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Human Powered—The Power of Untold Stories

"It was freeing. Because for the first time in my life, I felt understood. And I didn't feel like I was hiding who I was anymore. And it just, it gave me the permission to be able to start to move forward and try to heal." Traci Powell, participant in Untold Stories

Human trafficking occurs in every corner of Wisconsin, from schools to restaurants and hotel rooms in big cities and small towns. Human Powered is a show about how people make places better. In this episode of Human Powered podcast, we'll hear from Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, who has dedicated her life to serving survivors of human trafficking and sexual assault. She founded a legal rights clinic for survivors of human trafficking (LOTUS) and Untold Stories, a space for survivors to share their voice through their writing and artwork.

In this episode we will also hear from people who have been impacted by human trafficking. Lisa McCormick's son died in 2016 while he was being trafficked. Today she works with law enforcement to address arrest policies for youth. You will also hear from Traci Powell, a mental health nurse practitioner that attended the Untold Stories workshop and plans to start a similar program in Orlando.

"People find there is justice in being authentically seen and heard, and feeling like something that they've said might be actually changing somebody's hearts and minds... It matters. And I think when we do it the way we do it at Untold Stories, it breaks down the barriers toward people's resistance to change." - Rachel Monaco-Wilcox, founder of LOTUS

Human Powered is about how people make places better. In six episodes, our host Jimmy Gutierrez takes us to meet real people whose passion and purpose are infectious. We travel to communities around the state to hear their stories and learn about their projects — how did the idea originate, what motivated people to come together, and the ups and downs along the way. We invite you to get to know Wisconsin and your neighbors a bit better. And you may even be inspired by the power each of us has to make a difference.

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About Wisconsin Humanities

Wisconsin Humanities strengthens the roots of community life through educational and cultural programs that inspire civic participation and individual imagination.

<https://wisconsinhumanities.org/podcast/>

About Love Wisconsin

Love Wisconsin uses storytelling and social media to bring about a more connected, compassionate, and engaged Wisconsin. <https://www.lovewi.com/>

About the Host

Jimmy Gutierrez is a journalist, storyteller and audio producer from Milwaukee. He's currently working on filling information gaps in Milwaukee's low-wealth neighborhoods with the help of Stanford's JSK Fellowship. He's helped launch, co-host and produce a number of different podcasts during his time at New Hampshire Public Radio. You can find him out sledding while there's still snow.