

Elvia lives in a large house that looks shabby from the outside, but it is really well maintained inside – very clean with nice furniture. A few of her kids were home when I arrived, and they entertained themselves during our interview and were very well behaved. Elvia had just returned from church and she was wearing a pink sweater and a long whitish skirt. Her hair was done and she wore a little bit of makeup. She was very welcoming and friendly.

CJ: How long have you lived in Lakeview?

ER: 4 years

CJ: And what made you decide to come here?

ER: Well, you know. I lived in CA for 17 years, and it was too hard to raise children there. And this time I have 5 [kids] and you know, I don't have any place for living because my husband, you know, is very violent, and he went to the jail, well, prison, and I feel all along, you know. And it is too hard to get house for cheaper because the more cheaper is 900 and my health and welfare, I get only 800 or almost 900, but it is too hard to pay the electricity and water. And I can't get only an apartment for 3 bedrooms or 4 bedrooms and it is more higher because I have 5 kids. And when I put my application in for different apartments and houses, and I can get only for 1 bedroom, and everybody say, oh no, you need I think 3 bedrooms, and I say, how much – oh, \$1,300-1,500. And I say, oh, no that is too much for me. I living got 3 years with my sister-in-law and my brother in their ranches you know. It is too hard because I have kids and she had kids...

CJ: Oh, in a ranch here?

ER: No, in California. And I had brothers here and he told me every time when I called – why you don't come here because you know, it is small town and you can raise two kids, you know, more better and everything. I say, ok, but how can you know, can get there? They say, well, you know, you can call me and I can send money for you know, you know, transportation. Then, one day, I am so tired and I said, ok, this is enough for me because I went to the jail too because I have too much problems you know. And so this time I have very problems. [?] And so then I say, enough for me. I have my kids, I don't want to give a bad example. Only I have \$300 in my bag and it cost \$289 [for the bus tickets I think] and for two days I only buy water and my way and that is all. I don't bring anything.

CJ: Did you come with everybody? Will all the kids?

ER: Ya, and when my husband go to the jail, to prison. I never leave my kids, and when [?] and I say, it is so hard because I feel lonely, and I have my family and my friends and everything. And I feel bad because I don't have any place. You know to offer my kids to sleep at night, for 3 years. I tried to find some bed for my kids and everything. And sometimes I say, I ask my kids, what is your dream? You know. And my kids say, oh I dream that I have a room with a bed and sleep in the bed because we sleep in the carpet at night. And, well, maybe someday, and now I have enough room for everybody.

CJ: Yes, the house is beautiful.

ER: Yes, I have a big basement downstairs, two bedrooms. Even room in the bedrooms.

CJ: Do you have rooms for everyone?

ER: Ya, and now my daughter is married and my son, my older son he moved to another apartment. He lives with another friend. And now I feel ok. And when I first come here, I studied the Bible, and now my life change. It is more, you know, more peaceful.

CJ: So you became a Jehovah's Witness when you moved here?

ER: Oh, ya because all of my family is a Witnesses...

CJ: Oh, your whole family are Witnesses?

ER: Yes, I say well I need change you know because my life is, you know, so awful and I need to change my life. I really need because I have my kids. And then I became Jehovah's Witness well, I studied that. It is not too easy to say, well I become Jehovah's Witness. We need to make change, we need to study, you know. Meetings you know. Some people say, oh no, I don't want anything, any magazines from JW because you know, we need to change we need to make change. You know because in my other life, in CA, I am so problems. I make too much problems, and now I say, ok.

CJ: And now you have made lots of changes.

ER: O ya. I told you, it is not too easy to because JW. Well, it is easy but when you really want to change. Not only, o, I want to be a JW. No, no,

CJ: So what kind of challenges have you faced living here? No just challenges, but what has your experience been like living in Lakeview?

ER: O, [?] I have a more better life. You know CA is too much, o, how can I explain, too much stores. When my check coming, my welfare check, my child support check, you know I went to the store and waste my check and my food stamps. And in the middle of the month, I don't have any food. I don't have any money. I don't have any anything. And now, here I can't spend my money, you know, we don't have too much stores here, and I went to Klamath Falls only once a month. And I my check to buy, you know, different big cans or big package.

CJ: Everything in bulk?

ER: Oh ya, and now I can have more, you know, food in my home all the month. Not only a few days, you know. It is a big challenge for me because there, for 17 years, I live in the city. You can see the difference, but when I come here, I need to learn how [?] in a big store. My life is simple. Not complicated, and I think I have enough.

CJ: So what kind of challenges have you faced living here?

ER: This is a challenge I think for the stores I think. To get sales and clothes for my family, shoes and everything. And now here, I can buy only 1 pair of shoes you know every 6 months. And there, we have too much shoes, too much clothes and everything. I learn, you know, to take care of my stuff and my kids' stuff and everything. It is not too complicated anymore.

CJ: So do you think you are going to stay here?

ER: o, well I hope, you know. Ya because we went to the convention in Portland and my kids, well my older, well now he is 16.

CJ: Is that Edgar?

ER: No, its Giovanni. No Edgar, he lives with another friend. But my kids say, I want to move to Portland. And I say, why? Oh, because too much stores and everything and I say, well let me think because we live good here. Not too much trouble. You know, gangs. And my kids is away from [?]. Not Edgar. It is not, you know, in the cities, is more trouble there. And more gangs, more people, more drugs. More drugs and everything. Well, here too but not too much.

CJ: What kind of drugs are in Lakeview?

ER: Oh, I don't know. You know, I am not sure, but went I came here. Meth and marijuana. Well, in CA, you know, there is more, you know, everything. But I don't know here. I am not sure here because I didn't... Well you know, in the school, say oh, my youngest say... one day we went to the movies, we went to the place to rent the movies and we find a little bag like that [about the size of a half loaf of bread] in the flowers. And I grab it and open it. And my kids

say, no, no don't open please. And I say, why? And I open it and my kids say, smells like, hummm, like drugs. And how did you know? Oh, because in the school you know, the police came and you can make the difference in drugs and other things. And I say, ok. And ya, it is the drugs. Oh ya. And we went to the police department. And the police say, ya, this is drugs. I don't know which drugs or everything. And you know, it is very dangerous here. Even here because I go to throw away the trash [the bag that she found in the bushes] and I say no, because almost die some kid, and I say no, I going to go to the department of police. You know I get there and I say, it is too hard, even here. And take the kids, and my kids grew up in the school too. And I say, oh, you need to be careful because it is very dangerous here.

CJ: Well, that will be interesting to see how, if they decide to stay or how long...

ER: Ya, my kids, sometimes I say, ok we gonna move to CA: "oh, no, I don't want to move to CA, let's stay here" [her kids say that]. My kids say, "I have my friends here and we know where they live." In CA it is too far, you know, and we say, where he lives this guy or not this boy because it is a big city and we never know where really lives or who is really him or what.

CJ: So what is your favorite thing to eat?

ER: I think for my kids it is beans, cheese, tortillas and salsa that is all. My kids can eat all the day the same, you know. I am so tired, I say, no, you need to eat chicken or meat, tuna, ya, ya And you can see this is German when he is 6 I think [she points to a picture on the wall] no 5, well now he is 10. But he is I think 5 [in this photo] you can see very skinny. He is very skinny. All my kids very skinny. When we came here. Oh, you can see because the meals you know is different and I have enough for feeding my kids 2-3 times a day.

CJ: so, it really made a difference?

ER: Oh, ya.

CJ: So what do you usually eat here? Like what is a typical day?

ER: Oh, a typical day. My kids like tamales. I am beans every day. Meat, I cook meat, potatoes, corn. All my likes loves corn. And tortillas every day, and what else, tuna, bread, cookies, lemonade. My kids can drink lemonade all day [she gives me a big smile]. Pops and everything, you know.

CJ: So are you still cooking traditional food from MX?

ER: O yes.

CJ: What part of MX are you from?

ER: Guerrerro. It is Acapulco, very close.

CJ: South of there?

ER: Yes, when I came here, I need to learn how to cook more, you know, every day. Because in CA I can go and by Carl's Junior or Jack in the Box and buy some hamburger and that is all. But here it is very different because it is expensive here. Very expensive when you want to take your kids to get some hamburger. It is too expensive. Very expensive, and now I cook only once in the day. Only I made a dinner. Only one dinner.

CJ: So, what time do you eat your dinner usually?

ER: We don't have any time, you know, like 5-8.

CJ: Just whenever you are ready?

ER: Yes.

CJ: So it sounds like the restaurants are expensive, do you have enough at the end of the month to buy everything you need from the grocery store?

ER: Ya because I buy only once a month, but I can you know start, ok, this day I am going to make this, and this day I am going to make this. And ground beef with potatoes my kids like chorizo and eggs. We don't use too much eggs but my kids like eggs.

CJ: So do you shop here in town sometimes?

ER: No.

CJ: Never?

ER: Well, sometimes when you know we saw some tomatoes is on sale, onions, you know, but I don't buy here too much.

CJ: Just because it is too expensive in town?

ER: Oh ya. I get only what is on sale, no more.

CJ: Are there things that you don't like to eat?

ER: We, well my kids avoid sometimes the American food because nobody in my kids like mustard. My kids no like pickles. They can eat only salsa.

CJ: Salsa on hamburgers?

ER: [laughs] Ya, ya. And my kids sometimes I cook hamburgers, you know, spaghetti, but you know, not too often. My kids can eat only Mexican food.

CJ: So thinking about the food system more broadly, what are 3 things that you appreciate about the food system here in Lakeview?

ER: Well, I have enough, I think I have enough for food stamps for all the month and like in CA, I needed report every month and here I can report only once in 6 months.

CJ: What do you mean report?

ER: In CA I need to make my report every month and if it is late, I can't get my food stamps know the day I need to get it. And here, only once in 6 months and I fill a paper if anything in my house changed and this is really nice because it is more easy, you know. In CA sometimes I forget give my report and when I try to waiting for my food stamps or my check, anything...

CJ: It doesn't come...

ER: No, and here I have my EBT card incase I don't have it and I don't need to worry too much because it is, you know, every month I can get it.

CJ: Do you use any of the other services in town? Like the pantries or anything like that?

ER: Pantries, no.

CJ: It sounds like food stamps covers it.

ER: Ya, ya. And sometimes, when I came first here and my sister in law she took me to the food bank and I don't really care because it is too much cans, and I don't use cans. Like beans in cans and I say, no. I can buy a big bag of beans and I can eat fresh everything, and rice or you know, and I buy big bags of rice and beans and everything, and I can cook every day. And I say some people who really need that kind of help, but I don't think I need it because I don't eat too much cans. You know? I can eat tomatoes or something like that, but no beans. No. No. I really like, enjoy cook. I don't know why, but some Mexicans say, "I don't really likes, you know, cooking." I don't know why but I really enjoy when I cook because I know my kids gonna eat good or more fresh.

CJ: So what do you do about fresh fruits and vegetables?

ER: I can buy here, sometimes I can buy here, or I buy in Wal-Mart. Ya and like tomatoes I can buy sometimes here on sale. Cilantro. Everything I can get it. And salsa. Nobody in my kids like vegetables, but sometimes I say, eat something because it is necessary. And the po-

tatoes, my kids really like potatoes, and I can use potatoes in almost everything. And meat, chorizo, eggs.

CJ: And what about things that you don't like about the food system here?

ER: I think I don't have any complaints with this system...

CJ: Maybe like the prices are pretty high in the grocery store or that sort of thing.

ER: You know, I don't think it is high. The problem is that can buy only here the little stuff. Is not too much, you know, to choose Wal-Mart. I went to Wal-Mart I can choose this or that. And here you can see only one [?] or a so expensive. In Wal-Mart, I can buy the flan, you know custard, in big bags for 79 cents and here you can buy a little bag, 4 ounces or 6 ounces, for \$3.

CJ: One that is already made?

ER: NO! You need to made. And Wal-Mart I can buy the big box for 11 boxes or 12 boxes for \$7. Or the oil. Here is \$13 for the gallon, because I buy in gallon, and Wal-Mart is \$6.49.

CJ: Less than half? That is big deal at the end of the month.

ER: O ya. I can use oil for 2 months a gallon. And I think everybody say, o, I don't like go to Wal-Mart but you can see the difference because you can buy the little bottle of oil for \$4, and you can buy a gallon there for \$6.49. It is really different. And this is the reason I went to Wal-Mart

ER: Because I, you know, I can see more stuff. I really likes here, you know [?] food stamps because in CA, I can get only \$250 in food stamps there.

CJ: Wow, for the whole month?

ER: Ya.

CJ: And what is it here?

ER: I think it is \$480 something.

CJ: That is a big difference.

ER: O, ya, a big difference. You can see that difference. And the rent is not too expensive.

CJ: that makes it so much easier...

ER: O, ya,

CJ: Are there special stories in your family about food or about cooking?

ER: Well, you know, for me I have too much experience about the food because I don't know – blessings from Jehovah. Because you know, I have enough food. I don't feel like, o, I am so poor, I don't have any to eat. No, when I came from CA here, I went to buy here in Safeway because nobody told me we need to go to Wal-Mart to Klamath. And I went here and I say, oh, is too much for me, and I buy only for 2 weeks, is too much for me. One day, somebody told me, you went here? Is say, ya. Oh, no [they said] you need to go to Klamath because you can buy more stuff, different. I say, ummm, I went one day and [?] and then I think you know very funny because one lady give me some banana very you know dark. O, for your kids [she said]. I say, ahh, I think I have enough. O no, o no [said the lady] because you have a lot of kids. I think you need this. I said, thank you, thank you. I appreciate your help but I have enough food in my house. You can see my pantry. You can see my everything and I have enough. Thank you, thank you so much [Elvia said to the lady] but everybody saying, everybody think, o she have a lot of kids, she don't have anything. I feel bad because I say, no I am not too much poor. You know, everybody told, oh, because you are [?] mother because you went to Klamath. Is to hard for me

because every month, I need to go and I came from Klamath very tired and I need to fix my stuff in my pantry and my fridge and everything but I really enjoy because I know it is something good for my kids.

CJ: So you go with someone or do you have a car?

ER: Yes. No, someone, like my Edgar take me or I have my friend and she take me and everybody can offer me, you know. “Ah, you want to go to Klamath to go shopping?”

CJ: because everybody goes?

ER: Yes. and I say, no thank you because sometimes Edgar take me and he have car, and I said, well, sometimes he went every week and I say, ok, you bring me this and I can give you some money [?] I really appreciate like other people think and support. I know I am not rich too, but I have enough food. I have enough food for my family and so I am so glad.

CJ: I am glad too.

ER: You know sometimes I like, I know one person here. This lady have 3 kids I think. She is Mexican and her husband sell the food stamps for half price. I said, you know, how sad because you can buy more, you know, stuff for your food stamps, and she said, oh no, I don't really needs you know because we can go out to shopping with money. I say, ya, but this is money too. This is for me money, real money because you can buy, you know, more. And she say. And I say, ok that is your problem because I don't want to. I never want to change my food stamps for money because why? I really likes my food stamps. I really enjoy. Ya. This is the reason sometimes the government change, you know, well make change for the food stamps and everything because nobody, some people don't appreciate how the government give you stamp money for your food. And somebody is....I lost by card every time and I lost my card, my EBT, I lost. I got to somewhere and I lost my EBT and I told the lady, “sorry, but I lost my EBT.” “Ok” [said the lady] “But you need to keep it because...” “I said, “no” because my insides say, I don't sell my food stamps, I really appreciate my food stamps. I am so happy when I went to shopping and buy everything there.

CJ: You can get everything you need?

ER: O ya, o ya.

CJ: So you you have like a favorite recipe from Mexico or a family recipe that you still are cooking?

ER: Enchiladas.

CJ: Can you get everything that you need to make them here?

ER: O, ya.

CJ: So how do you do them?

ER: I use tomatoes and jalapeños and onions, garlic, and that is all.

CJ: Do you use cheese or meat?

ER: Cheese. Ya, well, I usually put meat inside – chicken, but sometimes my kids really likes only cheese. Fresh cheese....it that kind of Mexican cheese its fresco. Queso Fesco. And I used a lot this kind of cheese and when I went to [?] I bring 20 cheese quesadillas and I use another cheese in my house and I use it with beans and only tortillas and that is all. And use that cheese – Monterey cheese, mozzarella. I really use cheese.

CJ: The kids love it?

ER: O, ya.

CJ: So you do think, well were they all born in the US?

ER: Ya

CJ: So do you think that the way that they eat has changed than maybe if they were growing up in Mexico?

ER: Well, ya, because in Mexico we, well, like me I grew up very poor. Well, not too poor, but my father has too much cows in this time, and we grew up like eating only cheese and beans. And I so appreciate because too much people in Mexico die for hungry and for the food or everything, and my house never has every day we have enchiladas or cheese and beans or every-day cheese. Ya, my father make a big cheese and he put in the like a big....

CJ: O, up in the rafters?

ER: Ya, and he put a little cactus for the mousse because the mousse... Ya, he put the big cactus and because sometimes he make a huge cheese and keep it up, and my mom make bread and you know, very farmer person. My father has some other cows [?]

CJ: So did you grow up on this farm?

ER: Ya.

CJ: was it a dairy farm?

ER: Well, not dairy farm but he has cows and he raise cows for cheese and milk and butter and everything. [He daughter comes to sit with us]and my mom raised chickens, turkeys and everything but you know. Ya and well, we can see the difference because in my house we never almost eat meat and here, my kids say, "o, I don't want to eat meat. I want beans and cheese and everything."

CJ: they are just used to it?

ER: Ya, ya, but I think gonna be different when my kids grow up in Mexico. Here is different, you know.

CJ: Do you notice a difference between people's health here and in Mexico. Like between your family that lives here and your family in Mexico.

ER: I think it is some different. You can see that some people in Mexico, we are very short, and I think is not enough vitamins, you know, food or here you can see a big boys and everything and tall kids and everything. I can see the difference. I don't know in which was but it is very different.

CJ: What about getting health care here. If the kids get sick, or if you get sick, can you get the heath care you need?

ER: O, ya. Not the dentist. It's hard because you can get appointment only on Monday here.

CJ: Here in Lakeview?

ER: Here, but you can go to Klamath Falls.

CJ: And then you get in a lot faster?

ER: You can find more, you know, more services. Like with me, I have in December because I have a big headaches and everything and the doctor told me is depression and I can pay on \$15 each visit. And here I need to pay \$80 or \$120.

CJ: Wow that is a big difference.

ER: When I have appointment there, I only pay \$15 because it is for low income.

CJ: So why is it different here than in Klamath. Wouldn't it be the same price in each place.

ER: Or I think because here any doctors accept no low income. And in Klamath is a clinic for low income. And you can, I think it is more better service because is a different doctors. And ya, you can find more, you know, you can choose any doctor...

CJ: There are just more options there?

ER: Ya, o ya, ya. And ya, I think

CJ: Living here, how do you think the ranchers are doing?

ER: I don't know really. I have friends there in the ranch and everything when they came they said, you know, "where is your kids." "Oh" [her rancher friends say] "with the cows." And , you know, poor kids because my kids sometimes you know we can choose go to the theatre or go rent to movies or you know, spend time here [in the house]. But in the ranch I think, every time when I went to visit my friends, every time the kids is with the cows. I say, "Oh, I don't think it everybody's thing, but I feel like, I don't feel like it nice. Every time with the cows and everything because I don't know.

CJ: It is different.

ER: Ya, ya.

CJ: Is there a difference between being Latino here verses being from Lakeview? Do you notice a difference?

ER: I think it is very different because I have 20 years here in the United States, and you know almost all Mexicans and Latinos or whatever, when came here think is in Mexico because is too much drinking big trouble. They go to the jail and I am so sad because we need change. We need to change this traditional, I don't know, style of life. And I am so, I don't know, I feel bad because almost all Mexicans here or Latinos go to the jail every week.

CJ: Here in Lakeview?

ER: Oh, ya. Make too much trouble and we get that reputation, you know.

CJ: So what are they getting arrested for here?

ER: Drink to much. They fighting and you know it is sad. It is sad. We can, I went to service sometimes Saturday, but not every Saturday went to the same people. But you can see one day a few weeks ago I went to the house, you know, I know some people, some Mexicans living there and you can see the table, you can see the table – a big table filled with cans of beer. Its in the morning at 9:00 and you can see everybody has a beer here. And I think, oh, is too much for, you know why people don't change. We can save money and we can live better. Because this people lives in a little house and you can see all people [?] living in the living room, sleep in the living room, kitchen... [laughs]

CJ: Everywhere?

ER: Everywhere but have every weekend beer and I think waste money and we can live more better. We can live more better and I don't know but it is too much difference. I don't feel American. I feel you know, Hispanic, but I don't feel like these people because waste money and you know, I have my daughter she is married with a Mexican man and every weekend she told me, oh, he started drinking he can drink 30 beers in the weekend. How is that? She say, I don't know, he like drink. And I feel bad because she don't have any car. I say, you can tell him, you can talk him, we can save money for buy some car because she is working and he is working. And I say, you need tell him, you need put a little savings in the bank. And you can buy a car. She is almost 18 and I told her, you need to buy some care when you are 18. You need to buy some car because Edgar [her son who works at the Mexican restaurant] he is very, you know, he is not American, well, he is Hispanic, well he feel Hispanic and everything. When has a Durango [truck] and he change to this new car and I feel you know proud, not proud, but I feel good because he don't have any, you know, he is not alcoholic. He is not smoking. He I really like because he like to help you know something not good, but you know, he can drive, he has his in-

surance he need to pay insurance, he needs pay car, rent and everything. I really need, I very need because not to much people believes like that. No. And...

CJ: Where is your daughter living now?

ER: She lives here in the 1<sup>st</sup>. And for me very sad because when Edgar here he needs, you know, sometimes I say, ok Edgar, I need this from the store, ok, and Liz, my daughter said, Edgar, I need a ride for that work, and ok, I go, I go. I can't drive because I have too much problem in CA. And I can't, I have my driver license canceled. And I said, maybe later I can try. And this is the reason I don't have any car. But one day I have my drivers I hope. Ya and I don't know, you now I going to put a little [?] in my car, but I told you already. I think the Hispanic people tries to live the life, you know, very vicious [?] , not only drinking, and you know, and other.

CJ: So do you eat together with your family that lives here. Do you have meals together?

ER: Ya, oh ya.

CJ: Are there other groups that you belong to that eat together?

ER: Oh, sometimes invite, you know, friends here and everybody bring, you know, dessert because everybody like Mexican food.

CJ: It is very popular.

ER: Ya, everybody like Mexican food. And I say, ok, I can cook some dinner. You know, it is not too hard for me, not to talk too much time, and you know, the Americans can make the best deserts [laughs] ya, I have friends you know the JW and Americans and make, oh, the best desert, and I say, ok, I gonna make Mexican food but you can bring, you know, sweet desert.

CJ: So do you eat at church sometimes together too?

ER: Ya, ya sometimes but...

CJ: Do you do that like once a month?

ER: oh ya, ya, sometimes not too often. And sometimes I invite some friends here, but I don't have too much. I can make some nachos or some enchiladas but that is all. Ya and everybody bring pop or you know almost all that Americans don't drink to much pop, more water, drink more water.

CJ: So what do you think Lakeview is going to be like 20 years from now?

ER: I think it is a big city. Ya because when I came here. Is very weird where you saw a car or you know, you can. And now, I think is a freeway here [in front of her house] because in the morning you can see all the people.

CJ: Ya, there has been a lot of cars passing.

ER: Ya, oh, ya, and that I think grow up very fast.

CJ: Do you think there will be more Mexicans moving here?

ER: Oh ya, yes. Every time when I went to the store you know or outside, I saw somebody new here. I say, oh, somebody visits. No! I have my sister-in-law she is working in McFarland and now is moved to there on the other side, and she said, oh no, is working there [the new people that Elvia sees in the streets]. And I say, ok. And ya, a lot [?] Hispanic, or Mexican because have some friends here and say, oh, I can come here because a lot of jobs and everything but you know, you need to be careful because is too much problem. All have sometimes problem and is too hard because, you know, is very peaceful here, very peaceful and we need to be careful because these people can ruin the, you know, the peaceful.

CJ: They can ruin the peacefulness?

ER: Ya, ya and and I don't want, you know, a lot of kids can start gangs or you know, problems, you know, this side or this side. We need be care, and the police, one day, "you know,

you know this guy” I say no, “you know this guys make trouble, you know, when you here something, you can tell me” [the police say]. [I say], “Ok,” I don’t want say anything because this not my problem, I don’t want problem because I live here alone and I say, well, maybe somebody came and want to make something because I don’t want, this is not my problem, and I don’t want to make more troubles with anybody. This is not my job, but the police told me, “When you here something about this or that, you can call me.” I say, “well, I am not sure, but ya, well.”

CJ: This is a small town.

ER: Ya, and well he ask me, “You here something?” I say, “No, really, really, I don’t hear anything” because I don’t have a job here. I don’t have any, you know, friends. I know people but is not my friends. I don’t get too much together and I don’t have too much friendships. And no, I say no, sorry but I don’t here anything. And that all. I try to help, you know, people, but not this way. I try to, you know, I encourage people to try to change because is important make change, good change, not bad change.

CJ: That is the key – make good change. So, is there anything else you think we should know about the food system or about living here?

ER: Well, I really like live here, and I told you already, I think for me is good, you know the system the food stamps, you know, I told you, is give me enough for my kids and for me, you now, in CA, you never get food stamps for me, and here I can qualify for food stamps.

CJ: So you qualify for food stamps and for...

ER: I don’t think for money, only for food stamps. And my kids. For WIC, I have WIC too.

CJ: And what is the WIC cover?

ER: Is only for the children under 5 or the pregnant woman, or ya.

CJ: And how old are your kids?

ER: Edgar is 19, Eliset is almost, well she gonna be 18 in November, and Giovanni he is 16, German is 10, and Gabriel is 9, and Valerie she is 3.

CJ: So that is nice that you get to stay home and take care of them

ER: Yes, well, someday I gonna go work, but not too, well, I feel, the last year I work for 3 -4 months but is too hard for me because when I come here, I was living in another house, my kids all alone because Eliset start working and Edgar start working and I so afraid somebody see alone the kids and came in and you know, we came from the family you know, my husband is very cruel with us, and I am so afraid something happen with my kids and I am so afraid for happen you know. And I feel, you know, I really want to get job but with my kids here, I feel, you know. I am so afraid, I told you, and my husband very very cruel with my kids, and my kids grow up like that, and I don’t want make my kids still thinking home, so you know, alone.

CJ: Well, it sounds like you are in a good space with them now.

ER: Ya, ya well, I can stay here now with my kids. It is hard because I can’t afford for you, know, when the kids now wants a bicycle, I can say, ok, now I need to try to saving something because I promise a bicycle, and I say, ok, we need to save money for a bicycle, and I sometimes feel, in case I working maybe I have money for buy a bicycle. But I think I can save some money, you know, bicycle for my kids, you know. But I am here with my kids.

CJ: So did you have her [Valerie] here? Was she born in Lakeview?

ER: Ya, she born here. Everybody born in CA, and she born here.

[We talk about Corvallis and OSU]

ER: I never lock my door, you know, I can lock it only in the night. You know, sometimes happen something here in the town, but when you are outside, well, for me is not too much worry because I don't feel like, oh, something happen to me. And at night I can lock my door, and in the day I can. [talks about how much more dangerous it is in CA]