

StoryCorps Interview from the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

Van Whaley and his daughter Ivy Whaley

Van Whaley: What do you like from the library?

Ivy Whaley: The arts and crafts.

VW: Yeah. I love my collection of stuff that we've made at the library together. We have three years worth of Christmas ornaments. And I love looking at the reindeer you made in 2012, and the reindeer you made in 2013, and seeing the skills you've developed over the years.

IW: I remember we cut out pieces of mice and we used a candy cane for its tail and we glued on eyes.

VW: And I kept that Christmas ornament hanging from my lamp on my desk, beside my computer, for a year and a half. And everybody would say "Why do you have a Christmas ornament in July?" And I would say, "Because my daughter made it for me."

I'll tell you my favorite memory of going to the library with you. And this was even before you were in Kindergarten. And at the library at West Sahara, they have those stairs, and each stair has a letter of the alphabet. And we would hold hands and go up the library stairs and you would say the letters—A, B, C, D, E. And always somewhere around the letter Q you got stuck, so we had to just stand there on the stairs. And sometimes you would almost fall over, looking down to see what letter we were standing on, or trying to look ahead and see the next letter. But it wasn't until you said Q that we could go to the next step.

You're ten years old now. That was when you were four years old, and I'll always remember that. That's what the library means to me, because that's where you grew up.