Poppi Handy and Brent Chastain

PH: The only time that I was actually homeless was when I was in high school, We moved around a lot when I was a kid. I mean I can always remember not really feeling very safe and stable. So, one of the reasons why I actually joined the swim team was because we had morning practices and so it gave me a reason to get to school early so that I could take a shower before school without having to go and like try and figure out how to explain to people why I was there taking a shower in the morning. Which is totally ridiculous.

BC: You were taking care of your siblings.

PH: Oh yeah, because nobody else was there to do it. I would get them up and get them ready for school in the morning. Which is kind of ironic now since you do it.

BC: Since I get up with the kids –

PH: I know, I had a lifetime of it already and so now I'm like it's your turn. And then I always worked and so I’d often have to buy groceries for the family -- the normal things a parent would do because my mom was always gone or high or whatever, I don’t know.

BC: Obviously a big focus of what you do now is on affordable housing and homelessness.

PH: I focus my career on projects that have to do with really enlivening and enhancing the communities in which we live. From providing affordable housing to doing learning centers to shelters, community centers -- making things more accessible to all the different people in our society instead of just the well off or the communities where our politicians think they should spend the tax dollars. I always felt like if my mom had only been educated then maybe she would have had a different perspective and not had to depend on my dad. And I'm not talking about just school, I'm just talking about general education about how their life could be different, how they could be self supportive and have the self esteem to be able to support them and their children. I hope that I have really succeeded in showing my daughters what a strong mother can be like and giving them a strong role model to follow. That's really what's important to me.

BC: My last words are just to say that I love you so much and yes, that strongness and that strength is probably one of the -- probably is the single thing that makes me love you that much.