

Emely Tovar, 11.1.23

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broomfield, diverse, portuguese, house, good, people, middle school, rent, living, emily, hard, moved, mom, immigration lawyer, share, shelter, deported, finding, languages, years

David Allison 00:08

There we go. All right, Emely, thank you so much for meeting with me today. I really appreciate you and I just would love to hear....just share your name and just a little bit about yourself.

Emely Tovar 00:17

Right. I'm Emily, and I'm a full time student as of now, and I'm studying languages and law.

David Allison 00:24

Wonderful. That's fantastic. Where are you going to school?

Emely Tovar 00:27

CU Boulder.

David Allison 00:29

Awesome. Awesome. I'd love for you to share just a little bit more (Gulbis?), first of all. (Laughter) So first, I wanted to just ask a little bit more like, how did you kind of end up in the Broomfield area and going to school at CU? Kind of just tell me a little bit more about your story.

Emely Tovar 00:50

Yeah, so me and my family have been living here for around six years, going to be seven in December. We'd just found a house that we had to rent and we lived in the house for about three years. And then we moved again to another house and we lived there for three years and then just recently this August, we moved into another house. So it's been... I like Broomfield, my mom likes Broomfield. It's very calm, and it's just peaceful.

David Allison 01:27

Yeah. Yeah. Good. Good. So, as you were thinking about, like, where to, you know, where did you come from prior to coming to Broomfield and like, what brought you here?

Emely Tovar 01:41

Yeah. So we, me and my family, were living in a shelter. And we saw that Broomfield had a house open. And we just needed to move out as soon as possible from the shelter because we had been living there

for nine months. And we were just, we saw the house and we really liked it. And we decided to move there. So we came from Denver.

David Allison 02:05

Nice, nice. And it sounds like that kind of process of figuring out how to be up here. How did you hear about the house in Broomfield? What was that like?

Emely Tovar 02:16

I think we had, like, an advisor, over there at the shelter, and they would help us. They would have people to help us find houses. And my mom just saw that house and we decided to take the home.

David Allison 02:33

Wow, fantastic. So was it you and your mother? And then was there anybody else in your family at the time?

Emely Tovar 02:40

Yes. My two brothers and my younger sister.

David Allison 02:44

Okay, yeah. Yeah. So finding a place that would work for everybody and that sort of thing,,,

Emely Tovar 02:40

Yeah.

David Allison 02:44

...can be tough sometimes, I'm sure.

Emely Tovar 02:50

Yeah. Yeah.

David Allison 02:54

Yeah. Good. So. And then did you end up kind of going to school in Broomfield when you moved up here then?

Emely Tovar 03:01

Yes. I came to the middle school when I was in sixth grade. So at the beginning of January, I started Broomfield Heights Middle School, and it was hard adjusting, you know, new people. Not very diverse, but we made it work. And I went to Broomfield High School and CU Boulder.

David Allison 03:25

Okay. Yeah. Yeah. Tell me a little bit more about that. You know, one of the things this project is about is trying to share that Broomfield is becoming more diverse, and it has not traditionally been very diverse at all; and in some ways, is not. And so that question of like, what was that kind of like, and just the

culture change and some of the things that you've missed, maybe, from living in Denver, moving up to Broomfield, what was that like?

Emely Tovar 03:53

Yeah, so it was hard adjusting. Now, like my sister's in middle school, and I see that the middle school is more diverse, she has friends. And when I was in school, I mean, I had a couple of friends, but obviously, I didn't feel a part of it. Like, I didn't feel part of the school. So I wasn't shy or anything, it was just hard to, you know, fit in.

David Allison 04:21

Right.

Emely Tovar 04:23

But, I think now Broomfield is becoming more diverse. And I like that.

David Allison 04:28

Yeah, yeah.

Emely Tovar 04:29

But yeah, it was just hard adjusting and, you know, fitting in,

David Allison 04:35

Right, so like finding friends and folks that would, you know, understand you, too, you as probably as part of your culture. Yeah. So what are some of those maybe pieces that you're seeing now happening? It sounds like there may be more people in the schools that are, you know, more diverse and different cultures, but anything else?

Emely Tovar 05:00

I mean, yeah, I would just say school. Schools are becoming more diverse, which is good. I mean, that's the only one I have in mind. But I would say, you know, housing, not many people in this community, I feel like where I'm at, isn't very diverse. And I will say housing is like the missing part for this community.

David Allison 05:28

Yeah. Yeah, I think that's really true for so many folks. Like, it's really hard to find housing that makes sense for people and that can be affordable.

Emely Tovar 05:38

Yeah.

David Allison 05:39

Yeah, absolutely.

David Allison 05:45

So can you tell me maybe just a little bit more about how, how your mom's doing these days? And what she's, you know, thinking about working on and still obviously, you know, raising your siblings too, but...

Emely Tovar 05:58

Yeah. Well, she's had a, you know, she was diagnosed with PTSD this year, anxiety. So, I mean, living here, she feels more calm, which is good. And I would say she's, well, she's adjusted to this community. And I like that she likes it. And I will say that, now that we have found a forever home, she's at peace and, you know, it was hard with the rent and, you know, all these years paying rent, it was hard for us with the bills and just living in this community, where the rent is really high.

David Allison 06:47

Yeah.

Emely Tovar 06:48

So yeah....

David Allison 06:50

Absolutely. So when you say, it sounds like the home now, you're not paying as much rent or you own it outright? Is that the situation?

Emely Tovar 07:00

Yeah, so we're buying the home.

David Allison 07:04

Oh, nice. That's great. Yeah. Definitely makes it better on a monthly basis once you get to that point, for sure. Yeah, that's good. What do you think Broomfield needs? Still? What would make Broomfield a better place? I mean, obviously, more housing, that sort of thing we just talked about, but anything else?

Emely Tovar 07:26

Yeah. I mean, I would say, you know, when there's snow, just clear up the road. I know it only clears up the main ones. But no, we need the small ones as well. I would say that pretty much that and obviously more diversity. But yeah, Broomfield is a beautiful community. And that's, I mean, that's all.

David Allison 07:55

Okay. Yeah. Good deal. Were there any stories or things that, you know, we haven't talked about or anything you wanted to share? I don't know about CU and your experience up there. How's that been?

Emely Tovar 08:08

Um, it's been good. I actually commute, and I mean, I'm loving it.

David Allison 08:14

Nice.

Emely Tovar 08:15

I don't know what it was. I thought it was gonna be different, in that, I don't know. I just love it. And it's a good school.

David Allison 08:26

That's awesome. Yeah, it's really also a beautiful place, beautiful campus.

Emely Tovar 08:31

Yeah.

David Allison 08:34

What are some of the things as far as like, I don't know, you said you're in a law program.

Emely Tovar 08:43

Yeah, well, I'm studying. Well, that's what I want my major to be, pre-law, and a minor in linguistics. Like, as of now I'm taking Portuguese and...

David Allison 08:53

Oh, wow.

Emely Tovar 08:56

Yeah, I'm just still figuring it out. But I think I want to be an immigration lawyer. And that's why I'm going for that route, and yeah.

David Allison 09:10

What kind of speaks to you about being an immigration lawyer and I'll address a separate question that I'd like to ask you after, so go ahead.

Emely Tovar 09:20

Yeah, I don't know. I just after, well, what my family has been through and my mom's immigration status has taken forever. I just want to, you know, help people, like make the process even faster and help the people that are in need, like for, like any news over their case or their status. And since my father was what's called deported, I just want to be like, a spokesperson, and you know, stand up for them.

David Allison 09:55

Yeah. Yes, and that that is so important and just having people that can help, you know that process go quicker. I mean, it's just such a drag to kind of go through those government systems and figure it out. Yeah. Absolutely. And then you were mentioning, you're learning Portuguese. Do you also speak Spanish in addition to English?

Emely Tovar 10:22

Yes, I speak Spanish. And I'm taking Portuguese. I took French in high school. And I'm just into languages, and I would like to travel and, you know, learn as many languages as possible and soon visit Brazil, because that's where I want to go.

David Allison 10:42

Oh, nice.

David Allison 10:43

Yeah, well, that and Portuguese, that'll be perfect. Way to go. Awesome.. Are you finding, what I know, the limited amount that I know, like Portuguese is fairly similar to Spanish, but then there are some differences too. So it's kind of interesting that way.

Emely Tovar 11:05

Yeah, it's very similar. And since, like, Portuguese has some roots from French, so I tend to like to mix them up a little bit, but it makes sense. And it's like, easy for me in a way because since they're all Latin, Romance languages, they all connect.

David Allison 11:26

Right. Right. Super cool. Can you tell me where your parents are from, originally?

Emily Tovar 11:38

My mother is from Mexico. Durango, Mexico. And my father's from (Secatancha?), Mexico. My mom has been living here for almost 30 years.

David Allison 11:57

Wow.

Emily Tovar 11:58

So she came here when she was 17. And she is now 50. So that's like most of her life. And I don't know what age my dad came, but he was then deported and he lives over there now. So yeah, we were trying to get my grandma to come over, but that didn't work out. So, my mom hasn't seen her for 30 years.

David Allison 12:23

Oh, wow. She hasn't been back then. Wow. Yeah. With immigration status in the air, that's hard. Yeah, for sure. Well, Emily, thank you so much. I really appreciate your time today. And just want to make sure that if you had anything else you wanted to share about your story, your family's history, I just, it's always lovely to hear these stories. And it's just a delight to talk to you too. I'm excited to see what will happen in your life. I mean, you've got such amazing skills, and you're doing such good stuff.

Emily Tovar 12:58

Thank you. Yeah, it was a pleasure talking to you.