



Maria Melo

Maria Melo:

My name is Maria Melo. I come from in Portugal, Azores. Azores, Sao Miguel. I'm come from a thousand, 98. A thousand? 90, 80. I come from, my head is exploded because America listen to [inaudible]. You know? I'm here at my sister's house. I'm living my sister's house. My sister said, "I'm putting you in America. The rest you take care yourself." Okay. I'm go around the streets looking for the job.

I'm crying because I don't know nothing in America. Somebody in the street see me, the guy, "Oh, what you crying?" I said, "I'm crying because I don't know. I'm looking for the job. I don't know where." The guy said, "Come with me. I'm find a job for you." I go behind the guy for the covered table. You know covered table over there? Down there? I behind the guy. The guy said, "Come with me." I'm go up for the stairs to talk to the manager? You know what I'm saying, manager?

Interviewer:

No I don't.

Maria Melo:

The people's, no manager. I don't know the name. The guy is, I don't know, say, "I'll increase. I'm qualify, I'll increase for me. For work on a covered table." I'm working at a covered table make things for the luxury. For the machine, the washing machines. For the cafeteria, make the coffee. The pieces, the electricity. I'm working. This is my rest my life, I'm here. I might retire right now. That's it.

Interviewer:

Can I ask how you immigrated here?

Maria Melo:

I'm immigrated, yeah.

Interviewer:

How did you come here? With your sister?

Maria Melo:

Workers. I come from my sister's house, because my sister made the letter for me for come from.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Maria Melo:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Are you still-



Maria Melo:

I press 20 things in America come from. I bring four kids. My kids, this is the small ones. You don't speak English. My kids at the school for the other people in the school. The other people in the school, the kids, tell my kids, "Is that you agree now?" My kids cry and cry. Said, "Mom, I can't got for the school because the guys, the kids, tell me I'm a [inaudible]." I said, "Don't listen. Don't listen nobody. That's okay. That's okay." I'm past too many things in America. The clothes, the friend, everything's yes. This is my life I come from.

Interviewer:

How old were you when you came-

Maria Melo:

How old me?

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Maria Melo:

36 years old, I'm come from America. Now, I have a 78 years old. This moment, I have a 78 years old.

Interviewer:

Did you come straight to New Bedford when you immigrated?

Maria Melo:

Yes, I'm come straight from my sister's house. I'm living my sister's house for one month. She take care of me, take care of my kids for the food everything. After my daughter said, "I can't take anymore. You go looking for the house." I'm looking for the house. I'm pay rent. Somebody in the church is help me. The church. My church? The ladies help me. They had shoes, clothes, food. I'm come from. I passed to many things, yes.

Interviewer:

Are you still connected to that same church?

Maria Melo:

My sister?

Interviewer:

Do you still go to that same church?

Maria Melo:

Yes. A life, everything part the life.

Interviewer:

Do you have any other family that immigrated here?



Maria Melo:

My family? Me and my sister and my brother. I have another brother is living New Bedford too.

Interviewer:

When did he come here?

Maria Melo:

The nother brother?

Interviewer:

Yes.

Maria Melo:

Five years after me he's coming. He's come from. Five years. I'm an American for 43 years right now. My brother is 35.

Interviewer:

What has you experience been like in New Bedford?

Maria Melo:

This is a good experience, but before it's passed too many things different.

Interviewer:

Are your children settled now in New Bedford?

Maria Melo:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Do you still visit the Azores?

Maria Melo:

Visit Azores? No, for 37 years I don't go over there. Because I need money for over there. Everything's expensive. The food, everything around the New Bedford's expensive, so I can't save month I work for too long now.

Interviewer:

Do you have any stories you wanted to tell about New Bedford? Your time living here?

Maria Melo:

No.

Interviewer:

Okay. All right.