
TAKING ORAL HISTORIES

Excerpt from an Interview with Lynda Wright

“When you start using food stamps, when you start living under the stigma of welfare, you begin to feel less than a human being. Children feel it too. They feel it because they can’t have clothes that their peers have or they can’t do the things they want to do. It’s the cost of being able to afford a tutu, if the child is interested in dancing, or a tennis racket or anything to let them dream. Welfare tears down dreams.”

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In your Reflection Journal, respond to the following questions:

- What insights does this quote give you about living under welfare?
- Welfare is intended to uphold the human right of having one’s basic needs met. Do you think that it meets this goal? What other human rights are at risk?
- If you could design a system for guiding people out of poverty, what would it be?