

AL 168

Interviewee: John R. White

Interviewer: Ford Risley

Date: April 9, 1993

R: I am at John R. White's home on 610 S.W. Lane in Gainesville. Today's date in April 9, 1993. Okay, let us find out a little bit about yourself. Where were you born?

W: I was born in Mississippi.

R: Where in Mississippi?

W: Saltillo.

R: Saltillo?

W: Right. It is just north of Tupelo.

R: What was the date?

W: November 11, 1956.

R: How long have you been in Gainesville?

W: I have been here now about three years.

R: How did you come here?

W: I was on my way back up North, and I was hitchhiking from a little small town called Zellwood [Florida], and a black guy picked me up in a truck and told me that Gainesville had all the opportunities I needed. So when I got here, he let me off at the park on I-75 just before you come into Gainesville, so I walked all the way into town and wound up at the St. Francis house.

R: You needed a place to stay and get a meal.

W: Right. Everybody told me I came to the wrong place because Gainesville did not have anything to offer.

R: Okay, let us back up a little bit. Were you in Florida looking for work, or just kind of wandering, or what? What were you doing in Florida in the first place?

W: Well, a few years back I used to do blacktopping, and we always went to West Palm Beach and worked that area. It was warmer, and I needed a place to live,

so Florida was ideal because I had been here before. So that is really the reason I was here, because of the weather.

R: What year was that?

W: Back when I was working. Let us see, this is 1993; probably around 1988, 1989.

R: You were working basically as a construction worker?

W: Right.

R: Let us go back a little bit farther. Did you have any schooling, any education?

W: Yes. Well, the highest grade I went to was ninth grade.

R: You left school after ninth grade?

W: Right, because the opportunity was there for me. At sixteen years old I was a manager of a party store.

R: Was this in your home town?

W: Yes. Then I went on to start building furniture. After that I found a job where I could make more money and I became a frozen food manager. I was making like \$13-14,000 a year and that was real good.

R: Pretty good, yes.

W: My uncles told me that I could do better up North, so I moved to Michigan.

R: When was that?

W: I believe around 1977. I started working for Ford's.

R: You started working where?

W: Ford Motor Company.

R: Oh, Ford Motor Company.

W: I was there with Ford for maybe six months and anybody who did not have five years in got laid off indefinitely.

R: Were you working on the assembly line, building cars?

W: No. I was not building cars, I was packaging, bagging the seat covers for the seats of the cars, and so a lot of people that did not have five years just got laid off. I started what I called a handyman service. I just went around and started cleaning up gutters and stuff like that. I started cutting grass and then I started shoveling snow, so I opened a landscaping service. I owned that for a while and people started getting laid off, so a lot of people that were my customers were letting their relatives do their landscaping, so I was out of a job completely.

I had family there, and when I was out of a job and needed a place to stay and I asked them, they said, "We do not have room." So, I spent quite a few weeks and months sleeping in the parks and buses.

R: Was this in Michigan?

W: Right, and the weather was like thirty and forty below zero. I was finding work wherever I could. It is lucky that I am alive today, because the radio stations would tell you to take all of your animals or your dogs or whatever you have and take them inside the house because there was going to be a freeze, and I would go to sleep maybe a half minute and I would open my eyes, shake to warm back up, try to close my eyes. This is the way it was, you know.

R: So you were literally living on the street.

W: Right. So I started work for the construction firm that I was telling you about in Florida. I did that for a while and then I came to find out they were cheating people. We would do blacktops and they would call fly-by-nights, and I found out where a lady almost lost her home because they had signed some papers. It just was not for me. I could not see myself cheating anybody, so I turned around and left from them. I just started hitchhiking around, trying to find jobs wherever I could.

I had a chance to understand and learn what it meant to be homeless. But in the back in my mind I knew if I had a break I could make it. When I was in Memphis I went through sections, and neighborhoods, and I know it had to have been the Lord who was carrying me through. One section I remember in Memphis that I went through, not even a week later two guys came through the same [area] and a gang jumped on them and burned the guy up. They poured gas on him and burned him up.

I went to New York and I was hitchhiking back, a guy picked me up and he told me, "I picked you up because I seen something like a rainbow." I did not know what that meant. I came to Florida [and] then went over to Mississippi for a while, and there was nothing there really. I went back to Memphis and I stopped by this church, and I asked the preacher for something to eat, and he said, "Yes,

and in the meantime there are some clothes here. You can turn around and put some clothes on." So I ended up staying in this church for three months and that is really when I learned about the Lord.

I came to Florida because I was homeless again. I was in Zellwood before I came to Gainesville and I was living with a motorcycle gang.

R: Really?

W: I started renting a house from this one guy, the president of the gang. He told me, "We are just going to be honest with you, we have never had a nigger live here before. I cannot figure it out, because we do not like black people." But all of his friends, all of the gang came through. They treated me nice, and gave me food. They gave me everything. They just could not figure it out. This is one of the worst gangs in the United States. It just got to the point that I found myself singing a song, "This may be my last time, I do not know," and I knew right then and there I was dying. It was really something, so I said, "Well, I will leave and go back up North," and that is when this guy picked me up in the truck. I came to the St. Francis house.

R: OK, just let me interrupt one minute. How long of a period would you call yourself homeless, or living on the street?

W: I would say probably from 1987 until the last part of 1990, something like that.

R: So from 1987 to 1990 you were just living on the streets or with friends or just wherever you could find.

W: Basically wherever I could [find]. It was always in my mind, I was always looking for that one little . .

R: Break.

W: Yes, and that is what it is. I found out a lot of people that you would call homeless are just looking for a break. I think we get people mixed up between being a transient, which is all some people want to do, just stay out on the street. I just felt that if I kept going, and kept going, one day this break would come too. When I came to Gainesville, I got to St. Francis and I took jobs here, making like a hundred dollars a week, sometimes less.

R: These were odd jobs around town?

W: Yes, I worked for a few restaurants here, but for the first two weeks I was here I did not find anything. So, the last two weeks of that month that I was here, I

found a job and started working at Holiday Inn. I told St. Francis, "When I get my first check I want to move out." They helped me with my first months rent even though I had money. They helped me with it, to get me started. So from then on it is like the Lord has been . .

R: So from that point on you have been pretty much living on your own?

W: Yes.

R: How long did you stay at the St. Francis house?

W: I stayed at the St. Francis house for one month.

R: While you were there, you were sleeping there, you were getting dinners there and then you were going off during the day and working.

W: Right. [I was] seeking work for the first two weeks, because it was only the last two weeks of the month that I received a job.

R: And you are working for Holiday Inn?

W: Yes, I worked for Holiday Inn for a while.

R: In the restaurant?

W: No, I was working for housekeeping. It got to the point that I got sick and missed a few days and they terminated me. I still did not give up. I had moved to a roominghouse and I did not give up and I was heavy with the Lord at the time, and I still am right now. One guy that I knew prior to leaving the St. Francis house wanted to know about the Lord. I mean the Lord was teaching me and what I was learning I was giving to him, so now he and I are roommates. I got another job, so we moved to what used to be Coy Thomas [Apartments] on 8th Avenue. After six months living in Coy Thomas, we became managers of the complex.

R: What is this place called again?

W: Coy Thomas.

R: That is an apartment complex?

W: Yes, it was on 8th Avenue. It was drugged infested when we moved in and I knew that the Lord was still with me, and I went down and told the brothers, "I would rather see you in church, than in jail." I worked from there, and ever since

then, I just became a minister. I got a good job with B'Nai Israel.

R: It is a local synagogue?

W: Yes, a Jewish synagogue here. They gave me a job and so now I am living here. We furnished this house with maybe 500 dollars.

R: You have a great place, very nice.

W: Everything that we have, we picked up from the students. What we do now is pick up furniture and this and that and we distribute it back out to people that are in need. So this is what we do. I am heavily involved in church, but I also go out and help those in need.

R: Okay, so you work at the synagogue.

W: B'Nai Israel.

R: Right. Do you work there full time, or is it a part time kind of thing?

W: Well, it is basically full time. Sometimes I go in at different times, but it is a full time job, yes. They have me on salary.

R: Okay. You also work at the St. Francis house as the night manager?

W: Right, on Sunday nights. If I am needed to volunteer any other time, I will do that too.

R: So if they need you other nights, then you will go there.

W: Right. I have a chance now that I can give something back. I go back out now and talk to people. That is what I do daily. I talk to people and allow them to know what I had to come through, and that the Lord brought me in and brought me through all of this, and with prayer anything is possible.

R: What is it like working with people who are now in the same position that you were once in? What do you try to tell them to help them to get back on their feet, aside from the religious standpoint? I understand that is a big part of what you do, but do you try to give them other advice about how to get back up on their feet?

W: The main thing I tell them is do not be choosy about a job. Basically what it boils down to is to let them know that what we have to do is crawl before we walk. Do not say, "Because I am not making six dollars an hour, I do not want this job."

Take what you can and you can gradually build up. Do not just say, "I have got this skill, I am qualified for this." If it comes down to washing dishes, wash dishes. It will put a little money in your pocket and get you started on your way out. Basically, all I can do is give them hope.

What I do is let them know that I was once there, and I know what it is about and what I found out is a person does not want to listen to anybody who has not been through it. In other words, by me going through all of this, I can sit down and talk to all of them and they can relate to me, and they see. They say, "If you have overcome, then we can too," and that is the main thing. That is what it is all about. They need to see somebody that has once been there.

There are so many people here in Gainesville now. When I first came here, I really did not have a whole lot of clothes and I tell them quick, "I do not go to a major department store and buy my clothes. I go to Goodwill, second hand stores." I can dress just as good as some of the two-hundred-dollar-suit men, but it might cost me twenty-five dollars for a suit, it might cost me ten dollars. I try to tell them, "When you make money, use it wisely." Do not be too proud to say, "I will not do this and I will not do that," because all in all we can make it, but you have to have the determination.

R: Obviously, you think that the St. Francis house provides an important service and is an important part of the community. Can you tell me in your own words what St. Francis does?

W: Well, you are going to have abuses no matter what you do. A lot of people that come to St. Francis need a start and that is basically what it is all about. Now, you have got some people that live in the community, who just use it because it is there. But, I find a whole lot of people are like me; they need something to start from, like a foundation, and St. Francis can give you shelter. If you have a job but have to go two weeks without food or money, that is basically what St. Francis is all about. We will not try to serve any and everybody, but basically what St. Francis is about is trying to help people get back into society. That is what I really respect St. Francis for, because we are in a day and time now that we never know. It might be our brother, our sister, our mother, or father, because I have heard of people making fifty or sixty thousand dollars a year today and tomorrow they are in a food stamp line. I think everybody should take a look at it, because we never know. We can all come down and eat at the St. Francis house and that is why I think it is a really great place.

R: Yes. Do you think that the St. Francis house, if it was allowed to, could do even more, say serve more meals, or provide more beds?

W: Yes. We have a big need for that. Not only that, [but] I believe a lot of people

need to be trained and with adequate space, there are people who would volunteer and donate their time to maybe help, say, in the reading department, or in the skill department. There are all kinds of people who want to do things at St. Francis, but we just do not have the facilities. If we had those that would be ideal, because a lot of people do not have certain talents that are needed, but I was blessed to the point that I can do just about anything. I would be willing to give some of my time back to train somebody. That is what it is all about and I know others would.

R: Do you see a lot of people who come through the St. Francis house who are like you: Not permanently homeless, but just need a break, and need a place where they can stay until they can find a job and get back on their feet?

W: Yes. You find a lot of people like that and a lot of people that are passing through. For instance, maybe something happened with their trip one way or the other and they break down or something like that. But a lot of people are out here to get a job and they were just led wrong in being told this and that are here in Gainesville and when they come here they find that it is not. That is what happens, and a lot of times people wait until their family wires money so that they can be on their way.

R: So for some people it is just a stopping-off point.

W: Right.

R: But for other people it is a place where they are going to stay in Gainesville for a while and they need a place to get on their feet.

W: That is what it is basically all about. A lot of people come there and some of them might last a month before they find their own housing or some get lucky to where they can only be there a week and get their own housing. So it is a stop to help get people on their feet and you are going to get some people, like I said, that are going to abuse the system, but St. Francis is a big help. I know quite a few people from St. Francis (I am one of them myself, and my roommate is another) who got a start there.

R: What is your roommate's name?

W: Charles Glanton.

R: Does he work now?

W: Yes, he works for Gator Landscaping. So he has been there quite a few years. Now, he was out on crack. He used to be a crack addict and now he is with the Lord, too. He has been with them for quite a few years now, but when he

needed a place to get a start, St. Francis was there. Now we are ready to go out and do other things. What we want to do is give back to the community and that is what a lot of people want, but you need a start.

R: Explain what the night manager does at the St. Francis house.

W: Well, when we first come [in] we will talk with the volunteers who have been there from 5:00 to 10:00, that are already there, and they will have written down on a sheet of paper who is to be first and who is not. That way we can call people in.

R: You mean who will be first to get a bed?

W: Right.

R: A place to stay.

W: Yes, for people who repeatedly stay there. So once we get them checked in I start going over the books to see what has been going on in the week. 11:00 is lights out. I finish up [other tasks]. For instance, if we serve meals to nine guests I will put them in the log book. That way we can keep an accurate check on who we serve and what we do for this person and just monitor the house for the rest of the night.

R: Do you spend the night at the house?

W: Yes, we spend the whole night there. If there is an emergency, then we handle the emergency problems. Basically you keep an eye on the house all night. Then at 7:00 in the morning you wake up. If you have someone that needs to get up at 4:00 or 5:00 to go to work, then we wake them up at 4. We try to help people get up and get a job. If they are going to [the] temporary [agency] we wake them up before that. Once we get them up, we let everybody make their own breakfast. We have a chore for everybody to do; we assign chores, then we watch them do it.

R: Chores would be in terms of getting breakfast ready?

W: No. Chores would be after they make their own breakfast. They are responsible for their own breakfast, whether they want it or not.

R: You have the food there for them?

W: Right.

R: They can make cereal, or bacon and eggs, or whatever they want?

W: Right, whatever they want. Whatever is donated or whatever is available, they can have. We will ask somebody maybe to vacuum the front room or maybe someone to wash dishes, or sweep the floor, and then we would put on a load of clothes, get it started and clean up all of the facilities. Once we get them out at 8:00, I will do whatever is lacking. I will finish cleaning up.

R: Everybody has to be up and out by 8:00?

W: 8:00, right. Unless somebody has a serious injury or something, then maybe we will stay there until the case worker comes and they keep them there the whole day. But after I get everything cleaned up, I will wait until the case worker comes in. She and I will talk about what happened the night before. We catch up on everything like that and then I leave.

R: The case worker arrives there at [what time]?

W: Between 9:30 and 10:00.

R: And she or he is responsible for the house for the day?

W: Right. It is just like going to social service. We set up appointments for them. Maybe somebody has been there since Friday night; they will stay from Friday to Monday and on Monday they would need to see her, to see if they could get extended time to live there or whatever the circumstances or whatever their needs are. So that is what we do. We sit and talk to them about that. We also talk to her if there were any problems that arose with any of the guests in the house. We sit and talk to her and then she evaluates all of this and determines if they can stay or if they go.

R: Do you have many problems with guests being disorderly or unruly?

W: Not really, no. Basically, when you go in they are really nice. Sometimes you might have someone maybe with a mental problem. They might give you a little problem, but if you talk to them nice [there is no problem]. A lot of times they do it for attention. Usually we do not have any problems.

R: You do not allow people in who have been drinking?

W: No, that is a no-no. If I am suspicious of any of that then we say no, because we have to keep our rules, because people will have a tendency [to do that]. When they check in at 5:00 they do not have to be back until 10:00 that night. So, if they have gone out and had a few and they come back and we smell it, then we

have the right to say, "No, you cannot come in," because we have to protect the other guests that are there, so we have to keep a strict policy.

R: If you check in at 5:00, can you go ahead and stay there?

W: Sure.

R: You can. You do not have to leave and then come back.

W: No. Some people do leave, but once you check in at 5 you can go and make your own meals or whatever. We have churches too, that will bring food on certain days. We have a lot of businesses that will bring food in and so whatever is there, that is what they eat. Sometimes if they do not bring something in, then we will start cooking.

R: Do you feel that Gainesville does a good job of helping the homeless or could the city do more?

W: I believe they could.

R: In what ways?

W: Well, I think we need to give them something to do. Sometimes some of the people that are homeless are not able to work, and we need a place that they go, instead of letting them lay around uptown. You know, people want to get them out of town, but they do not have a place to go. So we need to build something or to fix something for them to be able to go and get involved with. Like I said, hopefully we will get this place where people can spend some time.

R: Are you talking about a bigger place?

W: A bigger place.

R: A bigger building for the St. Francis house.

W: Yes. Instead of hassling [them], we should have something where we could train somebody. That would kind of occupy their time [so] they would not be running around, or lagging around or whatever.

R: Are you seeing more homeless people in the time that you have been working for the St. Francis house? Are the numbers of homeless in Gainesville increasing or getting smaller?

W: A lot of it varies on the season.

R: Can you explain?

W: Yes. When it is cold, you have a lot of people that will come to the South, to Florida, for the warmer climate, to work, lay around, or whatever, and they stop at a shelter. A lot of times you are going to get more when it is time to go back up North when it warms up. But it seems like a lot of people are moving into Gainesville.

R: Any idea why?

W: I do not know; that is a good question.

R: Is it because Gainesville is fairly close to the interstate?

W: Well, yes, that has a lot to do with it. I think a lot of it is that people are coming from the prisons and different places. People are looking for a job no matter where they can find it. Sometimes a lot of people came from Jacksonville, because they could not find anything there, so they came here. People are just seeking jobs, and whatever and wherever they can find, and Gainesville began to be a [central] spot. In the summertime it will not be as bad, because it will be warmer. People will not come to St. Francis as much because they will stay out in the woods. So in the wintertime it is a different story, so we will find that it is a seasonal thing.

R: Most of your guests are single men, right?

W: Yes.

R: Do you have many women or families, say a mother with a couple of children?

W: I would say we get at least one or two a week. A lot of time you get the abused mother and children. We see them also.

R: You mean a woman who has been abused?

W: Right.

R: That may need a place to stay.

W: Yes, we house them too. For instance, a mother with children who just got evicted. We will house families like that. St. Francis House is a place that society dumps its people off on. We have the abused mom and family, we have the mothers and children that have been evicted, we have mental health patients that have been sent there, we have the VA [Veterans Administration hospital] that sends patients there, we have the police that bring people there. St. Francis

is like a headquarters to bring people and to drop people off. So that is what it is all about, but that is what we are for, to serve and to do what we can for each and everyone. That is the reason I said if we had a bigger facility we would be able to train and house more people.

R: Do you think that most of homeless people want to get back on their feet, and find a job, and a place to stay or do they just enjoy living on the street?

W: Well, a whole lot of them want to get back into society, yes, but like I said you are going to get some that repeat, but most people that you find coming through St. Francis are looking for a job or housing or things of that nature. A lot of people that we serve food to on the outside are just people that live around here, you know. We serve the people trying to get back on their feet. So everybody is trying to do something for themselves. That is what we are doing there. So we get them from Ohio, California, everywhere.

R: So most are not people who have lived on the street for years and are just looking for a meal; they are people who genuinely want to get back on their feet.

W: Right, yes. Most people are seeking work. A lot of them will just go to labor finders and just get a few bucks in that pocket to get started.

R: What is labor finders?

W: That is like temporary jobs.

R: Day labor work.

W: Yes. People know when they come to St. Francis and they find a job, St. Francis will house you until you can help yourself, and get in a place. A lot of times, when people come to St. Francis, the system (HRS, etc.) will help a mother and child to get in a place quicker if they are out in the streets compared to if they were living with relatives. A lot of times when a mental patient comes to St. Francis, they can get into an institute quicker, so it varies. St. Francis is used for a lot of things.

R: Do social service agencies work well with you all? Do they work well with the St. Francis house, and getting help for people who need it?

W: Now, I am not sure, but I believe so, but you would have to ask the case worker on that one. She could tell you more about that. But as far as I know, they try to work with us, yes.

R: What do you think is the most important thing for a homeless person or a person

who is down on their luck, to get back on their feet? What is the most important thing they have to do?

W: Lose their pride.

R: Explain.

W: When you have pride you will only do certain things, but when you lose your pride, you will do anything. What I mean is a lot of times there is a person with pride who will not dig a ditch, but if you do not have that pride, you will dig a ditch, you will rake leaves, you will do any kind of work like that, and that is basically what it is all about. You have to lose your pride and be able to accept any kind of job, whether it is clean or dirty and then you start there. That is what I mean when I am saying, "You have to crawl before you walk." If you only make ten dollars, use that ten dollars wisely. Say tomorrow you earn twenty, use that twenty dollars wisely, but first what you have to do is to lose your pride. That is what I try to explain to everybody, you have to lose pride, because pride can keep you down for the rest of your life.

R: Do you see many homeless people who are not willing to do that? They want to say, "I am better than this, I do not want to go out and dig a ditch."

W: A lot of them at first have that feeling of pride, and then they find out, "Well I have to lose it." Because we have to understand in homeless, you have qualified electricians, plumbers, and everything, and a lot of them are used to making eight, nine, ten dollars an hour, and when they came down on the storm they were expecting this, and they were not going to make it. They could make four or five dollars an hour. So a lot of them had to lose it and this was good training for a lot of people.

R: Storm, what do you mean?

W: In other words the storm that they had in South Florida.

R: Oh, the hurricane. [Hurricane Andrew, August, 1992]

W: Yes. So many people came down here and they were qualified because they were told that jobs were plentiful, so they came down with the option of making ten to thirteen dollars an hour.

R: Are you saying a lot of people at the St. Francis house who moved to Florida to try to find jobs as a result of the hurricane and they cannot and now they are on the streets?

W: Yes, quite a few of them did that and they are trying to make their way back to the North, because a lot of times they took what they had and came down, because they were laid off there. They came to Florida and they found out that there were more people than they expected. There were people that would take five dollars an hour just to work.

R: You all see a number of people [like this] at the St. Francis house?

W: Yes, I have seen quite a few come through. They were expecting this and that and they did not get it. So, you see, a lot of people will tell people certain things and they believe it; when they get here they find out it is not true. So then they have to either stop at St. Francis and try to make a few bucks to go back North or wherever.

R: Do you have to turn many people away that you just do not have room for at the St. Francis house?

W: We turn quite a few away.

R: Is that difficult?

W: Yes. Anytime you turn anybody away it is difficult, because you want to help everybody. There are sometimes when it does not hurt as much if you see somebody come in drinking or something like that, but when you see somebody really in need like when the weather was really cold people bring people off of the interstate to St. Francis. For instance, during the last cold weather I had an incident where a young man and a young pregnant woman [came in] and we were filled up and Salvation Army was filled up and they were having the school open, but on this particular night they closed the school, so they did not have that. So I told people to bring them in. I put them up in a motel myself. I just could not see them sleeping out in the cold. You know, once you have been out there and you know what it is, it is hard to tell somebody and a lot of times in your heart you know you do not have any more room, but you see people that need to be out of the cold, you feel like, "I could let them sleep on the floor, or I could do this," but then again you have rules and a policy that you have to follow. You do not want to turn anybody away, no.

R: You told me what you did in this one case, but what do you tell other people that you have to turn away, do you offer advice?

W: You try to call around, for one thing. You try to get the Salvation Army to house one more, or whatever facility you can find. You try to do that, because you just do not want to say no. That is what it is all about. You try to rack your mind, and think, "Can I let them stay here?" But then sometimes it comes to the point that

you just have to say no.

R: But it must be very rewarding to work at St. Francis.

W: Oh yes, oh yes.

R: How is it rewarding?

W: I get to share my life with somebody new. You just sit there sometimes and listen. People just need somebody to talk to. Especially when you can listen to somebody that is going through what you have already gone through and then you can say, "Well, I went through this, and look at me now, and the same could happen to you." In other words, to be able to give someone hope, and let them know that I was out there too and nothing is impossible. Or just to play with a little child, to see a little child smile or happy, make little faces. There are just a lot of things there. We had a lady the other day that had just had a birthday and she was living in a shelter, and I said, "Hit it," and started singing happy birthday to her. You should have seen the glow that was on her face. You can see people that are homeless, they need food, they need this, they need that, but it does not take that much to make them smile a lot of times. Just to see a person smile is all of the happiness that I need anyway. But that is all it is, a lot of times people just want you to listen to them; it is beautiful.

R: Are there any people or any things that have happened since you have been working in the St. Francis house that really stick out in your mind, anybody that has come through there that you will always remember or anything that has happened?

W: Well, that is a good question. Truly since I was in St. Francis, I think I might be the one that started the history.

R: I am sorry, I did not understand.

W: I might be the one that started the history that came from St. Francis, I do not know. I can remember this incident where this young man turned around, there was some conflict between him and his father and he was thrown out of his house and he came to St. Francis. He was in school, yet being thrown out of the house (in other words cast aside) this young man still had the determination to go to school and to work at the same time. A lady came by and she found out about this and she took the young man home and this young man has the hope of going to college. I think for a child, not even finished from high school, to have the determination like that, that he can make it, yes, that would have to be the whole thing right there. He is doing great.

[End of the interview]