

SCHOOL GUIDE



I LIVED ON PARKER AVENUE

JOIE DE VIVRE MEDIA PRESENTS A FILM BY PHILIP BRAUN "I LIVED ON PARKER AVENUE"
FEATURING DAVID SCOTTON MELISSA COLES SUSAN AND JIMMY SCOTTON AND BRIAN NICHOLAS
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BENJAMIN CLAPPER DIRECTED BY PHILIP BRAUN

www.ILIVEDONPARKERAVE.com



Hey Everyone,

On behalf of our entire team, I hope you enjoy our short documentary film *I Lived on Parker Avenue*. It has been a labor of love, and we are honored to share it with you.

My life has been blessed by adoption. Sadly, only 0.5% of babies born in America are placed for adopted. Let's face it- adoption needs our help.

I hope this film leads more parents to consider adoption as an option. Just like Melissa did for me, they have the ability to give their child life and a loving family. You can help me by sharing this film with others. Together, we can reclaim the beauty of adoption in our world.

Thanks,

David Scotton

SYNOPSIS

David Scotton is a college student raised in Louisiana who finally decides he is ready to meet his birth parents. As he boards a train headed to Indiana, David fears how this reunion might reshape the life he cherishes with his family down South.

Waiting for him are his birth parents, now divorced. His birth mother, Melissa, is a tattooed, four-wheeling country girl who reveals a tender and maternal soul as she excitedly awaits the reunion. But nineteen years after giving birth to David, she still wrestles with her decision. Brian is David's reserved birth father who has kept David a secret from even his closest family. He is burdened by what David will think after all these years, especially when David learns about their visit to the local abortion clinic.

Back in Louisiana, David's parents, Jimmy and Susan, reflect on the tragic death of Susan's two sons and anticipate the opportunity to thank Melissa and Brian in person for David.

I Lived on Parker Avenue is a short documentary about a mother's agony in choosing what's best, the joy of a couple starting a family, and young man's search for where his life began.

I LIVED
ON PARKER AVENUE



PHILIP BRAUN III, Director

While pursuing a print journalism degree and before stepping behind the camera, Philip wrote obituaries at The Times-Picayune newspaper in New Orleans. He graduated at the top of the communications school at Loyola University New Orleans but soon felt more attracted to creating stories through images. An internship at a PBS station and apprenticeship with a local director fueled Philip's interest in cinematography. He cut his teeth on small commercial and non-profit videos before focusing on larger educational projects. *I Lived on Parker Avenue* is his documentary debut.

DAVID SCOTTON

David Scotton is a college student raised in Louisiana who finally decides he is ready to meet his birth parents. As he boards a train headed to Indiana, David fears how this reunion might reshape the life he cherishes with his family down South.

MELISSA COLES

Melissa Coles is a tattooed, four-wheeling country girl who reveals a tender and maternal soul as she excitedly awaits the reunion with David. But nineteen years after giving birth to David, she still wrestles with her decision.

BRIAN NICHOLAS

Brian is David's reserved birth father who has kept David a secret from even his closest family. He is burdened by what David will think after all these years, especially when David learns about their visit to the local abortion clinic.

JIMMY AND SUSAN SCOTTON

Jimmy and Susan, David's parents, adopted David at birth. Susan has faced her own sufferings, especially through the death of her first two sons. Through the adoption of David and the sacrifice of Melissa and Brian, Jimmy and Susan's dreams of having a son were finally realized.

JOIE DE VIVRE MEDIA, Production Company

BENJAMIN CLAPPER, Executive Producer

Joie De Vivre Media and executive producer, Benjamin Clapper, present *I Lived on Parker Avenue* as its first short documentary. Based in New Orleans, Joie De Vivre Media desires to showcase the "joy of life" through its work. Benjamin also serves as the Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life.



Let's face it... adoption needs our help.

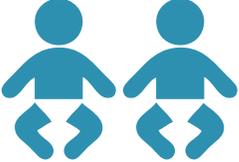
Here's why!

Fewer babies are adopted than in the past.

31%

fewer babies adopted in 2014 versus 1992.

for every **100** **ABORTIONS** in America

only two  are adopted.

Not enough people view adoption as positive.

ONLY 51%

of the public view adoption as a **“positive option”** for those single parents in an unplanned pregnancy.





Statistics show us that adoption needs our help, and I Lived on Parker Avenue can be the remedy we need to show our nation the beauty of adoption. We believe our film can make a difference in our country, especially if we can influence the way young people view adoption. Students are the most important group to reach with the adoption message because they are the future of America. They will be teachers, health care professionals and our future government leaders.

Yet, perceptions about adoption today are often negative, with only 51% of the public viewing adoption as the “positive option” for single parents facing unplanned pregnancies. That’s not all though: unfortunately the majority of women in crisis pregnancies choose abortion over adoption. Statistics show there are only two adoptions for every 100 abortions performed in America, highlighting the need to promote adoption as a life-giving alternative to abortion in our communities.

Many people still believe these outdated and common myths about adoption:

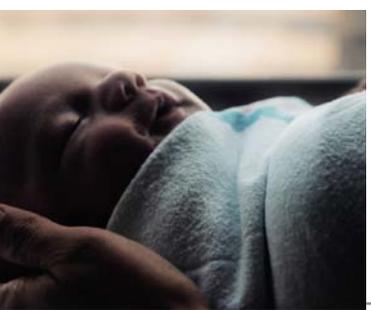
- Adopted children are somehow inferior to biological children.
- Birth mothers had to “give up” their biological child, conveying a perception that the birth mother gave up on their child and never loved them in the first place.
- Birth mothers who place their child for adoption will never have the chance to see their child again.
- It takes years to complete an adoption.
- All adoptees have traumatic birth histories.

Here are a few more statistics showing adoption needs our help:

- More than two million couples are waiting to adopt a baby.
- The average child waits for more than three years for an adoptive family.
- Every year there are 1.3 million abortions, but only 4% of women in crisis pregnancies place their child for adoption.

Why Now?

With November being National Adoption Awareness Month, we believe this is the perfect time to educate your students on the beauty of adoption. Please utilize the free discussion guide and recommendations below, and even request one of our team members to visit your school! If you cannot facilitate an adoption day or week at your school in the month of November, you can use our resources at another time when it fits your school’s schedule. Feel free to reach out to us at info@ilivedonparkerave.com.



One-Day Example Agenda in a Classroom / School Gathering

- 5 Minutes: Teacher introduces film.
- 30 Minutes: Film plays and concludes.
- 2 Minutes: Show short video from David Scotton about statistics (visit www.ILivedOnParkerAve.com/schools to obtain it)
- 15 – 20 Minutes: Teacher-led discussion on the film and adoption using the statistics on the previous pages and discussion questions below
- Conclude with an essay assignment for homework using one of the discussion questions

Three-Day Example Agenda in a Classroom / School Gathering

We know that every school won't be able to dedicate three days or a week to adoption, but we believe this would give your students the best opportunity to learn about this important topic. Below you will find a sample agenda of what adoption advocacy could look like at your school! We have included ideas you could use for one class period for three class periods. The agenda can be modified to fit your school's specific needs.

Day One: Screening I Lived On Parker Avenue

Use the "one-day" example agenda to be used (except for essay question).

Day Two: Local Adoption Expert

Contact a local adoption agency representative to talk about the adoption process and ways the students can help support adoption in their own community. If possible, you could also have a local birth mother, adopted mother, or person who was adopted to share their story. During this class period, the students can learn about the different forms of adoption and other details. Allow for a question and answer session with the speakers.

Before day two ends, give students the task of reflecting on what they heard and learned in day one and two, and ask them to write an essay or reflection on what they learned and how they can help adoption in the future.



Wednesday: Students Discussion and Plan of Action

On day three, provide students the chance to lead. Depending on class size, allow each student to share something from their essay or reflection, especially how they feel they can help adoption. Encourage the class to come up with a collective plan to advance adoption and life.

How to Introduce the Film

- The film you are about to see is a 30-minute documentary film released in 2018.
- All the events in the film are captured on camera in real time.
- Nothing in the film is staged or scripted, and there are no paid actors.
- After the film ends, there will be a short set of credits. After the credits, there is a little “lagniappe” as we say in Louisiana, or “extra” footage.

(Discussion questions next page)



Discussion Questions

- What was your favorite part?
- Did any portion of the film in particular impact you?
- Why do you think David was worried about upsetting his adoptive parents before meeting his birth family?
- Why do you think David's birth parents thought he might hate them?
- What did you think about adoption before viewing I Lived on Parker Avenue? How do you view adoption now after watching I Lived on Parker Avenue? How did your perspective change, if at all?
- Do you know anyone who has been adopted or a birth mother who placed her child for adoption? What is your perception of that situation, and has your film changed your perspective?
- What are some myths you have heard about adoption?
- How can you counter myths about adoption with truth from David's story and statistics you've learned?
- Why do you think the more women in crisis pregnancies choose abortion over adoption? What ways we can change this?
- What are some of the reasons women place their child for adoption?
- When Melissa was walking in the abortion facility, the woman outside said, "Your baby has ten fingers and ten toes." Those words made all the difference in Melissa choosing to walk out, give David life, and place him for adoption. What are small actions you can take to make a difference and save lives in the course of your own life?
- When you hear the statistics about adoption and abortion (from a previous page), how do you react?



NEED MORE INFORMATION?
QUESTIONS?

info@ilivedonparkerave.com

INTERESTED IN REQUESTING TEAM
MEMBER TO SPEAK AT YOUR SCHOOL?
www.ILivedOnParkerAve.com/teamrequest

I LIVED

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Reclaiming
the Beauty of Adoption
Begins with **YOU!**

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