

ABOUT



THE MISSION



Fifty Sandwiches is a nonprofit project dedicated to presenting the public with a rare glimpse into the lives and experiences of America's homeless. With a goal to close the gap between public perception and reality, Fifty Sandwiches aims to foster the realization that there is more to homelessness than being homeless by creating an emotional bridge between readers and the struggling strangers they walk past every day.

THE PLAN

STEP 1

Spread the word of Fifty Sandwiches and fund the project via Kickstarter.

STEP 2

Circumnavigate the country documenting the stories and faces behind America's homeless by offering sandwiches in exchange for interviews.

STEP 3

Cram the stories into a book, using personal accounts of those who are homeless to encourage public awareness and understanding.

THE JOURNEY

After purchasing Milo, my 1990 GMC Vandura for the hefty sum of \$1,200, I embarked on my three-and-a-half-month journey throughout the United States. Coasting at a cool 13 mpg, I sought sleep in Walmart parking lots, street corners, and state parks. Armed with a camera and a recorder, I reached out to homeless shelters and programs throughout the nation, splitting my interviews between shelters and people I approached on the street.



THE ROUTE



34 CITIES **14,000+** MILES **105** DAYS

1. Coeur d'Alene, ID
2. Seattle, WA
3. Portland, OR
4. Redding, CA
5. Sacramento, CA
6. San Francisco, CA
7. Los Angeles, CA
8. San Diego, CA
9. Las Vegas, NV
10. Flagstaff, AZ
11. Albuquerque, NM
12. El Paso, TX

13. Dallas, TX
14. Baton Rouge, LA
15. New Orleans, LA
16. Tallahassee, FL
17. Atlanta, GA
18. Charlotte, NC
19. Richmond, VA
20. Washington D.C., BC
21. Philadelphia, PA
22. New York, NY
23. Norwalk, CT
24. Boston, MA

25. Buffalo, NY
26. Cleveland, OH
27. Detroit, MI
28. Chicago, IL
29. Saint Louis, MO
30. Kansas City, MO
31. Denver, CO
32. Salt Lake, UT
33. Boise, ID
34. Spokane, WA



From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Mexican border to the Canadian border, Milo's journey is depicted throughout its circumnavigation of the United States.

THE INTERVIEWS

The interviews were informal, intimate discussions lasting anywhere from half an hour to three hours. Each chat evolved into a dynamic collection of life struggles, stories, and philosophies from a population rarely given a voice. Upon departure, my only expectation was to have no expectations, yet somehow, I often found myself bewildered. Each interview revealed a new shade of light to the spectrum of homelessness, showing me a color I had not seen before. Each story served as a bittersweet reminder that I had little to no grasp on the sheer depth of this issue of which I had thought myself to be well understood.

I quickly realized my mission outlined in the Kickstarter to capture a collective face to homelessness would require 500,000+ interviews.¹ Each interaction was far too distinct from one another to categorize as an entire subset of the population. While each story aims to humanize the homeless through emotional connection, the compilation of individual experiences now serves as a testament to the sheer diversity of the homeless population.

These are stories that want to be told and need to be heard.