



Chicago HOPES for Kids
Identity Mapping and Connecting Your Why
Learning Series: Day 4

Learning Objectives:

- Members will share aspects of their identity with the larger group.
- Members will reflect on the ways in which they carry aspects of their identity in the work they do.
- Members will develop a personal purpose statement.
- Members will reflect on their connection to the Chicago HOPES for Kids mission and the way in which it fits within their larger purpose.

Intro:

- Welcome to Chicago HOPES for Kids! We are so excited to have you and hope that this professional development series deepens your understanding of both your personal investment in the work that you do, as well as your understanding of the Chicago landscape of those experiencing homelessness. Throughout the next few weeks, you will be asked to engage with various materials and, at times, share your thoughts with the larger group. We understand that each member enters the “space” at different levels of understanding and experience with the topics at hand. We encourage everyone to participate as much as they feel comfortable and hope to create a bold space that facilitates learning.

Activity 1:

- Read “My Name” by Sandra Cisneros
 - While reading, underline or highlight words or phrases that give the reader information about how Esperanza would answer the question, “Who am I?”
- Complete Reflection Questions in Journal
- Create Identity Map (*to be shared with large group*)

“My Name” by Sandra Cisneros

Excerpted from *The House on Mango Street*

In English my name means hope. In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. It is like the number nine. A muddy color. It is the Mexican records my father plays on Sunday mornings when he is shaving, songs like sobbing.



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It was my great-grandmother's name and now it is mine. She was a horse woman too, born like me in the Chinese year of the horse—which is supposed to be bad luck if you're born female—but I think this is a Chinese lie because the Chinese, like the Mexicans, don't like their women strong.

My great-grandmother. I would've liked to have known her, a wild horse of a woman, so wild she wouldn't marry. Until my great-grandfather threw a sack over her head and carried her off. Just like that, as if she were a fancy chandelier. That's the way he did it.

And the story goes she never forgave him. She looked out the window her whole life, the way so many women sit their sadness on an elbow. I wonder if she made the best with what she got or was she sorry because she couldn't be all the things she wanted to be. Esperanza. I have inherited her name, but I don't want to inherit her place by the window.

At school they say my name funny as if the syllables were made out of tin and hurt the roof of your mouth. But in Spanish my name is made out of a softer something, like silver, not quite as thick as sister's name—Magdalena— which is uglier than mine. Magdalena who at least can come home and become Nenny. But I am always Esperanza.

I would like to baptize myself under a new name, a name more like the real me, the one nobody sees. Esperanza as Lisandra or Maritza or Zeze the X. Yes. Something like Zeze the X will do.

Reflection Questions

Please answer the follow questions in a journal:

1. What aspects of the character's identity do you learn through this excerpt? (ex: how she perceives herself, her values, where her family is from, etc.)
2. What aspects of the character's identity do we not learn from the excerpt?

Identity Map

The image below will be used as a tool to facilitate a discussion on identity as a large group (*so please only include what you are comfortable sharing*). Insert/draw images, words, etc. that represent different aspects of your identity. You **do not** have to use the example of a body and are welcome to use whatever format works for you - get

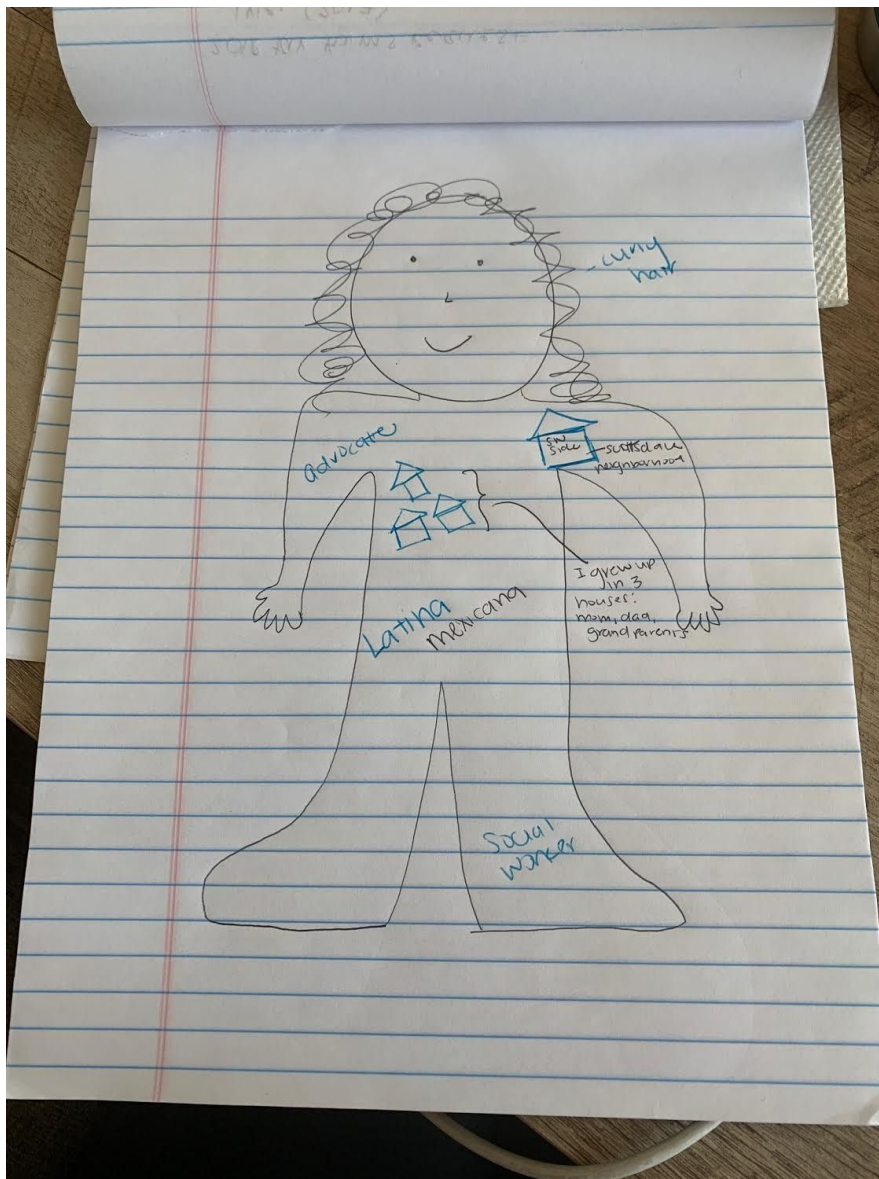


Chicago HOPES for Kids Identity Mapping and Connecting Your Why Learning Series: Day 4

creative! This will be shared either via the share screen tool or using the physical image if you decide to print it out/create your own on a piece of paper.

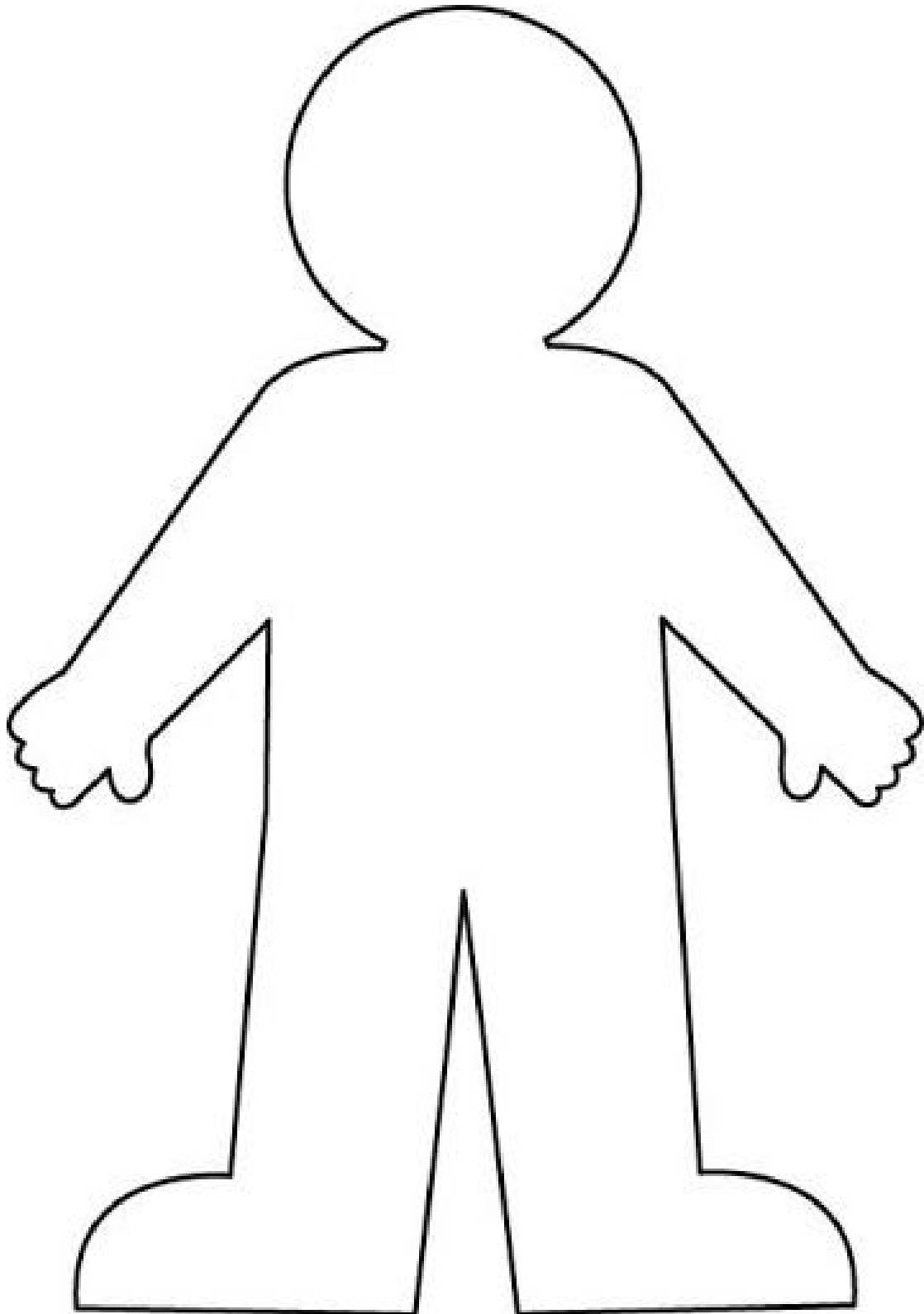
Example:

- I included wording that I would have otherwise presented in real time. Also, this was a really quick example and I do recognize that my drawing is sub par at best :) (Alex Galván)





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Learning Series: Day 4

Activity 2:

Now we are going to shift gears and focus on identifying what brings us to the work we do.

- Watch “[Knowing Your Why](#)” video
- Complete Reflection Questions in Journal

Reflection Questions

Please answer the follow questions in a journal:

Members will be asked to share their personal mission statements. All other questions will be shared on a volunteer-basis

1. What experiences have brought you to HOPES? (ex: I just graduated college and was looking for a job, I wanted to get involved in my community, I have a personal tie to the mission)
2. Why do you believe in this work? Why do you believe in the mission of HOPES?
 - a. HOPES Mission: Chicago HOPES for Kids provides educational support for children living in Chicago's homeless shelters. It is our mission to provide our students with the resources and encouragement needed to succeed academically, despite the challenges of homelessness.
3. Develop your own personal mission statement
 - a. Example from Alex Galván: My purpose is to help youth understand their experiences from an asset-based prospective, and in doing so, empower them to self-advocate and organize.
4. How does your identity shape your personal mission statement?
5. How does (or do you expect) your identity shape the way you “show up” in the work we do at HOPES?