

“Homelessness in Northern Michigan: Our Brother’s Keeper”

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Client-based work

This project was a great opportunity because it was a client-based project and a research project. Working with the shelter, the goal was to create a video to share the stories of homeless guests in northern Michigan. To produce a video that would accomplish the goals, much research and time in the shelter was required. Learning to work with a client and researching the reality of homelessness was a great experience for me and for my future in video production.



Video

Our Brother’s Keeper Homeless Shelter Video

The video, produced by Daniel Lidman and Steven Headings, is divided into three segments to organize the desired impact on the audience. Each segment highlights a different aspect of the shelter to inform and inspire viewers.



The first segment in the research video focuses on “Guest Stories”. Four guests share their experiences and the journey that led them to Our Brother’s Keeper Homeless Shelter. This powerful segment is what hits viewers. Viewers feel the pain of hard times and the joy of restoration and hope. Guests can be seen as people in hard times rather than lazy individuals who choose to be homeless.



Segment two turns the attention to the “Volunteer Stories” of the shelter. The joys of volunteering, the process of joining, and the impacts of the experience are spotlighted by volunteers, as well as a powerful story of redemption of Becky, a former guest who now volunteers at the shelter.

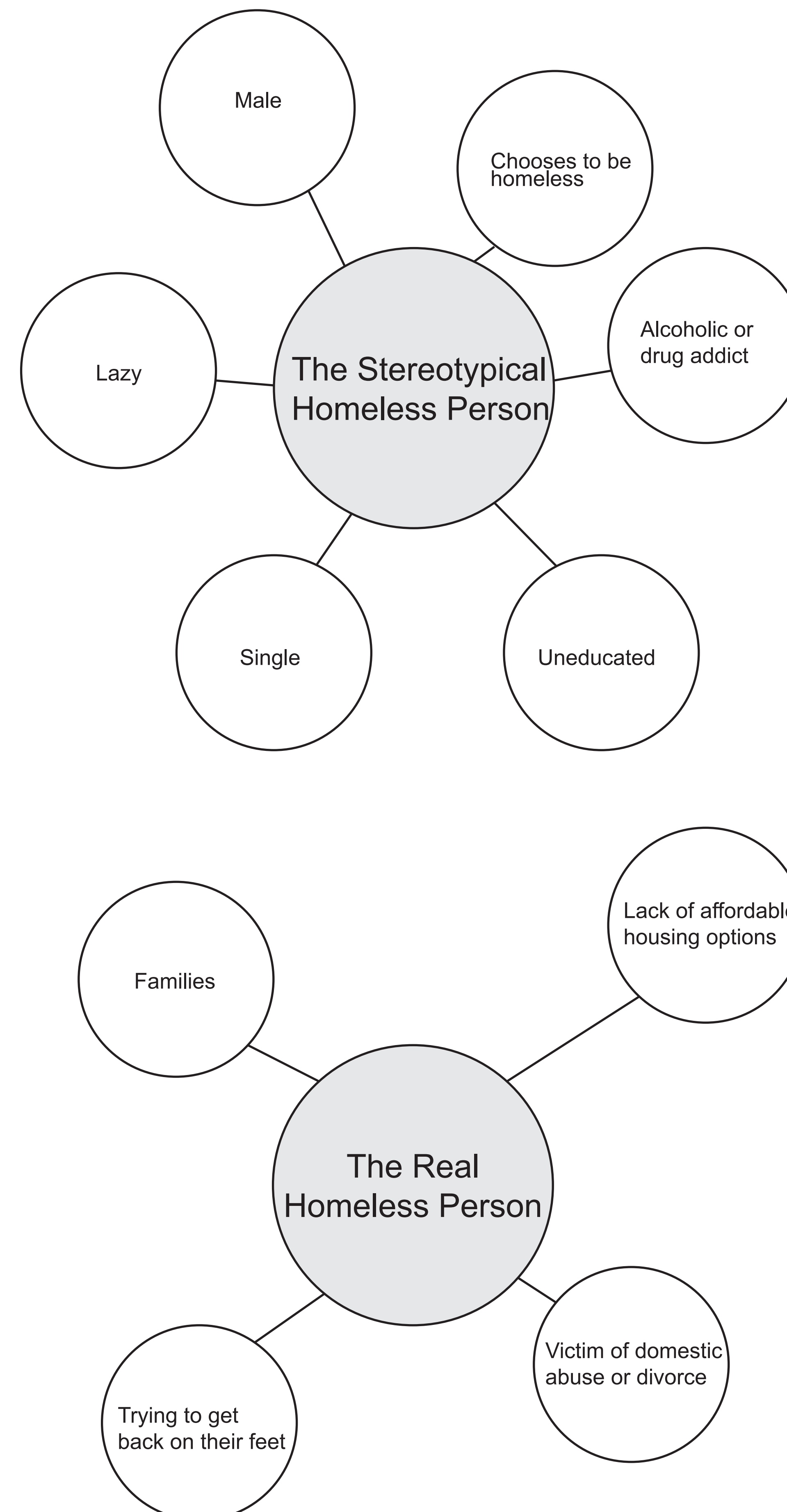


The final segment, “The Shelter”, is carried by Pamela and Wanda, the shelter coordinators. They give an overview of the shelter and its impact, as well as touch on the need for more volunteers. The third segment is perfect for using as a promotional piece for getting further funding and volunteers, which is great for the organization.

Challenges

The greatest challenge in this project was filming in the shelter. To start off, the shelter is quite small and is not particularly beautiful for video work. Interview settings were a difficulty because it was important to show the reality of the shelter, but there wasn’t much to show. Another huge challenge was gathering video support material. Many people are camera-shy, and many of the guests are ashamed in some way of being a guest in the shelter. Many of them did not want to be on camera at all, which made showing shelter life a big difficulty.

Research



Project

Abstract

“Homelessness in Northern Michigan: Our Brother’s Keeper”

This project revealed homelessness in Northern Michigan by getting to know the guests of Our Brother’s Keeper, a homeless shelter in Big Rapids. By becoming acquainted with the guests and their stories, the stereotypes of what homelessness looks like can be broken. The project focused on the guests, volunteers, and programs of Our Brother’s Keeper, allowing viewers to get to know real people and experience the realities of poverty in the area. After learning the guests’ stories, the video explored the true need for community involvement; homelessness is an issue affecting the whole community, so it requires a whole community working together to bring about true change and help for those in need.

Project Timeline

