

FROM STRUGGLE TO SCREEN

“A Short Film on Overcoming Addiction”

Gene Blair
Jr.

1

INTRODUCTION

- Based in Sharon, Pennsylvania
- “Get-2-Work”
- “The Casey Malone Show”
- Board Member: Mercer County Creative Arts
- Volunteer: “The George A. Romero Foundation”



2

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Bus Stop films: “Inclusion in Action”
- Certified Recovery Specialist



3

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- PA Direct Support Professional of the year

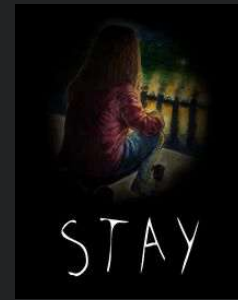
A graphic celebrating Gene Blair, Jr. as the 2021 Pennsylvania DSP of the Year. It features a photo of him in a production setting. The text reads: "2021 PENNSYLVANIA DSP OF THE YEAR Gene Blair, Jr. Whole Life Services Sharon, PA". Below the photo, a quote states: "'Geno,' as his friends know him, is all about turning the mundane into the amazing. He took a small videotaping project and turned it into a respected and sought-after production company. It began when Geno used a sportscaster's cue cards as a method to help an individual achieve a goal of recognizing sight words. He then helped other people he supports achieve their communication goals by offering them roles in the company conducting interviews, serving as copyeditors, and becoming production assistants. Now, Geno's entire crew has exceeded their goals!"

A screenshot of a website article. The header includes a menu icon, the "PCG" logo, and a search icon. The main image shows two men in a control room looking at a computer monitor. The article title is "Pittsburgh-area support worker recognized for teaching video skills to individuals with intellectual disabilities". Below the title is the quote: "'we always look for the good in people'".

4

FILM PROJECTS

- Inclusive short film:
“STAY”
- Veterans Awareness Film
Productions



- The Purple Cat: Easter Seals Disability Film Challenge



5

THE GOAL

- Humanize addiction
- Highlight paths to recovery
- Inspire viewers through authentic, First-person narratives
- Shattering stigmas associated with addiction

6

OVERVIEW

- Each film will focus on individual stories
 - Unique story of struggle
 - Resiliency
 - Triumph
- Tone
 - Respectful
 - Compassionate
 - Cinematic
 - Reflect the seriousness and sensitivity of the subject matter

7

OBJECTIVE & IMPACT

- Shed light on the many faces of addiction & recovery. Featuring individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- This Project aims to
 - Expand Audience reach
 - Encourage empathy and educate
 - Offer hope to those currently struggling
 - Support Awareness
 - Educational efforts
 - Community outreach

*Each film will serve as a testament to resilience and be a reminder that recovery is possible
in many forms*

8

PRODUCTION QUALITY

- Ensure each story is presented with highest level of professionalism and care
- Each film will include
 - Cinematic visuals
 - High quality audio
 - Lighting that supports emotional tone
 - Licensed music that compliments the mood
 - Editing to create emotional narratives
 - Supplemental footage (family photos, letters, ect.)



9

WHY I WANT TO DO THIS

- Hearing different stories and seeing what others went through saved my life.

More importantly:

- These types of stories matter.
 - These stories can and DO save lives.
- Not a production job, a life mission.
 - Knowing that just one person could see the work, and it could impact them, is priceless.

10

The following content has been edited for time.

11

“Instead of saying addict, we acknowledge: ‘A human being who has suffered so much that they found some release from unbearable suffering.’”

-Dr. Gabor Mate’

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

12