

Living Bridges Project Transcript
To Be Brave - Excerpt: Justice Would Have Looked Like

[Music]

VOICEOVER: The following audio is part of the Living Bridges Project, an anonymous story-collecting project documenting responses to child sexual abuse. For more, please visit LivingBridgesProject.com.

[Music]

STORYTELLER: I think that justice would have—a beautiful response I think would have been... Well, one, it could have happened early on, when those other parents told other parents what was happening, rather than families cutting themselves and their kids off from Jordan and his family. It would have looked like coming together. Having families who were interconnected through all of us playing together mostly; to come together and say, “who else has this happened to?” And to talk to Jordan and saying, “why is this happening, Jordan? Is someone doing something to you?” and that could have been justice early on. That would be my preference. Justice early on and the interruption as a coming together as a community. And that would have been lovely. That would’ve been so good. And we almost could have! My mom had this family daycare in her home; they had strong relationships with each other. My mom was essentially a mom for all those kids. We had the relationships, you would think, but I don’t think we had examples of cycles of violence. So, if my mom had thought, oh if we push ourselves now to interrupt this, it will help long term. But she thought, I’m protecting my baby; there, I’ve protected her. When really, more harm happened later on because they didn’t meet, they didn’t talk about it.

I wish that Jordan had responded to my Facebook messages. I wish that he had apologized. I wish that he had said, do you want to talk on the phone? I think I would have been most comfortable talking on the phone with him. And I wish that he could tell me more about his journey too. So, whether or not it was because of what was happening to him, or if it wasn’t, I would also want to know that. And it would change things for me, you know?

If people respond when you ask for help, that’s healing.

[Music]

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