Abla Gharib - Introduction

Medical Journey and Relocation to Chicago

Abla: I'm a mother of five children. I was living in Florida when I had toxic shock syndrome. I ended up having amputations - both of my hands and both legs. I came to Chicago for treatment and decided to stay here as it's an accessible city where I can also be independent.

Heritage, Language, and Early Advocacy

My heritage is from Palestine - you hear it all the time on the news. And they came because of the war, after that, and I was born in Michigan. Now I know Arabic fluently because my father had sent me one time to live over there in Palestine. It meant a lot to me because I learned not only the culture, but I learned advocacy as well.

Disability Advocacy and Driving Change

Since I became a person with a disability, I've been an advocate for people with disabilities, for the disenfranchised in society, for my son, also, who has a disability. I learned if you- since my childhood, if you want things to change, they're not going to change on their own. We have to be the voice for people who cannot speak out.