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Biography - Diane Nilan

Diane Nilan, founder/president of HEAR US Inc., has 3 decades of experience running shelters; advocating for improved state and federal policies; filming/producing award-winning documentaries, *My Own Four Walls* and *on the edge: Family Homelessness in America*; writing her book on homelessness, *Crossing the Line: Taking Steps to End Homelessness*; addressing audiences from Columbia University to Congress; and inspiring a "compassion epidemic" to address homelessness.

Since 2005, Nilan has lived in a small motorhome and traveled over 225,000 miles of mostly backroads chronicling non-urban family/youth homelessness.

Her latest project is a series of documentaries exploring homeless families/youth in doubled up situations, *Worn Out Welcome Mat.* She has filmed WOWM in Texas and Kansas.

She also:

- Blogs on invisible homeless kids and Wanderings.
- Utilizes social media to increase attention on issues affecting homeless families/youth.
- Presents at workshops and conferences nationwide.