years or older) who have been impacted by hepatitis B and have a strong interest and commitment to raising hepatitis B awareness. Participants must be able to attend the full workshop and feel comfortable sharing a true, personal story from their lives as a short video. Additionally, although participants will receive support with writing and editing their story scripts in English, they should be able to understand and speak English comfortably. We will do voiceover recordings in both English and in selected participants’ first languages.

We’re seeking stories that can include the following:
- Living with HBV (successes, challenges, stigma/discrimination, hopes, fears)
- Being a family member of someone living with HBV
- Adopting a child with HBV (choosing a child with HBV)
- Mother-to-child HBV transmission
- HBV-related liver cancer and/or a liver transplant
- Vaccine success in preventing HBV (perinatal, child/teen, or adult)
- How HBV has impacted families across generations
- HBV-related treatment success and/or experiences with clinical trials

Please note, these are just examples. Specific story topics will be developed during the workshop!

How can my organization support the project, and how will we benefit?

We need staff from our key partner organizations around the United States to help us identify, recruit, and confirm participants for the above workshop. Organizations that decide to participate in this effort will benefit immensely, as the storytellers they recruit will be asked to lead local story screening and sharing activities. By helping us find participants, you’re ensuring that people in your area will become engaged as leaders in raising hepatitis B awareness and promoting hepatitis B screening, prevention, and care as a priority.

What steps can my organization take to recruit participants?

1. View the recording and slides from our workshop recruitment webinar for more information.

2. Identify potential storytellers and share the attached informational packet for storytellers, which is also available at www.hepb.org/justb.

3. Encourage potential storytellers to complete the online Participant Information Form to be considered for the next workshop.

4. Email Rhea Racho (rhea.racho@hepb.org) with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you for your support!