

Immigrant Voices: Gabriela 2

[00:00:00] Hi, I am very, happy to be back for this interview. Since the last time we spoke, I have been doing very well. Um, I continue with my plans to study, and I think my English improved a lot.

[00:00:37] Well, coming to the United States has been great achievement for me, I have been planning my experience for many years. So, um, when I arrived here, I was able to have a beautiful experience. Um, I have met people who welcomed me and helped

[00:01:00] me coming. Um, coming to the United States has taught me that with effort you can fulfill your dreams, even if you are a foreign.

[00:01:17] Well, fortunately, I'm not longer work as an Au Pair for reasons of weight. I decided to leave the program.

[00:01:30] Well, it's difficult because you always miss your home and family. However, I received a lot of support for them. Um, and the communication is very constant. So, uh, it has made, made it easier for me to adapt to the country.

[00:01:58] Uh,

[00:02:00] unfortunately I had to return to my country, uh, once the program was canceled.

[00:02:06] [I felt] mistreated by the agency and family. Uh, it made me feel very bad. Because I did not receive the support, even though I had paid to the agency.

[00:02:33] Well at the moment I'm working for a multinational company. Uh, thanks to my trip to the United States. I had the opportunity to find good job offers because of the language, because I, I can improve my English better.

[00:02:57] I am taking things easy. [00:03:00] Um, one of my dreams was to be able to study in the United States, but this was not able, I wasn't able to complete this dream. Um, I as I would like it. For this moment, I am just working and waiting to take an entrance exam, admission exam for the university of Costa Rica.

[00:03:28] The perception of immigrant is that we work hard to feel accepted. We are hardworking people, and I don't doubt that many can achieve exceptional things. About Middlesex community, I think it is a community, ahh [00:04:00] with many opportunities for foreign. They opened the doors and welcomed [us in an] exceptional way.

[00:04:10] I think that helps, uh, people to feel motivated, to give their best, even if you're, if, if it is not their country of birth.

[00:04:33] I have received bad treatment only from the agency and the family. I think, I think it is unfair. I worked hard, in my country to get money, to fulfill my dream or, you know, to go[come] to the United States. I trusted in an [00:05:00] agency that abandoned me, and, in a family who changed their personality. When I arrived in[to] the United States.

[00:05:14] It seems sad and unfair to me that they play with the dreams [and] the effort of a human being.

[00:05:30] I think that helped me to develop in the community. I have seen the opportunities that they offered, not only to young people, but also to adults who are looking for growth opportunities.

[00:05:58] My most difficult experience [00:06:00] has been being an Au Pair. Uh, when I arrived in the United States, everything seems normal. The family had meetings uh, to tell me what I was doing wrong, uh, during the job. So, uh, I did everything to improve and be a better babysitter. Uh, wherever I saw a lot of miscommunications within the host parents and this lack of communication was affecting me and affecting my job also.

[00:06:35] So I decide, I decided to, um, ask the host parents, if we can have like a meeting, uh, in the afternoon, uh, they agree, but like 30 minutes later, I received a call from the coordinator, um, from the agency. So, I was a little bit lost, uh, [00:07:00] in that moment because, uh, she just called me and asked me a question in a very rude way, uh, after that the problems only got worse,

[00:07:18] so, um, I guess the day that I decided to end the relationship with the family was the day, uh, until the day that I needed to go to the supermarket, the host dad offered to pick me up from the supermarket as[at] 9:00 PM. So, I was waiting for him until 11:30 pm, alone and the Super Market closed at 11, I guess.

[00:07:57] So I was very,

[00:08:00] very scared because the supermarket wasn't far from the house. So, uh, I decided to [look] for method or transportation and return back home. But when I arrived to[at] the home, I realized that I could not entered to the house because my code had been blocked. Um, while I was waiting outside the sprinkles[water] in the garden turned on.

[00:08:38] So I was wet, scared, and the person, the person from the agency that was responsible for me did not answer the phone. So that, that they was[were] really scary for me. I was alone. I [didn't] feel, um, support from the family or support [00:09:00] from the agency. So, um, I had to wait outside in the door until the host parent decided to open[ed] me the door.

[00:09:11] So this day decided to just [leave] them, uh, not continue with the program with them.

[00:09:29] I had the wonderful opportunity to have family, close to my host family house. Uh, I was able to enjoy, and get to know more much more, uh, with my family, they motivated me to keep looking for families during the rematch and to not let the bad experience affect me. I was able to learn a [00:10:00] lot about character, to define myself, and fight for the things and the rights that I have as a human[being].

[00:10:16] [My] plans are to continue studying. I would like to study customs administration and I am only open to the opportunities that the life offers

[00:10:35] yes, I will love to be back there to have the opportunity to study again, uh, this time. This time in a more professional way, I guess. However, it is something that I have not planned yet for the moment I am trying to recover from the [00:11:00] last experience. So, I'm taking it easy.

[00:11:08] I love these interviews. I think I really enjoy sharing my experience. I would like people who are watching this video, uh, to know that there will always be good and bad experience[s], no matter the country that you are right now, but the important thing is to [persevere], and it's never too late to have new beginnings.

[00:11:36] Is never too late to have dreams. So, no matter the problems that we have in our countries or in other countries, the important thing is to continue fighting for your dreams. [00:12:00]

[00:12:00] Yes. In fact, I'm going to show you this piece that I made for you. So, uh, this is a small presentation, Costa Rica, Costa Rican art, uh, is inspired, uh, by the hand painted cart, in the area of Sarchi in Costa Rica. So, I love the life in color, I feel that Costa Ricans are like that colorful people, uh, who are not afraid to take risks.

[00:12:40] So I hope you like it.

[00:12:45] Thank you so much for welcome me and thank you very much for allowing me to share my experience and be with you in this interview today, blessings. [00:13:00]