Digital Storytelling: Stories of Parents and Children Battling Diabetes

The purpose of this project is the creation of digital stories to be utilized 1) in the Choctaw Nation pediatric clinics, 2) on the AIDPC website and, 3) for distribution across Indian Country. Families of children with T1D and T2D will be asked to participate in a three-day workshop in which the families create their own stories. The stories will allow them to share their successes in managing diabetes and the stressors endemic to diabetes care within the family setting. The use of “story-telling” as an instructional device is a highly valued approach to learning in the American Indian culture. Families will work with AIDPC to create digital stories through the use of pictures, audio-voice-over, and personalized accounts of familial diabetes experience in which problems have been solved, highlighting the medical and emotional issues surrounding diabetes. Digital stories will be placed in the Choctaw Nation pediatric clinic for continuous viewing by families and children as well as being placed on the AIDPC website for viewing by all.

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Making the experience of coping with diabetes personal via real stories of courage and fortitude has a learning impact that is stronger than any other means.