

# Julia Cabelleros - 8-23-23

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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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00:01

So I am here today with my friend juice, and I am at the refuge cafe. It is in the afternoon on Wednesday, August 23 2023. And my friend Juice has graciously agreed to speak with me today. So this is part of the series for the friends of Broomfield history about people who have been experiencing homelessness and hearing their stories or parts of their stories. And so Juice is here with me, will allow you to introduce yourself however you would like to be introduced

Julia 00:39

to people. Hey, Hi, how's everybody?

00:43

So you have an option to go by Juice for the purposes of this interview and also on the form that I'll have you fill out. But I wonder, Juice, if you'd be willing to just kind of tell us a little bit about yourself like where you're from how old you are? Any of those biographical sorts of details to help people begin to get to know you.

Julia 01:04

Sure, absolutely. First of all, Julia E Cavaleiro, Jr. is my real name. I go by Juice have been for years now. And well I mean, I was born in New York, Queens, New York, I'm an original Queen raised in Philadelphia, went to Florida for a couple years, met my ex and had children and ended up here in Colorado about almost eight, nine years ago.

01:33

Okay, where in Colorado? Did you move to initially

Julia 01:36

Broomfield. 27 East Ninth Avenue actually to be correct. Okay,

01:40

so you've been in Broomfield that whole time. So did you live initially then in an apartment? That sounded like an apartment address?

Julia 01:50

It was an apartment? Yeah. Right off a 9th 10th street? Oh, yeah. Okay. My neighbor Tenth and Sheridan. Yeah. Okay.

01:58

And how long did you live there?

Julia 02:00

Almost a year, almost a whole year. And then I ended up with some friends after that.

02:08

Then you lived with friends off and on for a while or,

Julia 02:10

well, the kids' friends. Yeah, they introduced me to a couple other parents and because of a separation between me and my ex, I ended up moving with some friends in the Broomfield housing area now. Okay. Yeah. And

02:23

how many kids do you have? For

Julia 02:25

four total? Okay. Yeah, they're older now.

02:29

Yeah. Okay. What are their ages now?

Julia 02:32

In their twenties. Okay.

02:35

So you live with some friends of your kids for a while and, and then kind of bring us up to speed on how you moved from that situation to being without, without a house?

Julia 02:50

Well, I ended up with some friends. And then I ended up saving up my own money, moving into an apartment with my kids, and establishing something in Westminster down Bradburn Boulevard. an apartment. And I ended up taking a vacation to Philadelphia to visit my deceased father and the cemetery. And for a while, I stood there for a couple of days and then came back and the kids were all excited to move to the apartment because after I went to go visit him, I said let's move. moved. I ended up getting back with my ex husband and that's when everything went downhill again. After I was single and had all this money saved up. My son also helped me with \$500. My ex gave me \$200. We all ended up going into an apartment and then a couple months after that, it just failed again, we ended up getting kicked out. No work. Couldn't find a job. Couldn't establish anything. Um, so we ended up getting kicked out again and on the streets after that. Kids ended up moving out with friends. They were

younger at the time they were 16 My younger son was about 13 12 13 years old Joshua and and certainly Amana was about 16 Wister was about 17.

04:05

That's a very Eastern name. Yeah, Wister, Wister.

Julia 04:07

Wister.

04:12

So what sorts of jobs have you done throughout your life?

Julia 04:15

I've done real estate. I actually worked for timeshares. In-house department. I've done multiple things like fast food cashier. Sales, I've done a lot of sales like Marriott sales, timeshare resale stuff like

04:33

okay, so then things went downhill, you ended up getting evicted. And so how long have you been unhoused?

Julia 04:45

I have been it's been now let's say I got here. 2014 So since 2015-16 I've been on the street so I'd say something is anything 22 For seven years now. Okay.

05:03

So that's a long time

Julia 05:05

to be in the streets. Yeah, yeah. More outside than in. Yeah.

05:09

So what do you want to tell people about that experience? Has it mostly been in this area?

Julia 05:21

Yeah. Yeah. Do some Westminster. Keep your head up, you know, don't give up. There are times where I just gave up. Kids moved on, they got their own jobs got their own place. I gave up my relationship gave up after 16 years. And I dropped everything. And I said, I'm done. Whatever happens happens at this point. Wow, I'm still. I'm sorry. I'm still on that. I'm still there. You know, where it's like, whatever happens happens. Yeah. I've got so many disabilities, you know, car accidents, Carcer. back surgery, head injuries. But I keep my head up and keep the faith, you know, that maybe something might change?

06:21

Did you have the back surgeries and other injuries from the car accident or from something else

Julia 06:27

from something else that happened when I was younger? Child?

06:33

Something you've dealt with for a while.

Julia 06:35

And I'm supposed to go in for my second one in 2017. I was supposed to go in back surgery for another back surgery, but I'm scared that might be paralyzed, it's 25 75% chance that I might never walk again. So I never went back. Yeah, that's another reason. And I won't collect disability, I refuse to collect disability. Because it's not a survival type of thing. You know, I can't survive off of disability. I can't pay rent and bills and electricity through that, you know, I mean, next thing, you know, you've got a \$2,000 paycheck, and the whole thing is gone, you know, and you're still making ends meet. It's like, what's the point of collecting that right now? I got a suit and I got only \$4,000 back. But being in a took me two years to walk again, after your cert after my surgery, and when was that? Back in 2010.

07:29

So you have been in the Broomfield Westminster area, living outside for seven years,

Julia 07:36

seven years now that constantly Public Works kicking me out, people kicking me out. Were like, what, from scratch locations. I'll just pick a location and set up my tent. They'll be like, you can't camp here, and the police will come and they'll take everything away. The tent that you worked hard for the clothes you worked hard for, you know, they'll just destroy it. They'll break it down and they'll throw it out. Everything you worked hard to keep warm. You know, there's no homeless shelters out here in Broomfield so and we get upset, you know, being homeless because it's like we can't afford housing. We can't afford anything else. But you won't. You won't provide a homeless shelter for people out here. You you force us to go to Boulder or Denver. And Boulder is packed. You know when you have to like schedule, or Denver. It's all packed. So it's like, where do I go at this point, and then you don't want to bother people after a while. But public works will still come they'll destroy your entire tent. They'll destroy everything. And just put it in the trash.

08:38

So have you received the notices the seven day notices to move here?

Julia 08:42

Not now. No. Because they I met a nice one Public Works. And he says and he messed with the power. He actually worked for the city. He says Look, your tent, right by the railroad tracks and they shouldn't touch you. They shouldn't message you don't put it over the fence, put it over the fence where the railroad tracks are and they should leave you alone. So that's where I have my tent now. So hopefully, no, absolutely no.

09:07

So how many locations would you say that you've camped in over the years to stay where your tent is

Julia 09:13

about 10 or more? Maybe more than that. Maybe even more than that? Yeah.

09:18

In all different parts of Broomfield, Westminster or

Julia 09:22

all different parts of Broomfield Westminster. 91st and Piers. I mean, like, I mean, I went under the bridges, I would go to places like what I saw there was so much land, you know, and away from housing and businesses, because that's what the police tell you as long as you're away from businesses and housing. Then you can put your tent there but then here comes Public Works and they're like, No, you can't they take it all down and they take it from you. They rip your whole life apart. It's like you're crying and you're like, What are you doing this why sleep? Everybody has a job. You know, not everybody can afford, you know to move so

10:01

What's the hardest thing about being in your situation? Are some of the hardest things

Julia 10:10

that people will just drive by and look at you and not care. versus me where the minute I get a big paycheck, it's like, Ah, I'm giving people money. And here you go, and I get something. I'm like, Oh my God, you need this. And oh, my God, you need 100 bucks, and oh, my God, you need cigarettes, and we need clothes. And every time I get a big chunk of money, it's like, I'm running to all these people who are homeless, like my friend, you know, I got money right away, I give him a \$20 bill, oh, my God, you need something to eat. Every day, you look at these people, and they drive by like, they don't care. That's the hardest part. You see, you know, until it's your daughter or your son on the street, then that's when you decide to make a difference. Like my mother, she never used to give money away. Ever since I've been out on the streets, I've heard my mom has just given money away, left and right on the streets in Florida. So it kind of changes the whole family going versus roll up your window and ignore that drunk person is now give that drunk person the change in your car, hand him a \$10 bill because you never know, whose life you can change with that \$10 bill?

11:31

What do you think people don't understand about their neighbors who are experiencing homelessness? What do those people that are passing by that don't seem to notice

Julia 11:41

it's more of a fear. Fear of that person is dangerous, then that person needs help. It's a myth. It's a mis understanding of, I'm afraid of them, instead of saying help them. Sorry to interrupt, I'm heading out. But I have all that started. So I think people look at at people like, Get up and get a job, it's not so easy, you don't know their story. Some of us can't even get a job because we're depressed, you know, so the minute we get a job, we start crying. It's an overwhelming to handle you because we've been on the

streets for so long. And we try so hard to focus that maybe being outside on the street has caused ADHD or, you know, has caused other medical conditions because we've been on the street so long, it's more or less like, if this would have been help from the beginning, you know, who would have been more access, you know, to to some more help in from the beginning then happen, these medical conditions would not have happened and now I have cancer? What kind of cancer cervical cancer?

12:55

Sorry to hear that. So are you getting treatment for that?

Julia 12:59

I don't even want to get treatment. And this is where I've given up again. So now, my kids, my daughter. And you know, they don't even call me or say hi.

Julia 13:17

I didn't raise them to be that way. You know, it's like ever since the homelessness came and the drugs, drugs too. Because when you're homeless, you end up start using Yeah, you look for other ways to kill the pain, you know. So, you know, because of doctors giving prescriptions for pain, you end up getting addicted to those prescriptions. And when you don't go see the doctor no more because you don't you don't want that anymore. You know, it's like you go out there and you start searching for other things.

13:48

When you can't get opioids that you you know, had a addiction to then you turn to other things. Like

Julia 13:56

I even went as far as I've been selling my body lately, and this is recent. So \$100 here, \$100 there, help me out, get me cigarettes, get me a drink of liquor. Give me a warm blanket. Some.

14:14

So what do you think it would take to change your perspective on your situation where you would maybe want to get treatment for cancer or to take steps?

Julia 14:26

I don't know. I have no idea. I don't know.

14:33

You've talked in the past about your son, and that you have been waiting for him to be released.

Julia 14:39

He is released and he's three years on parole. So he can't move or leave the state of Colorado for three years. And you know how hard that is? Yeah, how hard it is to be on parole and not mess up. Yeah, I'm hoping he doesn't mess up. You know, I'm hoping that he focuses and because I'm here because I don't want to leave him Um, you know,

15:02

do you have a place to stay right now? Where is he staying?

Julia 15:04

Well either he has he has to stay in the homeless shelters. Right the see I was robbed. I was a victim of robberies. So you know, it's like I was a victim of mental abuse, robbery, you know, and all kinds of stuff, you know, a digital assault. I have no help from the police. No help from the FBI. They all call me crazy. So it's all it's all intertwines with everything, you know, and now that I need help, I don't know where to go. I went to the police to file reports, FBI file reports, identity theft, forgery, I mean, I'm talking on a list of things I was a victim of in a certain person's home. And, you know, them using my data, all kinds of stuff, you know, literally robbing me from my email addresses and trying to make me believe something else, you know, because of the because of the drugs they say. It should not be a reason. So as much more to it than that, but that's why I say homeless.

16:00

What are some of your favorite things to do when you're not down because of your situation?

Julia 16:09

sing my dad paid for years of my for me to sing before he passed away. So

16:18

she took voice lessons or music led music classes. Okay.

Julia 16:21

My favorite thing is to sing. I love singing.

16:24

Have you performed in different places? Or tell me about that?

Julia 16:28

No, I have not performed anywhere. I mean, I sat outside and I dance and I mean, I was when I came back from Florida. I was singing, dancing, working out twice a day studying different languages. I wrote my own book. I mean, like, what was that about? About life change. It was about life change. It was about me changing my life after leaving my ex husband and trying to focus on me. I ended up losing a lot of weight, 164 pounds. But then it all fell back down again. You know, I lost all my teeth. That's why I speak funny. So I have dentures, but they're not. You know,

17:08

they could they fit better. Yeah,

Julia 17:10

it could fit better. But you know \$60,000 For screw-ins that's a lot of money. Yeah. Oh my god. I don't have so

17:23

what's your favorite song

Julia 17:29

there's a lot of them. I'm more of a hip hop kind of girl but electronica kind of girl like TSO I like all this good stuff.

17:37

Do you want to sing a verse for it? No.

Julia 17:40

No, no. Absolutely not. I probably choke or coke right? I mean, croak over. Okay, that's fine. Yeah, because of my teeth. It vibrates and you see the the lip movement vibrate. It completely changed my whole face. My whole look so yeah, it's amazing what a set of teeth can do. Yeah.

18:03

Tell me your favorite things about Broomfield

Julia 18:10

well the view from the mountains from here I can see the beautiful mountains and the snow peaks. And I can sit down and look at them and remember the reason why I traveled from Florida here and it was for those mountains just for peace it was for the air. I was to breathe every time I climb that mountain. It reminds me why I came here

18:44

can you tell me about the Broomfield that you know

Julia 18:52

I met some really nice people here

I mean I can't really say much about the city but because everyone has been so closed off you know it's not what I thought it would be. But I'll tell you one thing: everyone is always happy in this town. You barely hear anyone arguing or yelling or this isn't like the ghetto neighborhood where everyone is outside you know selling drugs or anything like that this is a very secluded kept together neighborhood where everyone they're happy and you know they they greet you Hi, how are you? But that's as far as he goes. You know what I mean? Like it doesn't go any further than that. Yeah, I mean that people in the neighborhood are what make the neighborhood right. So nice stores, thrift stores. I mean they you know, but I've been a you know, they've been trespassing me from everywhere I go, so it's like I really don't besides uh besides the dad the resources here are very good. The fact that everything is close together food stamp office medical, all that is in the same department so it does make it a little bit easier for people to receive food stamps and medicaid and all that stuff. So

20:25

what else would you like people to know about your life and your experience here that that would be good to add to the archives?



Julia 20:34

To give back people you know, and think about what you're doing before you do it. Yeah, try to give good try to give when you see someone out there that needs help, help. You know, just don't ask if they're okay. I mean, I had a random stranger come up to me and offered me a place to stay for the night and I left that morning. Because I didn't want to bother them. And they put me in a bedroom downstairs. in their basement. It was all white covers. It was so soft and a shower. It was beautiful. Beautiful couple, you have your people who who sacrifice and they're like, You know what? Let's drop everything. And rescue this person. It was raining outside. And she brought me home and we ate. We cooked, watched movies, laughed. And you know she put me in the basement put me to sleep. She says if you need anything else, let me know. And that morning I woke up and I left and I see you know, I didn't want to bother them anymore. Yeah, and what they're what they offered to me you know. So one night was good enough for me and I was glad for the shower. So I you know, you've got to remind everybody that you don't know the person's life that you're saying hello to when you shake their hand. You have no idea what this person has been through at all. So when you offer something to someone and they take it's a beautiful thing, so just keep offering people keep keep keep saying yes to these people that you see out in the street because not everyone is trying to rob you and you know not everyone is trying to take from you every month somebody might be willing to help you rearrange your entire house around you know, or help you fix your roof or your home you know that you have in your roof. Or the extra hand that you might need might be that person you let in your home and what you what you give them a place to stay for the time being. It's probably good enough than paying this person \$1,000 to come in a contractor and help you fix it when you know you can fix it. You just need to know all they do is just need a place to say so you never know who you might meet. Yeah.

23:03

Well, thank you. I appreciate your time today. Thank you for participating and sharing your story.

23:08

Thank you. You're welcome.