



Memories in the Making

Capturing the lives that matter most

 LifeChronicles

LifeChronicles helps families heal and connect by videotaping the life stories of an elderly family member or a seriously ill loved one. These videos become a priceless gift that families treasure for years to come.

- We are facilitators. With over 15 years of experience, we know how to create a relaxed and comfortable filming experience for our clients. The utmost respect is given to each client's beliefs, wishes, and circumstances.
- We are focused. Our services are available to seniors and to individuals of any age who are affected by serious illness such as cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, etc.
- We strive to produce the best video possible.
- We are a nonprofit organization. We believe that every life is worth remembering. Donations enable us to serve all who request our services.
- We respect and protect the confidentiality of our clients, their families, and their friends.
- We collaborate with experts and agencies serving our clients to connect with those most in need of our services.
- We treat each other, our benefactors, and funders as valued colleagues.
- We demand ethical behavior of ourselves and each other.



Kate Carter, Founder of LifeChronicles travels the country to record interviews with the dying as memories for their children.

our Story

The story of LifeChronicles is a story of a deeply personal experience that became a mission to serve people everywhere. In 1998, Kate Carter was reeling from the news that a dear friend with breast cancer had been informed that her disease was advancing rapidly. ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) had taken her husband only 15 months before, leaving Kate's friend to raise their three children alone.

While friends and family pulled together to provide for the future care of the children, Kate collaborated with her friend to produce a video that would keep her love alive for them for years to come. It was this experience that inspired Kate to create a service — really a gift — possible for many people, everywhere. After 15 years, LifeChronicles has helped more than 1,000 clients preserve memories and expressions of love on video.

LifeChronicles began simply as a way to preserve memories. It has grown into a remarkable way to bring healing and connection to families with loved ones — whether they be seniors or those facing serious illness — who are facing the end of life, and it allows them to do so with dignity, integrity, and respect.



Those we touch in this lifetime
shape who we are.

How we touch them defines our souls

our Services

At LifeChronicles, we don't merely create videos, we preserve the memories and wisdom of special people in your life and in your children's lives — from their most trivial mannerisms to their deepest essence. To do this effectively requires more than knowledge of how to work a video camera. We help to make everyone present comfortable and in a state of mind that allows for spontaneity and emotional richness. Through our experience and our empathy, we are able to make this an empowering and rewarding experience for all involved.

Our process is simple — we take care of everything:

- We schedule a taping in your home and bring all the necessary professional equipment.
- We gently guide you through the interview, so no preparation is necessary.
- We edit and produce a custom DVD of your LifeChronicles video. Finished videos average 60-90 minutes in length. Our services range from rough edit footage to full-length edited video, including a photo montage set to the music of your choice.
- Based on your location or situation, we can help you create a video using your own video camera. We will facilitate via phone or video conferencing. We can also edit your footage if you send it to us.

"My husband was an extraordinarily private man, and was uncomfortable with the idea of having a stranger come into our home to videotape him. Kate responded to my questions immediately and did everything she could to assure us my husband's legacy for our children could still be preserved. Using short videos my husband made himself—love letters to each of our sons, one to me, short tutorials he made about shaving and dating and tying ties, combined with pictures, other home videos and music—and even adding on a last minute clip — LifeChronicles made an incredible tribute to my husband which we will always treasure."

—CS



"The taping was so much more than a recording session. We did not expect that. It was a very cathartic experience. We all shared our feelings...we were able to express our deep love, respect and caring for each other, and our relationships were solidified. I am so very, very thankful that an organization like LifeChronicles exists. Knowing that the video is there gives me great comfort. I know I will always be able to see, hear and remember my soul mate, my love, my wonderful husband. And our children will be able to do the same with their loving and much loved father."

—Fran



...within our deepest self are thoughts that are unspoken feelings that are not expressed because of our timidity of their reception.

Deep self is where the soul dwells

"Finding peace is how I came to find LifeChronicles. I wanted to be proactive in leaving something for my family. But there is great loss and unending grief in knowing I will not be able to be there to witness and support them during their adventures in life. How do I as a mother, wife, and friend leave more for people? I think by bearing witness to my life, by telling my story, it perhaps can bring laughter and tears and solace to those who go."

—Rene Pisel-Walker, Juneau Alaska

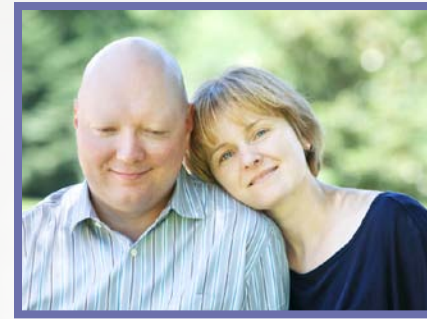


"I just wanted to say I love what you are doing and it is really the best thing ever ... about 9 years ago my father, Joe Frantzis, passed away from ALS, but before it took him he had a video made by LifeChronicles for me and my three other sisters. For the longest time I couldn't watch it, but about a month ago I sat down and watched the whole thing. It was very hard, but at the same time it was the best thing I could have ever watched and just being able to see him and hear his voice again was amazing ... I was going through a hard time in my life and watching that video seemed to make all my problems fade away. I just wanted to say, keep doing what you're doing because you really are changing peoples lives for the better and I thank you so much for that."

—Jessica

"When I think back about working with LifeChronicles, I don't think about my technical abilities that have advanced through editing these videos, I think about how my work on a video will be seen by someone and truly affect their life. Many times I hear about my Mom's mother from stories of her childhood. It would be an amazing experience to actually see and hear my grandmother tell me about her stories. This is what I have been able to provide for others. LifeChronicles was started by one woman and positively affects numerous people. It is very inspirational to see how one person can make an impactful difference in so many people's lives by creating such an organization."

—Max Margolin, Volunteer



"LifeChronicles is an amazing service that provides comfort to the families of dying patients, and offers peace to the seriously ill patients themselves, by helping them create a legacy for their loved ones. The one example that stands out in my mind above all the others is the video they did for a young man with a brain tumor, who was in our hospital's rehab unit. His greatest sadness about dying so young was the effect it might have on his younger sister who had developmental delay. The team from LifeChronicles juggled their schedule so they could stay in town an extra day and videotape this young man with his sister. I will never forget watching him "catch" a kiss from the air that she blew to him, and then blow it back to her. That sort of memory is irreplaceable, and knowing it had been captured for his sister to enjoy gave this young man great peace. I highly recommend their services to all seriously ill patients, and strongly encourage the philanthropic support needed to keep their organization afloat. It is a labor of love for all involved."

—Shoshana Helman, M.D.,
Chief, Division of Palliative Medicine,
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

"I just done watching my video for the 4th or 5th time. I have to say, you exceeded my already high expectations. What a great job. This thing is priceless. Keep up the great work. You inspire me."

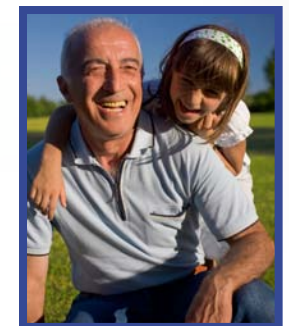
—Greg (passed just 10 days later)

"The taping offered a full circle experience for my mom and dad. They could make some sense out of their journey on Earth and could see what value they brought to the world and to their family. There was freedom to say things now that might have not been said, rather than at end of life.

The service of LifeChronicles is important because it encourages us to see more deeply the person who is taped, not just as a mother or a father but as a person.

It allows things to be said that might not otherwise be said. It acknowledges the beauty that is in each soul. It affords an opportunity for children and grandchildren to see the interaction between themselves and my parents and experience that connection over and over again when they view the tape."

—Andrea



Words have great power

They acknowledge, affirm and inspire.
They strengthen, heal and comfort. They express intention,
love and gratitude. They are messengers of laughter.

"As a professional in the mental health field, I see a deep therapeutic value in LifeChronicles. It is a channel for expressing feelings and speaking freely — at a critical period in time. This process allows for illustrating perspectives and profound reflection. One may even experience reprieve knowing nothing has been left unsaid, no emotion left unfelt. It is an opportunity to slow down at a moment when everything may feel overwhelming — a chance to validate what is important. A critical piece in therapy is simply being "present" which is at the heart of the experience. Needless to say, therapeutic value is extended to everyone involved. Most important is LifeChronicles' commitment to doing their work with integrity and love."

—Kim Sadegi, Counselor, Phoenix, AZ



"This beautiful organization also helps parents in the military to create a tape for their young children so they do not forget their face, or at least stay familiar, while they are on duty away from their family defending this great nation. But just as important, LifeChronicles has created many videos documenting the effects that Alzheimer's has on people.

...Working with this organization has been an emotional journey, but not in the way you would think. I expected to go into this and cry many tears of sadness, but I did not expect to feel the joy that I did. It is such a great feeling to know that you have captured someone's most intimate thoughts for them to share with their family long after they are gone and for a child to have something left of their parents to help with the separation process.

...This organization is growing more and more as time goes on, and people from all over the country have begun to contact LifeChronicles with an interest in either volunteering to help or desiring their assistance in creating a video."

—Michelle J. Tinnes, Student at UC Santa Barbara and Volunteer

grants & donations

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, LifeChronicles does not charge for its services. We believe that every life is worth remembering, and donations from generous individuals and organizations enable us to honor all requests for our services. Thanks to the many who have supported us, we have been able to serve more than 1,000 clients nationwide in the last 15 years.

We gratefully accept donations and grants to help defray our costs and expand our services. To make your tax-deductible donation:

- Go online to www.lifechronicles.org at the "Donate" tab
- Call toll-free: (866) 998-5433
- Mail your check payable to:
LifeChronicles
P.O. Box 31152
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Our Taxpayer Identification Number is 77-0256868. Please know that no one is denied service due to inability to donate.

Or for more information please email us at lifechronicles@gmail.com or call us at 866.998.5433

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



... if we can give them a means through LifeChronicles to preserve their ideas, their values, their advice, their humor — the things about them that they feel are important; that make them who they are...

it allows them to live on



our Appreciation *and gratitude*

The following are lists of our generous donors and the people we have had the honor to serve.

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Dedicated to the memory of
Courtney C. (Kelley) Wetzel
October 10, 1970 - March 22, 2012

 **LifeChronicles**
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LifeChronicles, 113 W. Mission Street, Suite B2,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(866) 998-5433 toll-free