**Extraordinary Documentary Over 30 Years in the Making Follows the Economic Struggles of *Two American Families***

*From FRONTLINE, Bill Moyers and filmmakers Tom Casciato & Kathleen Hughes,* Two American Families: 1991-2024 *is a Remarkable Portrait of Two Families Navigating a Changing American Economy*

[***Two American Families: 1991-2024***](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/two-american-families/)

July 23, 2024

7/6c: [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/documenting-police-use-of-force/), [PBS App](https://www.pbs.org/pbs-app/)

10/9c: PBS stations ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/)), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@frontline)

& the [PBS Documentaries Prime Video Channel](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/storefront?ie=UTF8&benefitId=pbsdoc&pd_rd_w=jaV9l&pf_rd_p=4f4681c1-4528-47dd-bf61-c66d47adf7b6&pf_rd_r=GWK5A5WZXH14FH1CMMFK&pd_rd_r=2ec562c2-91bf-4a09-86ad-3939e089fa8d&pd_rd_wg=H6VfQ&qid=1624645405&linkCode=ll2&tag=sem_docs_general-20&linkId=f7030805de511b99f54545eb0528ac55&language=en_US&ref_=as_li_ss_tl&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwqpSwBhClARIsADlZ_TkFmLOYNmGC4DbSWExsBtyGErOVIY2bskq70E3cnKoiekzZQKcpprcaAtHVEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds)

www.facebook.com/frontline | X (formerly Twitter): @frontlinepbs

Instagram: @frontlinepbs | YouTube: youtube.com/frontline

It’s a central premise of the American dream: If you’re willing to work hard, you’ll be able to make a living and build a better life for your children.  
  
But what if working hard isn’t enough to get ahead — or even to ensure your family’s basic financial stability?  
  
***Two American Families: 1991-2024***, a special, two-hour documentary filmed over more than 30 years, is a portrait of perseverance from FRONTLINE and Bill Moyers that raises unsettling questions about the changing nature of the American economy and the impact on people struggling to make a living.   
  
Premiering Tuesday, July 23, 2024, this is the saga of two ~~f~~amilies in Milwaukee, Wisconsin — one Black, the Stanleys, and one white, the Neumanns — who have spent the past 34 years battling to keep from sliding into poverty, and who refuse to give up despite the economic challenges that their stories reveal.  
  
“There are so many people struggling the same way with the cost of everything and not getting enough on your paycheck to cover your monthly expenses,” said Terry Neumann, who was a young mom when Bill Moyers and his producers, Tom Casciato and Kathleen Hughes,began filming with her and is now a great-grandmother. “It's like we haven't come very far.”  
  
“There’s something that I always say: ‘So a man thinketh, so is he,’” said Jackie Stanley, the matriarch of the Stanley family. “If I think poverty all the time, I’ll act that way. I can’t afford to talk negative and then allow my children to see me that way, down or depressed.”  
  
When the team first began documenting the lives of the Stanleys and the Neumanns in 1991, both families’ breadwinners had lost well-paying manufacturing jobs. The families were struggling to adapt to a new, global economy and the trend towards part-time, lower-wage work.  
  
“When I got laid off, they wanted me to go on welfare, but I could not stand in that line,” Claude Stanley said at the time. “I just said, it’s not me … I got my strength, my health; I’m going to find me a job.”  
  
“It really bothers us that we have to depend on other people,” said Terry Neumann. “You just want to get up and … go in the car and go grocery shopping and have a normal life again.”  
  
With profound intimacy, ***Two American Families: 1991-2024*** chronicles the stories of the Neumanns and the Stanleys across six presidential administrations – offering a powerful window into how they and their now-grown children have fared while trying to stay afloat in an economy that has presented challenge after challenge for them. For the full story on how the Stanleys and the Neumanns are doing today, watch ***Two American Families: 1991-2024.***  
  
The film is the fifth installment in a series of widely-praised PBS documentaries following the two families that began in 1992 with *Minimum Wages: The New Economy*, and continued with three more films — a 1995 collaboration with FRONTLINE called *Living on the Edge,* a 2000 PBS special called *Surviving the Good Times* and the 2013 FRONTLINE documentary *Two American Families*. *The New Yorker* wrote that the latter film would “take its place among the central documents of our time,” and *Variety* said “It demands to be seen and discussed.”  
  
***Two American Families: 1991-2024*** will be available to watch in full at [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/documenting-police-use-of-force/) and in the PBS App starting July 23, 2024, at 7/6c. It will premiere on PBS stations ([check local listings](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/schedule/)) and on [FRONTLINE’s YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/@frontline) at 10/9c and will also be available on the [PBS Documentaries Prime Video Channel](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/storefront?ie=UTF8&benefitId=pbsdoc&pd_rd_w=jaV9l&pf_rd_p=4f4681c1-4528-47dd-bf61-c66d47adf7b6&pf_rd_r=GWK5A5WZXH14FH1CMMFK&pd_rd_r=2ec562c2-91bf-4a09-86ad-3939e089fa8d&pd_rd_wg=H6VfQ&qid=1624645405&linkCode=ll2&tag=sem_docs_general-20&linkId=f7030805de511b99f54545eb0528ac55&language=en_US&ref_=as_li_ss_tl&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwqpSwBhClARIsADlZ_TkFmLOYNmGC4DbSWExsBtyGErOVIY2bskq70E3cnKoiekzZQKcpprcaAtHVEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds). The documentary is distributed internationally by PBS International. Subscribe to FRONTLINE’s newsletter to get updates on events, podcast episodes and more related to *Two American Families: 1991-2024*.  
  
**Credits**  
***Two American Families: 1991-2024***is a FRONTLINE production with Okapi Productions LLC and Public Affairs Television, Inc. in association with Left/Right Docs. Produced and directed by Tom Casciato and Kathleen Hughes. The co-producer is Andrew Fredericks. Written by Kathleen Hughes. The correspondent is Bill Moyers. The editor-in-chief and 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 an Academy Award® as well as every major journalism and broadcasting award, including 106 Emmy Awards and 34 Peabody Awards. Visit [pbs.org/frontline](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/) and follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/frontlinepbs), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/frontline), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/frontlinepbs/) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3ScyryU9Oy9Wse3a8OAmYQ) to learn more. FRONTLINE is produced at GBH in 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. Additional support for FRONTLINE is provided by the Abrams Foundation, Park Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the FRONTLINE Journalism Fund, with major support from Jon and Jo Ann Hagler on behalf of the Jon L. Hagler Foundation, and additional support from Koo and Patricia Yuen, and Laura DeBonis.

**Press Contact:**

**FRONTLINE:** Anne Husted, Associate Director of Publicity, Communications and Awards | [frontlinemedia@wgbh.org](mailto:frontlinemedia@wgbh.org) | 6173005312