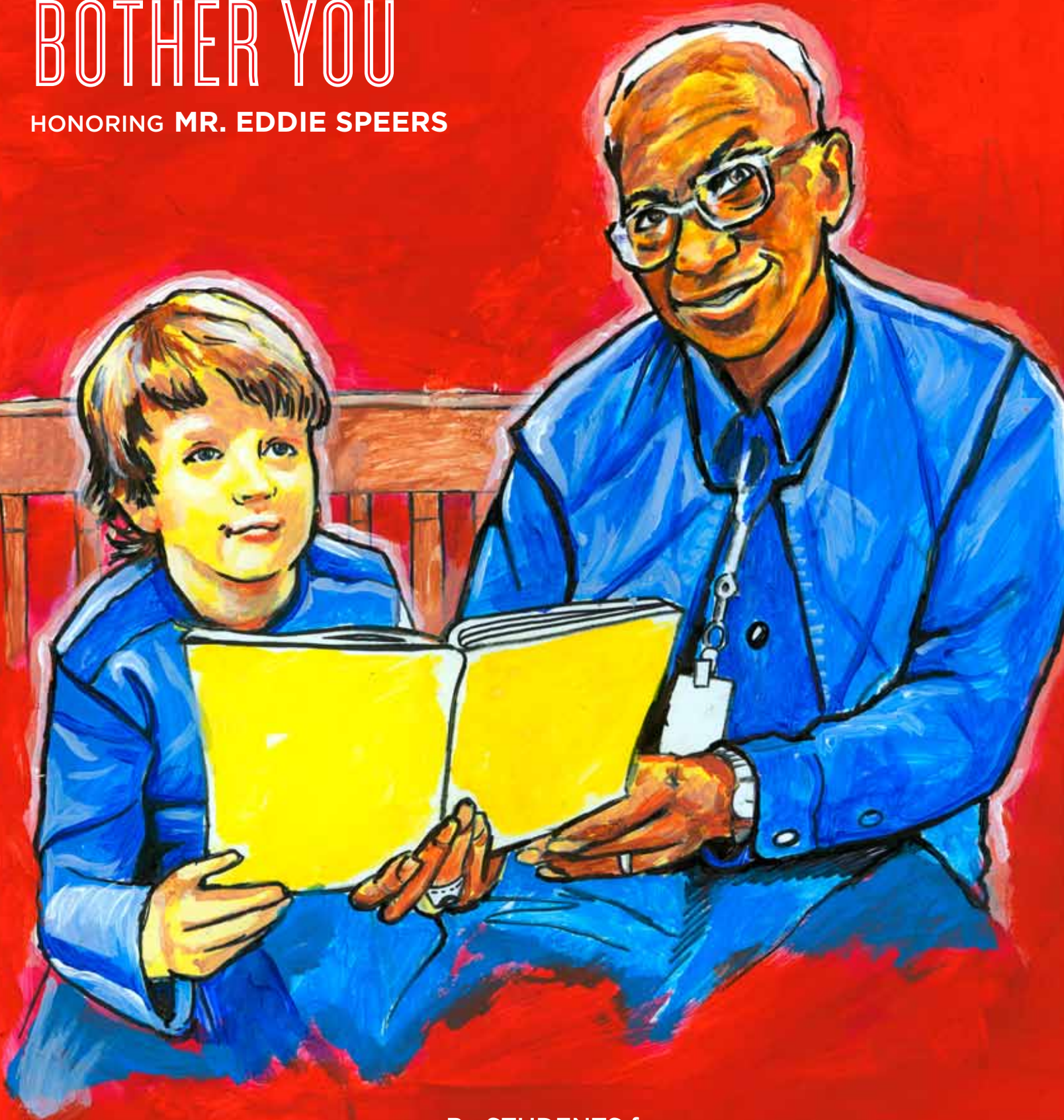


# DON'T LET NOTHING BOTHER YOU

HONORING MR. EDDIE SPEERS



By STUDENTS from  
HIAWATHA-HOWE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## **DON'T LET NOTHING BOTHER YOU**

Words & music by Larry Long with Patti Kremer's 4TH GRADE CLASS of Hiawatha-Howe Community School.

Illustrations by Artist Kenneth Antonio Rivera, Art Instructor at Hiawatha-Howe.

Community School Illustration models: 4TH GRADE STUDENTS

Music instructor: Janice Bauer

HIAWATHA-HOWE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Produced by:



Community Celebration of Place

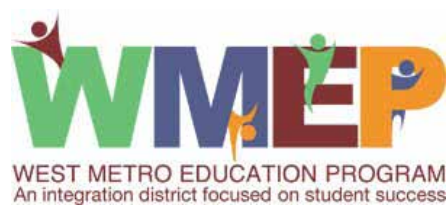
Box 581601

Minneapolis MN 55458-1601

Email: [larrylong@communitycelebration.org](mailto:larrylong@communitycelebration.org)

Web: [www.communitycelebration.org](http://www.communitycelebration.org)

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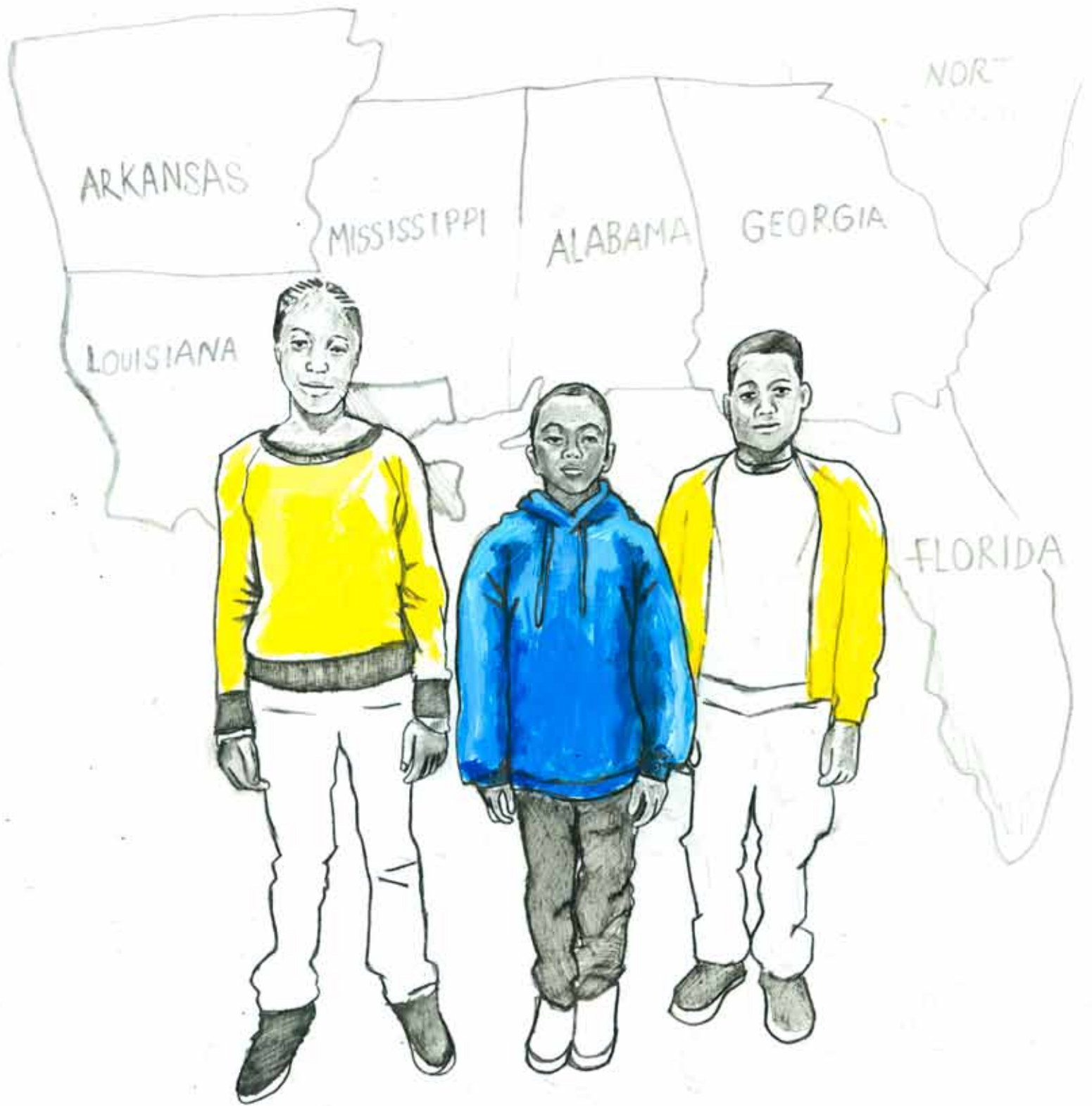


DON'T LET NOTHING  
BOTHER YOU

HONORING MR. EDDIE SPEERS







I was born in the South  
No Kindergarten in those days  
With one teacher  
Who taught first through eighth grade

In a one room school  
How she did it I don't know  
Besides the bus  
Walked a quarter mile  
To and from home



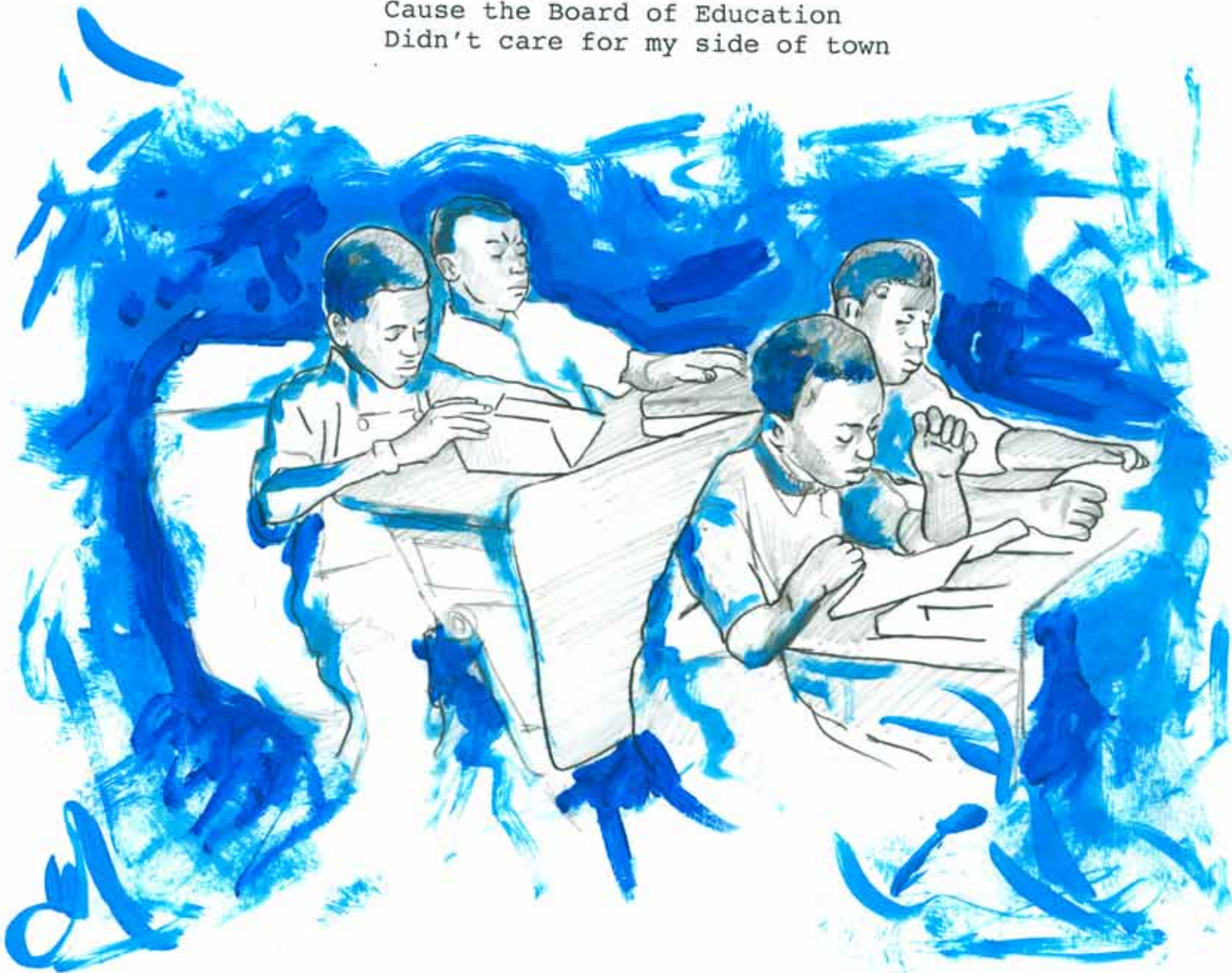
Just go straight, be upbeat  
Don't let nothing ever keep you from doing what you want to  
Don't let nothing bother you



And on the bus  
Us kids would ride  
To an all black school  
Beyond two white schools we went by



Where the paint and the blackboard  
Were ready to fall down  
Cause the Board of Education  
Didn't care for my side of town



Just go straight, be upbeat  
Don't let nothing ever keep you from doing what you want to  
Don't let nothing bother you



In those days  
Had to move to the back of the bus  
Just like Rosa Parks  
Until she had enough



Now times have changed  
Doesn't matter if you're black or white  
Take that chip off your shoulder  
And everything will be alright



Just go straight, be upbeat  
Don't let nothing ever keep you from doing what you want to  
Don't let nothing bother you



The second to the oldest  
Of ten in the family  
Had to figure out a way  
To get the younger kids  
To listen to me  
As a caretaker  
I didn't have much time  
To play baseball with my friends outside



Just go straight, be upbeat  
Don't let nothing ever keep you from doing what you want to  
Don't let nothing bother you



From a dishwasher,  
Waiter, pantry man  
To an airline mechanic  
In the Northland  
With a wife, two children  
Plus five grandkids  
Be good-natured,  
Don't let nothing get  
Under your skin



Just go straight, be upbeat  
Don't let nothing ever keep you from doing what you want to  
Don't let nothing bother you



Treat everybody in the same way  
You'd like to be treated, this we say  
Study, study, study and excel  
If you do, you will not fail

Just go straight, be upbeat  
Don't let nothing ever keep you from doing what you want to  
Don't let nothing bother you





## **ABOUT THIS BOOK:**

DON'T LET NOTHING BOTHER YOU was produced through an educational and cultural program created by Smithsonian Folkways Recording artist Larry Long, entitled Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song.

Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song is a program of Community Celebration of Place, a non-profit organization, which works with communities through music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children, elders, and people of different backgrounds-economic, faith, racial and cultural-in order to build intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for all schools and communities to prosper.

Dr. Tony Seeger, Curator Emeritus of Smithsonian Folkways, writes, "*When senior members of a community talk about their lives and work and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned from the elders, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work.*"



To learn more about Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song:  
[www.communitycelebration.org](http://www.communitycelebration.org)

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Community Celebration of Place  
Box 581601  
Minneapolis MN 55458-1601

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