

# *THE RAZOR'S EDGE*

*A FILM BY KEITH FAMIE*



**VISIONALIST**  
ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS





# THE RAZOR'S EDGE

**The Razor's Edge** will take the audience into a day in the lives of those that live on the razor's edge of society who face poverty and survival every day with many calling the streets their home.

What is it like to spend your entire day looking for food...a place to sleep...medical care? How do you find time to attempt to get back on your feet in a system that is complicated for even the savvy smart phone users? Where can you find help? What services are available? How does someone end up this way? What relationships can be forged on the street?

Detroit will be the home base for the film's production that focuses on those whose life missions are to help care for our community's forgotten, the often misunderstood part of our society. The film will explore homelessness from the perspective of a wide range of cultures, from our large urban cities to rural locales around the country.

In 2023, Emmy-award winning producer/director Keith Famie and his Visionalist Entertainment Productions team will start the journey on **The Razor's Edge**.



## Film Development

Issues to be addressed through a variety of interviews:

- What is poverty?
- What is homelessness?
- How does someone become homeless?
- How does general society treat homelessness and panhandling?
- Which cities in the US have the highest rate of homelessness, why and what are they doing to address it?
- How do other countries approach homelessness & what can we learn from them?
- If you are living in poverty, how difficult is it to exist?
- Is there a general lack of affordable housing in the US?
- What is the history of the “haves” and “have nots”?
- Is there one sector of society that is more prone to homelessness and poverty? If so, why?
- What role does drug addition, gambling &/or disability play in homelessness?
- What role does mental health play on homelessness?
- How does someone who is homeless handle health care needs?
- What happens when a child is in poverty or homeless?
- What can we learn from those who live on the streets in their self-created shelters?
- What percentage of homelessness are veterans?
- What are the organizations that can offer the most support? Why?
- Why does someone work for these supporting organizations? What do they get out of it personally?
- Who are those that volunteer their time to help the less fortunate? What do they get out of it?

## **National Poverty & Homelessness Assistance Organizations:**



### **Catholic Charities Northern Nevada (Reno, NV)**

Website: [www.ccsnn.org](http://www.ccsnn.org)

Contact: Marie Baxter



### **Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (Southfield, MI)**

Website: [www.ccsem.org](http://www.ccsem.org)

Contact: Adam Perry or Paul Propson



### **Center for the Homeless (South Bend, IN)**

Website: [www.cfh.net](http://www.cfh.net)

Contact: Steve Callimeri



### **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (Wheaton, IL)**

Website: [www.helpaveteran.org](http://www.helpaveteran.org)

Contact: Christine Lewis



### **The Pope Francis Center (Detroit, MI)**

Website: [www.popefranciscenter.org](http://www.popefranciscenter.org)

Contact: Fr. Tim McCabe



### **The Lord's Place (West Palm Beach, FL)**

Website: [www.thelordsplace.org](http://www.thelordsplace.org)

Contact: Diana Stanley



### **St. Vincent de Paul (Phoenix, AZ)**

Website: [www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net)

Contact: Shannon Clancy



### **Focus: HOPE (Detroit, MI)**

Website: [www.focushope.edu](http://www.focushope.edu)

Contact: Portia Roberson



### **The Salvation Army (Southfield, MI)**

Website: [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)

Contact: Sharon Tatom Garcia



### **The Nehemiah Project (Petoskey, MI)**

Website: [www.nehemiahshelters.org](http://www.nehemiahshelters.org)

Contact: Brian Peters



### **Safe Harbor of Traverse City (Traverse City, MI)**

Website: [www.gtsafeharbor.org](http://www.gtsafeharbor.org)

Contact: Brad Gerlach

## **Youth Focused Organizations:**



### **Starting Right Now (Tampa, FL)**

Website: [www.startingrightnow.org](http://www.startingrightnow.org)

Contact: Vicki Sokolik



### **Vista Maria (Dearborn Heights, MI)**

Website: [www.vistamaria.org](http://www.vistamaria.org)

Contact: Angela Aufdemberge



### **Family Promise National Office (Summit, NJ)**

Website: [www.familypromise.org](http://www.familypromise.org)

Contact: Carolyn Gordon – [Gordoncgordon@familypromise.org](mailto:Gordoncgordon@familypromise.org)



### **Family Promise (Grand Rapids, MI)**

Website: [www.familypromisegr.org](http://www.familypromisegr.org)

Contact: Cheryl Schuch – [Schuchcheryl@familypromisegr.org](mailto:Schuchcheryl@familypromisegr.org)



### **Family Promise (Spokane, WA)**

Website: [www.familypromiseofspokane.org](http://www.familypromiseofspokane.org)

Contact: Joe Ader – [Aderjader@familypromiseofspokane.org](mailto:Aderjader@familypromiseofspokane.org)



### **Oasis Family Resource Center (Cadillac, MI)**

Website: [www.cadillacoasis-frc.org](http://www.cadillacoasis-frc.org)

Contact: Sara Shields



### **Covenant House Michigan (Grand Rapids, MI)**

Website: [www.covenanthousemi.org](http://www.covenanthousemi.org)

Contact: Meagan Dunn



### **StandUp for Kids (Decatur, GA)**

Website: [www.standupforkids.org](http://www.standupforkids.org)

Contact: Erin Murphy

## **National Headlines about Poverty & Homelessness**

**Notre Dame News** – November 25, 2019

### **Pulte family's \$111 million partnership provides Notre Dame with resources to fight poverty**

Hundreds of billions of dollars are spent every year to serve the poor in the United States and around the world. For this money to make a difference, it must be directed toward programs that deliver real, reliable outcomes for people in need.

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**Center for Public Integrity** – November 15, 2022

### **Hidden toll: Thousands of schools fail to count homeless students**

Federal law promises homeless children an equal shot at education. Many fall through the cracks.

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**Truthdig** – November 21, 2022

### **Homeless and Disabled in America**

For the chronically ill and people with disabilities, life on the streets and in shelters presents a unique set of challenges.

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**WTTW** – December 1, 2022

### **Some homeless people in New York involuntarily hospitalized**

The rise in homelessness is a source of major tension around the country, including in New York City, which has a larger homeless population than any other city in the U.S. This week, Mayor Eric Adams announced a new policy to try to curb the trend, but as William Brangham reports, it has also drawn criticism.

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**Taos News** – December 2, 2022

### **What we can and can't do about homelessness in Taos County**

Taos Mayor Pascual Maestas received some well-deserved kudos from our community this week when he declared a 48-hour emergency to begin prepping the shuttered Phil Lovato Senior Citizen Center for use as a cold-weather shelter for the homeless.



# *THE RAZOR'S EDGE*

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT**



January 4, 2023

Keith Famie  
Visionalist Entertainment  
28345 Beck Road  
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Keith,

It was great meeting to discuss your film “Walk the Walk – Those on the Razor’s Edge” on the unique and complex experiences of those living with homelessness. Your vision to document the challenges and opportunities in serving marginalized citizens is a compelling one.

Detroit Public TV is committed to covering issues in the public interest, including displaced populations, facing poverty and homelessness in a variety of settings. Sharing stories of the underserved and the ways in which communities are organizing for success is an important part of our mission to our viewers and those we serve.

Public Television has a long track record of offering unique documentary programming like this, and it is our sincere hope that by working together, this program will become part of that storytelling tradition.

I look forward to speaking with you again soon about this film. In the meantime, let’s continue to strategize on aligning the critical funding required for the production and engagement of the film!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred".

Fred Nahhat  
Senior VP, Production  
Detroit Public TV



DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD™

February 10, 2023

Keith Famie  
Visionalist Entertainment Productions  
28345 Beck Rd. Ste #404  
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Mr. Famie:

Thank you for your interest in including The Salvation Army Great Lakes Division in your upcoming documentary, "Walk the Walk: Those Living on the Razor's Edge."

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human need in His name without discrimination.

The Salvation Army Great Lakes Division provides shelter to those in need in a variety of ways:

**Emergency Shelters:** For those looking to escape extreme cold, intense heat, torrential rain, or just wanting a safe, quiet place to spend the night, we provide a free meal, a warm bed and a clean shower.

**Harbor Light System:** In 1939, The Salvation Army opened the doors on its first Harbor Light center in Detroit. This has since grown into the largest substance use rehabilitation in the state and is known as The Salvation Army Great Lakes Division Harbor Light System. Harbor Light provides more than 72,000 nights of shelter and serves more than 1.3 million free meals each year. We aim to end hunger and homelessness in the lives of our clients. Harbor Light opens its doors every day of the

#### GREAT LAKES DIVISION

16130 Northland Drive  
Southfield, MI 48075  
(248) 443-5500  
SAGreatlakes.org

Brian Peddle, *General*  
F. Bradford Bailey, *Territorial Commander*  
John E. Turner, *Divisional Commander*

"...THERE IS NO REWARD EQUAL TO THAT OF DOING THE MOST GOOD TO THE MOST PEOPLE IN THE MOST NEED." — EVANGELINE BOOTH

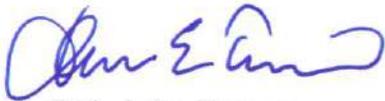
year. The three Harbor Light campuses are located in Detroit, Macomb, Monroe and Grand Rapids.

**Detroit Medical Respite:** Detroit Medical respite provides a place for homeless individuals to recover and recuperate from hospital stays. Rather than being released by hospitals as soon as possible, we provide a safe, clean environment for people to fully recover before being released.

Last year, The Salvation Army Great Lakes Division provided 400,000 nights of shelter across the state of Michigan.

Thank you for exploring the stories of our most vulnerable community members facing poverty and survival every day, and those whose missions are to provide dignity, love and transformation. We look forward to being part of your story.

Sincerely,



Lt. Col. John Turner  
Divisional Commander  
The Salvation Army  
Great Lakes Division



Dear Keith,

It was great to be part of the production of your latest film project, *The Razor's Edge*. Thank you for helping to tell the stories of people experiencing homelessness and those on the frontlines of service.

Every day, poverty stifles hope, opportunity, and dignity for millions of Americans. And every day, a lucky few break free of its grasp. Thanks to a fierce army of social service providers, we are beginning to turn the tide. But despite their successes, we still know too little about what works to lift lives up.

Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) exists to power service with science. We help service providers apply scientific evaluation methods to better understand and unleash effective poverty interventions. We are grounded in a belief that research serves people, not the other way around. So, we work side-by-side with our partners across the country to design and implement a research approach that's both rigorous and respectful of every person it involves. Then we share what we learn with others, allowing each success to inspire thousands more. We believe rigorous research is a powerful means to an end—to injustice, to homelessness, to poverty—and a new beginning for millions of families who are ready to thrive.

We believe that families experiencing poverty and homelessness deserve interventions that work. But with more than 1.4 million people passing through shelters every year in the U.S., we still have much to learn. Thank you for shining a light on this issue.

With gratitude,

Heather Reynolds  
Michael L. Smith Managing Director  
Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO)





**5Loaves2FishNMI**  
PO Box 516  
Leland, MI 49654

231.866.6073(Michelle)  
231.866.1786(Bill)  
EIN#:861289956

The chance to work with Keith Famie on Razors Edge provides us the opportunity to educate a larger audience on the complexities of homelessness and food insecurity, and what we can do to make Big Change. It is our hope and prayer that, through Keith's documentary, we can begin to not only educate society on the many issues of homelessness and food insecurity but begin to connect the dots; pulling both public and private sectors together to address not only the symptoms, but also the causes.

5Loaves2FishNMI is an outreach group that promotes social justice by providing nourishing meals, infused with love, to those experiencing food insecurity and homelessness. We feed people.

Many hands prepare each meal from scratch, homemade, infused with love. Every week volunteers come together to create, with love, delicious meals intended to nourish not only bodies, but hopefully a few souls as well. We believe giving good food is the ultimate gift of love and we love spreading love.

Currently we serve at Veterans Park and Safe Harbor in Traverse City, Leelanau Christian Neighbors and Empire Food Bank, and starting the end of January we will have a meal site in Suttons Bay, in Leelanau County. We are also in the process of setting up two more meal sites in Leelanau County. We receive food donations from Food Rescue of Northwest Michigan, Northwest Food Coalition, Leelanau Christian Neighbors, restaurants, caterers, and individuals. Monetary donations come from individuals, trusts and grants.

In 2022 alone, we have served over 10,300 meals and logged over 6,000 volunteer hours. Each meal costs approximately \$0.25 to make, including overhead expenses, because we make most of our food from scratch and because of all the donations of time and food.

Last summer we had a three part education series called "Big Change Equals Big Change". It consisted of: 1) Attendees played the game 'Home Sweet Homelessness', a game similar to Shoots and Ladders, but it is visceral. One really gets a sense of a day in the life of homelessness. 2) A panel presentation from people within the network of homelessness, housing coalitions and food distribution. 3) A concert with additional presentations on homelessness, food and music. We were inspired by Mark Johnson of Marks Park and Playing for Change.

We are looking forward to being a part of this conversation, and hopefully, the solution. We also look forward to expanding our connections with others who are doing what they can to provide some light of hope and enlighten others on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Bill, Michelle and Emily



January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Keith Famie  
Visionalist Entertainment Productions  
28345 Beck Rd., Suite 404  
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Keith,

The opportunity to work with you and your team provides us the chance to help bring awareness to food insecurities. It will show how many people it affects. This documentary will help people understand that food insecurities are real, and it will show the impact that Project Feed the Kids has had over the last 3 years. It will continue to educate others on the reality of what is happening in our world. We together can change the world by providing awareness of food insecurities in all communities.

Project Feed the Kids mission is to help fight food insecurities in our communities. Our program provides 2,000 free meals a week. We also work with local businesses to provide thousands of pounds of free food each week. From the start of our program, we have fed over 170,000 people in less than 3 years. We have three Project Feed the Kids coolers currently. Ready to launch our 4th cooler in April, which will bring our weekly meal count up to 2,500 for the week. Our coolers are 100% non-judgmental coolers that are open 24 hours a day. We not only serve meals to children but also to veterans, homeless, and elderly who also use our coolers. We want people to have access to free food at all times of the day and night. This widens the horizon of help for families who are working all different shifts. Our program has NO qualifications. If you are in need, you simply pull up to our coolers and take what you need, no questions asked.

Last year alone, we helped over 100,000 families with our coolers. We logged thousands of volunteers hours last year. Each of our meals cost approximately \$2.50 to produce. Our program is 100% donation-based. We are not state or federal funded. We count on our community's to help to make this happen. Last year, we had many fundraising events. We hosted a Spring Carnival, Summer Pig Roast, Adult Prom, Halloween Bash, and a Christmas Gala to raise money for Project Feed the Kids. We have been volunteering throughout the community to bring awareness of our mission.

My husband and I started this program in 2020...right when the pandemic hit. The buses were dropping off meals to houses for those who qualify for free or reduced lunch. We thought that was a great idea, since many families were out of work with no income coming into the home. But who was feeding the kids on the weekend? That's when Project Feed the Kids was launched. Our first week, we provided 81 meals. After hundreds of calls asking if we had free meals left, we decided that we needed to go bigger. The very next week, we did 500 meals. Now we are up to 2,000 meals a week and growing.

Our lives were growing up poor and knowing what it is like struggling gives us the first-hand experience. We want to help as many families as we can. We watched our parents struggle; we struggled as young parents. Now our kids, who struggled, are packing meals for people in need.

This documentary will provide so much awareness to Project Feed the Kids. We would be so thankful to be part of it. We look forward to meeting more people who have the drive to help others. We want to show the world that there is so much more we each can do to help others.

Thank you.

Tiffany & Jason McQueer  
Project Feed the Kids Inc.  
1081 S. Airport Rd.  
Traverse City MI 49684  
[Projectfeedthekids@yahoo.com](mailto:Projectfeedthekids@yahoo.com)



# LEELANAU CHRISTIAN NEIGHBORS

7322 E. Duck Lake Road, PO Box 196  
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653 • 231-994-2271  
[www.leelanauchristianneighbors.org](http://www.leelanauchristianneighbors.org)

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Mr. Keith Famie  
Visionalist Entertainment Productions  
28345 Beck Rd., Suite 404  
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Keith,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding LCN's participation in your newest documentary, Walk the Walk: Living on the Razor's Edge.

We certainly see that the neighbors in Leelanau County are living on the edge. One push and they are drowning in extreme helplessness. Certainly the Covid pandemic tipped the scales for so many and they have fallen behind in all their bills and can hardly (if at all) afford food.

Our mission is to "serve residents of Leelanau County by aiding those with inadequate resources". Our first answer to a neighbor is YES we would like to help. Not, no, we only can help a little. We try to find a long-term solution to their immediate issues. One of the ways we have done this is to have implemented a Housing Improvement Fund that would address problems with the home's basic set up. Do they need a new furnace, refrigerator, windows, insulation, roof so that their daily expenses are lowered? Lowering home costs will add more dollars into their pockets for food.

We did a survey of our neighbors a couple of years ago and a response to "do you have enough food to last you a week" the answer was no, we give the kids french fries and the adults eat chips to fill our tummies. Certainly, this is not sustainable either nutritiously or economically.

At LCN, we hope that with the food we distribute through our food pantry, Blessings in a Backpack and even the small amount of food we give out in our baby pantry that we are making a huge difference in the lives and health of our neighbors.

So many of our county residents do not even realize the food insecurity that is around us. We hope that your documentary sheds light on the food insecurity of the unnoticed

and often ignored in our county. If even only one person “wakes up” to this realization, then your documentary will be successful.

Thank you again for including us in this process. We have been fighting this insecurity for 35 years and know we will continue for many more. Working together is the key to tackling issues as large as this and we appreciate working on it with you and your team.

Warmly,

Mary Stanton  
Executive Director  
231-510-0271(cell)



January 11, 2023

Keith Famie  
Visionalist Entertainment Productions  
28345 Beck Rd., Suite 404  
Wixom, MI 48393

Dear Keith,

The Lord's Place has been "walking the walk" with the most vulnerable individuals in Palm Beach County since 1979. We are most grateful to be a part of your storytelling and filming of *Walk the Walk, Living on the Razor's Edge* to shed light on poverty and homelessness in America.

[The Lord's Place](#) transforms lives by providing solutions that break the cycle of homelessness for the most vulnerable and neglected residents of Palm Beach County, FL. As a social impact agency, we have been serving men, women, children, and families in our community for more than 40 years with innovative, compassionate, and effective services that are constantly evolving to end local homelessness for good.

Our goal is to ensure that every family and individual experiencing homelessness in Palm Beach County has a place to call home, and that they receive the supportive services they need to regain their self-sufficiency. We address critical unmet needs in our community, including housing for underserved populations, outreach for people living on the streets, and job training for adults with barriers to employment. Throughout our many programs, our goal is to break the cycle of homelessness by addressing the intersection of poverty, unemployment, housing instability, mental health and substance use issues, and criminal justice involvement.

We operate more than a dozen housing programs for people experiencing homelessness and former incarceration, including Jack and Evelyn Alexander Place for families, William H. Mann Campus for single men, Burckle Place and Halle Place for single women, Housing First scattered-site programs for the chronically homeless, and several affordable graduate housing facilities. Our Cafe Joshua job training program provides comprehensive employment services to 300 high-barrier jobseekers annually. Through our reentry program, we assist 150 returning citizens to reintegrate into the community, enabling them to have a second chance at life. We conduct outreach and engagement for 550 people living on the streets and provide a variety of wraparound services to clients, including case management, peer support, health care coordination (CARE), and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR). Each night, our agency houses 175 families and individuals. Annually, we serve 1,700+ disadvantaged Palm Beach County residents.

P.O. Box 3265, West Palm Beach, FL 33402 | Phone (561) 494-0125 | Fax (561) 494-2922 | [www.TheLordsPlace.org](http://www.TheLordsPlace.org)

To inquire about putting The Lord's Place into your will, please contact the Advancement Office at 561.578.4928

The Lord's Place is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donation are tax-deductible according to IRS Rules and Regulations. Tax ID # 59-2240502





Last year, our agency served 1,782 individuals experiencing housing instability, poverty, criminal justice involvement, and other barriers to self-sufficiency. We conducted outreach to 651 people living on the streets, housed 419 children and adults, assisted 347 unemployed adults with job training services, and provided health care and coordination to 143 clients with behavioral health conditions. In all, 90 percent of housing clients maintained or exited to stable housing. More than 300 unsheltered individuals were connected to housing. Throughout the past year, we continued to strengthen and expand our programs. We completed a new strategic plan to guide our goals and objectives through 2025. We developed a new housing program for 25 homeless men (C-Place) and gained final site plan approval to construct Burckle Place 3, a housing program for homeless women. We secured major contracts with the county government to operate our street outreach, emergency shelter, and reentry programs. Through our advocacy initiative, we supported a number of causes aligned with our mission, particularly affordable housing for low-income households. Finally, the construction of our Australian Avenue headquarters continues to move forward. We expect the new 25,000 square foot building, which will house our job training, engagement, and reentry centers, to begin serving clients in early 2023.

Palm Beach County is one of our nation's wealthiest counties, yet [12% of its population lives in poverty](#). Hidden in the shadows of the county's paradise is the reality that on any given night there are an estimated 3,000 men, women, and children who do not have a safe place to call home. Increased with the onset of the pandemic, we are seeing more wealthy people [migrate here by the thousands](#). An ever-increasing number of local residents are being priced out of their homes and pushed into situations they never imagined—going from a secure roof over their heads to being temporarily unhoused until they find help from agencies like The Lord's Place.

As we walk alongside our clients and help each individual and family with their unique journey out of homelessness to becoming productive members of society, we experience the paradox of living in Palm Beach County on a daily basis. We look forward to helping Visionalist Entertainment Production show and tell of this dichotomy and shift the paradigm and understanding of the issues faced by the most vulnerable individuals in our communities.

With gratitude for this opportunity,

Diana Stanley  
Chief Executive Officer





**MEDIA  
SUPPORT**

# Leelanau Enterprise

M I C H I G A N N E W S P A P E R O F T H E Y E A R

Thursday, March 9, 2023 LEELANAU ENTERPRISE Section 1, Page 7

## ‘The Razor’s Edge’ PBS film highlights poverty, homelessness

Leelanau service organizations filmed, to be featured

By Meakalia Previch-Liu  
[mea@leelanaunews.com](mailto:mea@leelanaunews.com)



Mary Stanton, Leelanau Christian Neighbors executive director, was one of several people that director and producer Keith Famie interviewed for his upcoming PBS documentary called “The Razor’s Edge,” which highlights poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness in America. Photo courtesy of Keith Famie

Poverty and food insecurity is very much prevalent even in scenic areas like the Leelanau peninsula, and this fact is portrayed in a new PBS film currently in the making.

Director and producer Keith Famie and his film crews from Visionalist Entertainment were out this past week filming in Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties for an upcoming PBS documentary on poverty and homelessness in America. The film called “The Razor’s Edge” highlights what daily life looks like for individuals that are in a state of poverty, but also features several respected organizations in the northern community that help these individuals and families with both food and shelter. While Detroit is the home base for the film’s production, it also explores homelessness from the perspective of a wide range of cultures, including large urban cities to rural locales around the country.

“There’s a thought that we all live on ‘the razor’s edge’ to some extent, we don’t realize how close we are to food insecurity, a poverty situation, or even homelessness,” said Famie. “The reason I wanted to do this film is because quite often people see

somebody panhandling or homeless, and their natural inclination is, ‘well, there’s plenty of jobs out there, they can go get a job.’ I thought let’s take a deeper dive into understanding what it is about homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity — how do you get there and end up in that situation?”

Representatives from local organizations like 5loaves2fish and Leelanau Christian Neighbors (LCN) were interviewed while Famie and his crew made their way around the county earlier this week. Michelle and Bill White, 5loaves2fish founders, were interviewed for the work they do as an outreach group that promotes social justice by providing nourishing meals to those experiencing food insecurity and homelessness, and LCN executive director Mary Stanton talked about how the nonprofit functions with a volunteer workforce of more than 200 people. Josh Deters, restaurant owner of the VI Grill and Fiddleheads, was also interviewed for the meal contributions that he puts together weekly for those in-need.

“We forget the people who are living under the radar, we don’t see them. We just don’t realize that they’re here, so we were really excited to hear that Keith and his organization were going to do this film so that everyone can realize what food insecurity is all about,” said Stanton of LCN. “These are really wonderful people living a normal life that just happen to fall in the cracks, and our job at LCN is to help them out of that... and with the support of our community, we can do that. We’re here every day to help them, and we help them one person at a time.”

Famie said as important as it is to understand the circumstances of those living in poverty, it’s equally important to understand who is helping those in-need and why they do it. Despite the presence of many wealthy individuals in the area, Famie explained how there is an ongoing need for services from groups like LCN to help so many others living in poverty.

“Families can’t afford those starter homes, so when you lose that youth base, you lose the ability to grow your communities... and that’s what we’re really learning,” he said. “As a filmmaker, what I’m walking away with from my short time of filming up here is what an amazing community this is and how individuals harmoniously work together to tackle a problem... It’s sad to see, and at the same time it’s inspiring and heartwarming how the community helps each other.”

For those interested in learning more about the film, go to <https://therazorsedgefilm.com>.

5Loaves2Fish’s team of volunteers in the kitchen prepping meals.  
Photo courtesy of Keith Famie



## ‘The Razor’s Edge’ films in northern Michigan

By Alexandra Dailey Special to the Record-Eagle  
March 31, 2023



Tiffany McQueer of Project Feed the Kids, Inc. filmed with Keith Famie at their J&S Hamburg on South Airport location. Photos special to the Record-Eagle/Keith Famie

TRAVERSE CITY — Director, producer, author, and celebrity chef Keith Famie, along with his Visionalist Entertainment Production team, visited Traverse City and Leelanau to film footage for “The Razor’s Edge,” a PBS documentary highlighting the daily lives of those who face poverty and homelessness.

“The Razor’s Edge” will show viewers what a day in the life is like for individuals who live on the razor’s edge of society, facing poverty with no place but the streets to call home.

Although the documentary is based out of Detroit, with a focus on the churches and organizations that care for the homeless and those without enough food, the film incorporates a range of cultural perspectives, including those of large urban cities and rural locales around the country.

While in northern Michigan, Famie and his team met with several organizations striving to help the poverty-stricken and homeless.

Michelle and Bill White, founders of 5Loaves2FishNMI, were interviewed about their organization’s work as an outreach group that promotes social justice and provides homemade meals to anyone experiencing food insecurity and homelessness.

“No questions are asked of anyone,” said Michelle White. “The big thing is to maintain dignity. You are in a circumstance. I just want to be there to help you.”

Leelanau Christian Neighbors is also featured in the documentary and offers several programs to help community members in their time of need. Blessings in a Backpack is one such program that feeds school-age children who receive meals through the federally funded Free and Reduced Meal Program.

“Our mission is to ‘serve residents of Leelanau County by aiding those with inadequate resources,’” said Mary Stanton, executive director of Leelanau Christian Neighbors. “We hope that with the food we distribute, we are making a huge difference in the lives of our neighbors.”

HomeStretch Nonprofit Housing Corporation, Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness, Project Feed the Kids, Inc., and Goodwill Northern Michigan are some of the other featured organizations in the documentary. Ryan Hannon, Goodwill Northern

Michigan’s community engagement officer, took part in a filmed interview, and then together, Hannon and Famie visited a homeless camp in Traverse City.

“I’m grateful for Keith’s willingness to show the world the realities of what people who are homeless go through via ‘The Razor’s Edge,’” said Hannon. “We were able to help Keith and his team get a glimpse of homelessness in our area. I hope this film can increase understanding of the complex issue of homelessness, as well as break stigma and increase empathy for people going through it.”

“I feel it’s important to give a voice to those who have found themselves in what most of us would view as an unimaginable situation,” said Famie. “As important as that story is, the story of those who choose to do this outreach work is equally important. This helps the audience understand what efforts are being made and why these people chose to spend their lives helping those who have slipped through the cracks of society. For these are the true unsung heroes taking care of those who are often viewed by society as lost souls who don’t deserve help.”

Known as a celebrity chef and metro Detroit restaurateur, Famie was also a finalist on “Survivor, the Australian Outback” and the host of his own Food Network series — “Keith Famie’s Adventures” — before he dove headfirst into filmmaking.

For nearly two decades, Famie has been immersed in the realm of documentary filmmaking, helping people tell their stories through films like “Those on the Front

Lines of Cancer” or “Chromosomally Enhanced: What’s Your Superpower?” which took a deep dive into the lives of those living and thriving with Down syndrome. His Visionalist Entertainment Productions resonate with a broad audience and garnered 12 Michigan Emmys, among other awards and nominations.

“I’m drawn to the inspiring perseverance of those facing complicated, often misunderstood journeys. Homelessness and food insecurity are so complex, with a multitude of degrees and levels,” added Famie. “My intention with this film is to help society understand that we all live on the razor’s edge. A few catastrophic circumstances can send your life or a loved one’s life into extreme poverty or homelessness if you don’t have a support network.”

By visiting these organizations and interviewing the individuals who run them, “The Razor’s Edge” will be able to address numerous issues, including what defines poverty and homelessness, how someone becomes homeless, what role mental health plays in homelessness, and how society views homelessness.

“The chance to work with Keith Famie on ‘The Razor’s Edge’ provides us the opportunity to educate a larger audience on the complexities of homelessness and food insecurity and what we can do to make big change,” said White, who helped provide 10,300 meals in 2022 to those in need through 5Loaves2FishNMI. “It is our hope and prayer that, through Keith’s documentary, we can begin to not only educate society on the many issues of homelessness and food insecurity but begin to connect the dots, pulling both public and private sectors together to address not only the symptoms but also the causes.”

To learn more about ‘The Razor’s Edge’ journey and how to become a supporter, visit [therazorsedgefilm.com](http://therazorsedgefilm.com).



### **St. George Table Filmed for *The Razor's Edge* Documentary on PBS**

Director/Producer Keith Famie of Visionalist Entertainment Productions, Detroit, Michigan, was in town several days in late March to early April filming a PBS documentary on poverty, hunger and homelessness in America. The filming schedule for *The Razor's Edge* now in production included The Lord's Place, CROS Ministries and the feeding program at St. George Table. The Reverend Jim Cook, Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church & School and board member of St. George Table, spearheaded a special serving of St. Mark's signature meatloaf meal on Saturday, April 1st to showcase the work of St. George Table in the community.

Famie and his production crew started out at First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach where meatloaves prepared by St. Mark's parishioners were heated and side dishes were prepared under the direction of St. George Table Cook, Smieley Swails. The crew transitioned over to Victory City Church to film plating and serving the meal while hungry and homeless guests told their stories of misfortune and the blessing of St. George Table.

Unfortunately, hunger and homelessness are not unique to Palm Beach County, so Famie's stop here was just one leg of the journey in filming the documentary story set to air on PBS sometime in 2024. We'll be sure to let you know when to stay tuned....

**To show your support for the important work of St. George Table, donations can be made online at [stgeorgetable.org](http://stgeorgetable.org) or mailed to:**

**St. George Table  
PO Box 10584  
Riviera Beach, FL 33419-0584**

#### **Our Contact Information**

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Riviera Beach, FL 33419-0584  
(561) 844-7713

<http://www.stgeorgetable.org>

# EMMY AWARD-WINNING VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1997 BY PRODUCER / DIRECTOR KEITH FAMIE. SINCE THESE EARLY YEARS, FAMIE AND HIS TEAM HAVE PRODUCED A WIDE RANGE OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMS.

## DOCUMENTARIES

- Ice Warriors (2005)** An action-packed journey with the Detroit Red Wings' Alumni team through Russia.
- Our Italian Story (2006)** Progress, passion and promise – Detroit's Italian heritage.
- Our Arab American Story (2007)** Reverence, resourcefulness and respect- Detroit's Arab American Heritage.
- Our Greek Story (2007)** Antiquity, modernity, and destiny- Detroit's Greek Heritage.
- Our Polish Story (2007)** Family, faith and fortitude- Detroit's Polish Heritage.
- Our India Story (2008)** Amity, diversity and sovereignty- Detroit's Indian Heritage.
- Detroit: Our Greatest Generation (2009)** A tribute to our Michigan WWII veterans, both men and women, who fought for the freedom of our families and our country.
- Our Vietnam Generation (2011)** A long overdue welcome home to the men and women who served during Vietnam.
- Can You See How I See? (2011)** An inspiring look into the life of those who are without sight.
- One Soldier's Story (2011)** the profound story of Sgt. Michael Ingram, Jr. and his legacy.
- The Embrace of Aging: Men's Series (2012)** 13-part series on men and 7-part series on women.
- The Embrace of Aging: Women's Series (2014)** 13-part series on women and 7-part series on men.
- The Embrace of Dying (2015)** 8-part series on how we deal with the end of life.
- Maire's Journey (2016)** Follow Maire Kent as she sets sail on an epic journey to fulfill her dying wish.
- Death is NOT the Answer (2016)** A deep look into the complex world of depression and suicide.
- Enlisted (2017)** Choice. Adventure. Growth. Why would one enlist in the military?
- Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's & Dementia (2018)** What can be done to stop this truly devastating disease?
- Those on the Front Lines of Cancer (2019)** Can the uncommon journey that cancer patients undergo result in anything positive?
- Blessed Solanus Casey's Journey to Sainthood (2019)** How does a humble boy from Irish immigrant parents rise to the rare and distinguished honor of beautification?
- Shoah Ambassadors (2021)** Bridging the chasm of the younger generation of today with that of the Holocaust generation through the exploration journey that two young non-Jewish individuals go on.
- Hospice Care in America Today (2022)** Where did Hospice originate? Why is this service so important for end of life care?
- Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower? (2022)** A story of those living and thriving with Down Syndrome.
- Detroit: The City of Churches (2022)** The significance the many Detroit churches played on some of the most iconic moments in Detroit's history.

## MICHIGAN EMMY AWARD WINNERS

- Taste of Taiwan (2006)**  
On-Camera Talent – Keith Famie
- Our Italian Story (2006)**  
Best Human Interest Special, Best Director
- Our Polish Story (2007)**  
Best Director: Post-Production
- Our Greek Story (2007)**  
Best Cultural Documentary,  
Best Human Interest Program Special
- Our Arab American Story (2007)**  
Societal Concerns Program Special
- Our India Story (2008)**  
Best Documentary Cultural
- Detroit: Our Greatest Generation (2009)**  
Best Editor
- Our Vietnam Generation (2011)**  
Best Documentary Historical
- The Embrace of Aging: The Female Perspective of Growing Old (2014)**  
Best Director: Post-Production
- Shoah Ambassadors (2021)**  
Best Director, Best Lighting, Best Editing

## PRODUCTIONS IN 2023 / 2024

- Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars -**  
A celebration of the unique Detroit hot rod & muscle car community and how Motor City iron has circumnavigated the globe and shaped world culture.
- Detroit: The City by The River -** A journey up and down our beloved Detroit River, to uncover the richness of the past and gain a better understanding of where the river's meandering course will take us in the future.
- Fork in the Road: A Path They Did Not Choose -** Step into the lives of children who are thrust into the world of foster care through a series of life circumstances they had nothing to do with.
- Walk the Walk: Living on the Razor's Edge -** A day in the lives of those that live on the razor's edge of society who face poverty and survival every day with many calling the streets their home.

## AWARDS & HONORS

### 2016 - Maire's Journey-

- DOCUTAH 2016 – International Documentary Film Festival – Winner

### 2021 - Shoah Ambassadors-

- Toronto Indie Filmmakers Festival - Best Feature Documentary - Winner
- SR Socially Relevant Film Festival NY – Honorable Mention
- Tokyo International Short Film Festival – Honorable Mention
- Austin Lift-Off Film Festival – Official Selection
- LA Documentary Film Festival – Official Selection
- Miami Jewish Festival – Official Selection
- Santa Monica Film Festival – Official Selection
- Malibu Film Festival – Official Selection

### 2022 - Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower?-

- Grand Rapids Film Festival - Award Winner





## **Keith Famie** **Director/Producer/Author**

Director/Producer Keith Famie was, for many years, known as a celebrity chef and a metro Detroit restaurateur. He was selected as one of America's "Best New Chefs" in 1989 by Food and Wine magazine; Esquire Magazine chose his restaurants as "Best New Restaurant" in America on two separate occasions. Famie was also a finalist on the 2001 reality television series, "Survivor, the Australian Outback."

Keith hosted his own Food Network series, "Keith Famie's Adventures," traveling the world documenting cooking styles from the plains of Africa to monk monasteries of Taiwan, to the lifestyle of Key West. In 2004, the Adventure Chef embarked on a new journey - documentary filmmaking. "I didn't want to be the 'Adventure Chef' guy anymore. I wanted to help people tell their stories."

Since that life-changing decision, Famie has been awarded twelve Michigan Emmys and been nominated several other times for his rich, human-interest storytelling, from ethnic documentaries to military tribute films. He and his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions create informative, entertaining films that touch a wide audience.

Along with documentary filmmaking, Famie has released several books throughout his career, *Famie's Adventures in Cooking* (2001), *You Really Haven't Been There Until You've Eaten the Food* (2003), *Living Through the Lens* (2019), and *Papa's Rules for Life* (2021).

Outside of documentary production, Keith is involved in charitable projects. In 2003, Keith finished the 25th anniversary Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kona with Team In Training for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In 2015, he was awarded the 2015 Diamond Award by the Association for Women in Communications Detroit Chapter. In 2017, Keith was presented the Media Award by the Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit, and in 2023, Keith was awarded a Dove Award from The Arc of Oakland County for Media Distinction. Over the years, Keith has been actively involved in several well-respected, Michigan-based 501(c)(3) organizations that support everything from children with cancer and hunger relief to veterans' issues.

Visionalist Entertainment Productions | [www.v-prod.com](http://www.v-prod.com)

