

“In a world that asks us to focus on the things that can separate us, *A Peace of My Mind* invites us to rediscover the common humanity that connects us.”

– John Noltner



## Biography

John Noltner is the founder and executive director of *A Peace of My Mind*, a multimedia arts project that uses portraits and personal stories to bridge divides and encourage dialogue around important issues. Through exhibits, workshops, lectures, on-site studios, and distance learning, *A Peace of My Mind* leads transformative experiences that help a polarized world rediscover the common humanity that connects us.

John's most recent book, *Portraits of Peace: Searching for Hope in Divided America* offers a uniquely human and accessible examination of the social issues that most challenge us today, such as racial equality, immigration reform, LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, freedom of religion, and tolerance. Through the real-world stories of ordinary citizens who choose, in the midst of difficult circumstances, to pursue healing, reconciliation, and community building, we discover a glimmer of hope that something better is possible.

A gifted storyteller, John has worked on four continents, gathering stories of human courage, grace, and resilience. He has produced projects for national magazines, Fortune 500 companies, and non-profit organizations. He has lectured and led workshops across the country including engagements at the National Civil Rights Museum and the Sojourners Summit for Change. He has been invited for lectures and visiting fellowships at Cornell University and Rutgers Honors College and has engaged with dozens of colleges, civic organizations and faith communities across the country.

John and his wife Karen sold their Minnesota home in the fall of 2020 and currently live on the road, in their van Vinny, gathering new stories for *A Peace of My Mind*, from people across the country who are finding creative solutions to some of our most challenging issues.

A Peace of My Mind



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