



## **STORIES IN LIVING COLOR – TELLER INFORMATION FORM**

LAST NAME: Bonnie Gardner

FIRST NAME: 57

EMAIL ADDRESS: bgardner@gmail.com

PHONE (OPTIONAL): 301-873-9413

LOCATION (CITY or TOWN, STATE): Vienna, Virginia  
(Country if outside USA)

IDENTIFYING ETHNIC GROUP: White

COMMUNITY (OPTIONAL):

Please put something in either or both of the above fields. The “community” field is meant for communities that experience discrimination such as religious groups, LGBTQ groups, etc.

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF STORY IDEA, THEME, KEY INTERSECTIONAL INFORMATION; Other tellers will contact you if what you put here resonates with them, their experiences, and their stories:

I’m a former journalist and magazine editor who made the transition to IT but never lost my love of telling a good story. When I’m not at my day job, I volunteer on the board of Big Big World Project, which provides for the education and health needs of children living in two orphanages in southeastern Vietnam. One of these orphanages is the place my child called home before I adopted him. I’m a white woman who has lived in the Washington, DC area my entire life.

I’m a white woman parenting a child adopted from Vietnam. In the winter of 2017, a month after Trump took office, my child, only 10 at the time, was a target of a hateful, racist act. It was followed by an outpouring of support from our community, but it was a dramatic wake-up call to me about the need to get out of my liberal bubble and confront the racism that people of color face daily. My story is about the event and about my journey to understand my privilege, commit myself to being an ally, and learn more about parenting transracially.