**Where are the “Poor Kids” Now? FRONTLINE Expands Its Acclaimed Documentary Exploring Poverty Through the Eyes of Children**

FRONTLINE Presents

***Poor Kids***

Wednesday, November 22, 2017, at 10 p.m. ET / 9 p.m. CT

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Five years ago, in the Emmy-nominated documentary, ***Poor Kids***, FRONTLINE explored the economic crisis as it’s rarely seen: through the eyes of children.

Now, in a new version of ***Poor Kids*** premiering Wednesday, November 22, FRONTLINE continues its reporting on child poverty in America — revisiting the kids at the heart of the film to see what their lives are like now, and offering a powerful, firsthand look at what poverty means to children and the country.

Startling and intimate, the film is an indelible portrait of the realities of growing up poor in America, told by children in three families over the course of half a decade.

When FRONTLINE viewers first met Kaylie, Brittany, Jasmine, Johnny and their families, they were living in the Quad Cities, a crossroads along the border of Iowa and Illinois, and had been hit hard by the recession.

“I’m just starving. We don’t get that three meals a day, like breakfast, lunch and dinner,” said 10-year-old Kaylie. She worried about missing so much school as a result of her family’s transient existence: “If I keep missing school then I see my future poor, on the streets, in a box,” she said, from the motel room where she and her family were temporarily living.

It’s a worry that was all too familiar to 13-year-old Johnny, who along with his 9-year-old sister Jasmine and their other siblings had been living at a homeless shelter since their father’s business went south: “Grades is my only way out of here,” Johnny told FRONTLINE.

His sister, Jasmine, also yearned for a better life: “I’m embarrassed because I’m poor and because I live in a shelter,” she said. “It makes me feel like I just wish I never lived here.”

Then there’s nine-year-old Brittany, whose mother learned she was expecting another baby after her huband was laid off: “The baby’s future is gonna be weird and messed up,” Brittany said. “Life is gonna be hard because there is hardly gonna be any jobs left in the future.”

Where are Kaylie, Johnny, Jasmine, Brittany, and their families today? Scattered across the country and still struggling — but still persisting.

"I know it’s gonna be really hard,” says Kaylie, now 15. “But maybe someday in my future, I’ll graduate from college and push through life."

“No matter what I go through, I’ll still, like, wanna try and try and try to be better,” says Brittany, who like Kaylie is now 15.

“If you fall, you gotta get up, dust it off and keep on going,” says Johnny, now 19 and living with his grandmother on the south side of Chicago. “It’s the only thing you can do.”

Watch ***Poor Kids*** for the full story on how these children’s lives are now unfolding. With more than one in six of the nation’s children living below the poverty level, the film gives an unforgettable perspective on the impact of unemployment, foreclosure and financial distress through the eyes of the children directly impacted.

***Poor Kids*** premieres Wednesday, November 22, at 10 p.m. ET / 9 p.m. CT on PBS stations (check local listings) and online at pbs.org/frontline.

**Credits**

*Poor Kids* is a co-production of FRONTLINE and BBC with True Vision. The director is Jezza Neumann. The producers are Jezza Neumann and Lauren Mucciolo. Lucy Hetherington is the executive producer for the BBC. Sarah Waldron is the series producer for the BBC. The executive producer for True Vision is Brian Woods. The executive producer of FRONTLINE is Raney Aronson-Rath. The executive producer of FRONTLINE is Raney Aronson-Rath.

**About FRONTLINE**FRONTLINE, U.S. television’s longest running investigative documentary series, explores the issues of our times through powerful storytelling. FRONTLINE has won every major journalism and broadcasting award, including 89 Emmy Awards and 20 Peabody Awards. Visit [pbs.org/frontline](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/frontlinepbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/frontline), [Instagram](http://instagram.com/frontlinepbs), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/frontline), [Tumblr](http://frontlinepbs.tumblr.com/) and [Google+](https://plus.google.com/+frontline/posts) to learn more. Founded by David Fanning in 1983, FRONTLINE is produced by WGBH Boston and is broadcast nationwide on PBS. Funding for FRONTLINE is provided through the support of PBS viewers and by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Major funding for FRONTLINE is provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the Ford Foundation, the Park Foundation, The John and Helen Glessner Family Trust, the Heising-Simons Foundation and the FRONTLINE Journalism Fund with major support from Jon and Jo Ann Hagler on behalf of the Jon L. Hagler Foundation.

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