

## **Transcript of an Interview with a Community Member**

### **Do you have a favorite movie or show?**

"I don't really have a favorite, but I like thrillers or mysteries."

### **What is your favorite music or type of music?**

"The artist Residente, a Latin American artist from Puerto Rico, and there is nothing like his music."

### **What job have you had other than social worker and did you enjoy it and why?**

"I have liked them all: working for people with disabilities, working for people who are old and have disabilities, working for YMCA Camp as an outdoor educator, working for environmental causes, and as cashier at Walgreens."

### **Can you tell us more about working with people with disabilities?**

"I worked for one of the biggest Catholic charities in the city, and I got a job with them. It is an amazing place for people with disabilities and after working with old people who have dementia, the amount of care that they give people who need the care is out of this world. They get bathed twice a day -- everything is clean. When you go to a place with old people, even rich people, it can be disheartening. So going to this place that is funded by the government and by Catholics and then showing people these people who are living in wheelchairs and really need help actually have a clean space, enough care, and good pay for people working there makes it one of my favorite jobs. You feel so good because it is a beautiful job."

### **What is your favorite part of being a social worker and why?**

"I really enjoy helping others and feeling like I can make a difference in their lives. I hear about many different issues that they encounter in life and want to help them to help themselves by giving them resources that they need. There is a stigma around homelessness in particular. It can happen to anyone, and it happens for many different reasons."

### **How do you feel that systemic issues are dealt with in your job?**

"I deal with systemic issues such as poverty, racism, and homelessness every day. They affect generations of people, not just one person. Whole families can be pulled apart but the work of a social worker is to try to reunite families ideally and at least give them resources that they need to overcome some of their obstacles on their journey."

**I am going to read you a quotation from an article that I read for class: "Poverty is a sledgehammer," said Jamie L. Hanson, a professor at the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Psychology who studies the effects of poverty on the brain. "It hits at so many different places in people's lives, from disrupting and challenging family situations to kind of these larger-scale stressful experiences in your community to maybe not having all of the economic resources, and these things then interact"**

**(<https://pulitzercenter.org/projects/growing-through-cracks>). Can you comment on this quotation?**

"I see evidence of poverty in Chicago every day. I interact with clients who have insecure housing, food, and mental health. Many times this is because of poverty, but also because of mental health issues. Our society has many systemic issues that will not be solved overnight because they are all connected."

### **Do you have a hobby or an activity that you are passionate about?**

"I like to meditate for half hour each day. So my go-to hobby is closing my eyes and breathing and meditating. After that it is probably walking. I am the most boring person ever! But walking and sitting there quietly -- there's nothing better than that in the world."

**What are your favorite sports?**

"Basketball and more basketball!"

**What is your favorite baseball team?**

"White Sox."

**What is your favorite animal?**

"Coyotes. They're scavengers, they're funny, they work together, they're the god in the Native American religion ... they're just an amazing species. They're everywhere."

**What is the happiest memory that you have?**

"Right before my grandmother died, I took her outside in the yard, and we sat there and looked out at the stars and just chilled. She had an amazing heart and spending time with her at the end of her life and having that last little moment of connection was a very memorable moment."

**If you could not be a social worker, what would you want to be and why?**

"The other thing I would love to be is a teacher. My mother is teacher, my aunt is a professor, and my grandfather is a professor. I respect their work and know that they do some of my work as well in the classrooms!"