

L: I rent for \$2550. And actually, I'm struggling too much.

M: Yeah, it must be crazy.

L: Because, I have my brother and my boyfriend is laid off. So I mostly do everything. I receive only maybe \$1300 or \$1400 here. I do overtime so. To compute it, it's like two-thousand something only for the rent. And I'm really struggling. My brother only gives me \$625 per month.

M: So it's just you, your brother and your boyfriend together?

L: Sometimes my grandkids come and stay with me. It's really hard. If only there was a law that they could lower the rent, I'm happy.

M: That's a huge rent.

L: Yeah, it is!

M: Yeah. How long have you been in the Bay Area?

L: I've been here already 25 years. Because I've been here 20 years already.

M: 20 years at Stanford?

L: Yeah, Stanford.

M: And have you been living in San Jose the whole time?

L: San Jose the whole 25 years.

M: Why did you come to the Bay Area?

L: Because when I came, and I'm very new here and stayed, my sister lived in Bay Area already. So that's where I started. At my sister's place. But then it's too hard to mingle one family to another family to another. It's hard. That's why we looked for another place, I looked for another place. It's quite hard but, I'm struggling but I can make it. I did it. But we can not have a lot of savings. The savings, it's all out. Food is expensive too. It's the Silicon Valley, so. Oh my God, if I hear somebody, some places too that "oh, I'm just renting", like my daughter's living in Arkansas. She's renting only \$700 for a huge, big house compared to mine. So, maybe by retirement, I might go over there with my daughter. Because it's

really hard, if you receive only a few a month, and then you retire, what will happen to you?
Nothing.

M: So, what keeps you here in San Jose?

L: My family is mostly here. We're close with each other, so that's a big help.

M: Yeah, to have those connections.

L: Yeah. But, in practicality, if possible, because I don't have a house here I'll move when I retire. Find a better place.

M: Did you... When you first came to San Jose, how old were your children? Did they go to school here?

L: Yeah, they were young. My first was 4 years old and the other one was 6 years old. Very young. And I really... I don't even care for "oh let's go out" like this, no no no. I want job. To support my kids. So I really look for job. And then I saw my cousin here, and said "hey if there's an opening can you tell me?" So after 3 days I already had a job! I started in hotel. And then after the hotel, a couple of months, I started here in Stanford. There was an opening and I applied for it.

M: How has it been working at Stanford?

L: The benefits are nice. I like it. The benefits are ok, because it helps with my daughters study, the tuition grant that they have. It helps on their studies. And actually my first daughter finished in nursing. And the other one wasn't able to but studied massage therapy. Only, the salary's too low, really hard.

M: How has, like... how has San Jose and where you live changed since you've been here?

L: Oh, before I could barely here some, like, murders, like that. Now it's a lot of killing.

M: Crime's gotten worse?

L: Crimes. Crime never stops anymore. So, it's like I am unsafe. Before, I left our car unlocked, and nobody went in! And now, you have to lock everything and check everything. We bought a camera because we don't know already. It's unsafe really.

M: So what about with renting? How has that changed?