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Press Release

For Immediate Release
July 26, 2016

Fresno County Public Library's "Our Lives" Video Wins Award

The Fresno County Public Library's (FCPL) video project, "Our Lives: Surviving the Streets of Fresno," was selected as a winner of the California Library Association's (CLA) PRExcellence Award.

"Our Lives" is a documentary about the homeless in downtown Fresno. The film is unique in that it was made by homeless participants with the help of FCPL staff. It aims to increase community awareness of homelessness and encourage wider discussion of the topic.

The project earned the CLA award for the strong promotion and public relations campaign that followed its completion. A member of the judging panel said: "It's a touching and most impactful entry that continues to resonate...You cannot help but be drawn in and touched by it."

The public screening of the film drew standing-room-only crowds and generated vulnerable discussions among the housed and unhoused, during its two Fresno-area showings.

Funding for "Our Lives" came from the federal Library Services Technology Act (LSTA), which is administered by the California State Library.

To find out more about this project and view the film, visit www.fresnolibrary.org or www.survivingfresno.blogspot.com. The video is also available for borrowing from the Library.

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