



FOSTERING SUCCESS MICHIGAN WEBINAR SERIES

Providing professionals and supportive adults with tools to increase knowledge, skill, and social capacity to support youth with experience in foster care.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Center for Fostering Success



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Author of
Alternate Ending: An Inspirational True Story About Beating the Odds
&
College Life Skills Coach



LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

WHERE I COME FROM AND WHY IT MATTERS

National Statistics Inland Empire, CA

**2nd poorest region: Per Capita
Income = \$14, 879
(1st Detroit = \$14, 870)**

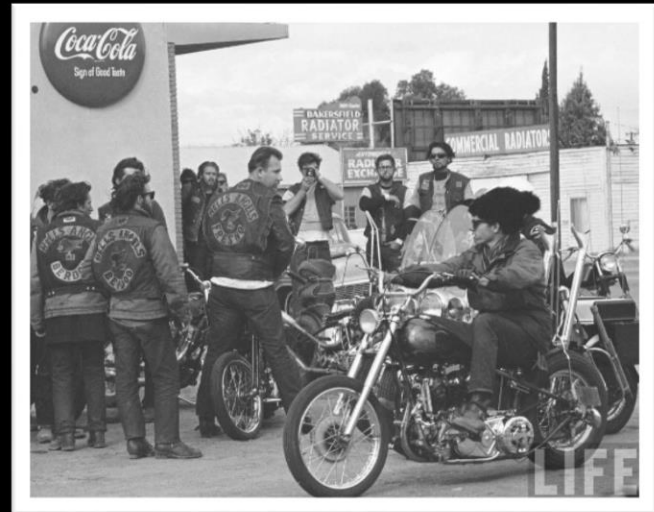
Source: US Census Bureau (2013)

**6th highest murder rate for a
medium sized city (100,000-
250,000)**

**Source: FBI Crime Statistics
Report (2015)**

**10th highest violent crime rate for
medium sized city (100,000-
250,000)**

**Source: FBI Crime Statistics
Report (2015)**



**MY MOTHER
BEFORE I WAS BORN**



ME AND MY HALF-SIBLINGS



**ME 1976-
FIRST FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT**



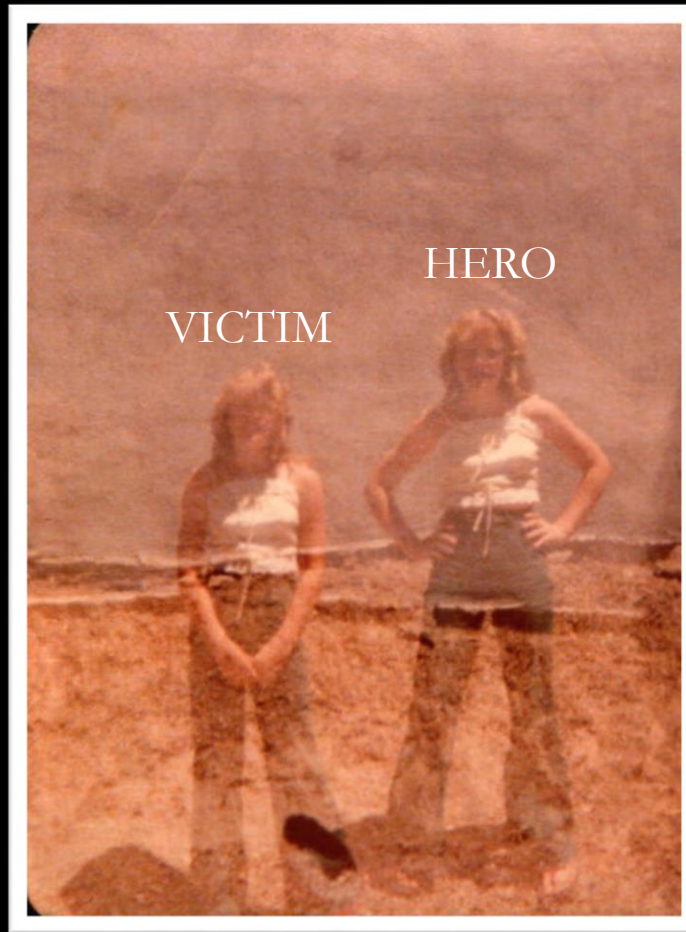
**MEETING MY FATHER AGAIN-
AFTER 4 YEARS WITHOUT CONTACT**



**MOM AND ME
SHORTLY BEFORE I WAS PERMANENTLY
REMOVED FROM HER CUSTODY**



**8 YEARS IN FOSTER CARE
SURVIVAL OF THE SELF**



**AGE 15 ½
RUNAWAY**



Age 17
Birth of Daughter

Age 18
Got GED & Started College

MY ENDING



Happy, Crazy, Motorcycle Riding, World
Traveling, College Graduate

**OBSTACLES TO
OVERCOMING THE PAST**

**LACK OF SUPPORT & FAILURE TO SEE
THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE**





**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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For more information:

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