

FINAL NARRATIVE

This interview of Mirna was conducted by Josselin and Kysharra, 9th graders at Oakland Tech. The interview was conducted over the phone at Oakland Tech. Mirna was born and raised in El Salvador working in a chicken plantation, as the secretary. As she grew up she made new friendships and even fell in love with the guy who has helped her be the person she is today. Then at the age of 28 she left her beloved country, and came to America. She has been stereotyped as an illegal immigrant many times when she is actually legal.

"When you are in love you want to live with the person that you love."

I met him at a difficult time. I met him when his sister had died. Her name was Irma. She died because a bus ran over her and 2 of her friends while coming back from school. It was horrible. But it was also beautiful because I met him and fell in love.

He would come visit me twice every year since I was living in El Salvador and he was living here in the U.S. After four and a half years he asked for a petition from immigration so I could come here. Immigration accepted the visa with only one condition, that I was going to marry him.

People believe that all immigrants come illegally and that they are not citizens but it is not true I came legally. I was known around the airport as the doll lady. My mother in law had given me a big handmade doll so I could bring it to my niece. Everybody kept on asking me what it was made out of and asking who it was for. I was happy about seeing him again but I was sad because I had to leave all my work behind, my family, and the people I grew up with.

I got married three months [after coming to the U.S. The job that I had was really amazing because I would help people send money to Central America but I only worked for a [small] amount of time because after that my son was born. I tried having a job while someone else took care of my son but my husband thought it was better for the kid to stay with me instead of being with someone else and then we came to agreement that he was going to work and I was going to take care of my son so that way we could maintain the balance we had before.

I feel like I was re-born. Why? Because here you have to learn how to speak again. I also had to get used to the transportation like the buses but now

I have learned how to drive. I have also learned a good amount of English and with that I got my citizenship. We have been able to pay off our house and one day it will be there for our kids. We are like a team. My older son goes to school that is practically his job. My husband works in a restaurant and I take care of my younger son. To make some extra money I sell food every other Friday and that way I have a way to buy things for my [two kids] and anything else that is necessary.

If none of this would've happened [the opportunity of coming here to the US], I think that I would keep on working and I think we would be the same with my husband. We would still be going out and he would have already decided to go to El Salvador because we had said that if he could not give me a chance to move here he would move to over there. Life is difficult there[in El Salvador] and I think we would not be in the best situation because there is a lot of delinquency and there are gangs and it is difficult for people to grow up and live there.

The one who has supported me in everything has been my husband, he has helped me in many things. He had motivated me to start driving when I was scared. We have done all of this so our sons can have more than we could have or that they can give their future kids more than we can give them. I would not change the fact that I choose to come here because it is the best opportunity that God has given me. We are not all here to have negative effect but to find a better us. A better future.