

• LESSON FROM MY
LITTLE ONE



One Car Ride Can Change Everything

by Kelly Burch

My father lives in a group home for people with mental illness. On Christmas Eve last year my 2½-year-old daughter and I were driving my dad back to his home after our celebration. We stopped at a gas station and there was an unshaven homeless man panhandling. He looked like society's worst conception of people with mental illness and, despite my work as a mental-health advocate, I found myself giving him a tight smile and walking briskly past.