

Taking Care--Documenting the Occupational Culture of Home Care Workers
Archie Green Fellows Project, 2014-2015
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Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Adelina Martinez interview, 2015-06-14 : interview conducted by Michael
Robert Bussel and Sonia De La Cruz**

INTERVIEW LOG

00:00:40: Name is Adelina Martinez. Lives in Hillsboro, Oregon. Born in 1969 in Cuernavaca, Mexico in the State of Morelos.

00:01:40: Other jobs have been teacher's assistant, work at a pre-school, instruction for children at home, jobs in the fields, hotels, restaurants.

00:02:57: Has a child who is twenty years old. Started as home provider for him ten months ago but has cared for him since 1994.

00:04:01: Other person helps care for her son. Has two children with disabilities. What's important is that as a mother I understand needs of my child: appointments, therapy, meetings. Involved in everything and always with him.

00:05:40: Has to act as "translator" for child because of way he speaks: others cannot always understand him.

00:06:25: Home care in contrast to other jobs: more personal, requires lots of patience. Son gives me that patience. Son is easy going and always has a smile. He is a "happy boy."

00:08:00: Need to be understanding, available, responsible.

00:09:06: Learned on her own about caregiving. Not only by being a mother. Therapist shows her things. Form of learning for her.

00:10:30: Typical day: bathing, teach child to be independent, help him get dressed, put shoes on proper foot, read books, give foot massages when needed.

00:12:15: Sometimes when meeting with other caregivers: talk about schedules, proper lifting, how to handle difficult situations.

00:15:42: Humor necessary with children. Children feel it when someone is happy or sad.

00:16:30: Helping a child be independent is gratifying. When parents are not around, hopes her child will be self-sufficient, be able to prepare a meal.

00:18:27: Frustrating not to know about resources such as things that can help with getting into a tub or onto a toilet. Resources not fully explained. Hears about resources by word of mouth from other parents. Good to know about other parents who have children with disabilities.

00:23:25: Is member of the union but doesn't know who to connect with. Had a bad situation with another provider who was speaking to union organizer and she had to take care of her child. Was not a union member at that point.

00:27:30: Realized that she could be a provider herself. Joined union recently.

00:30:29: As mother, takes care of children and their specific needs. Has time to do that. Her work but also that of her family. Support to give children what they need.

00:32:12: Before: had to rely on other people. Others tried to take care of her child. Some afraid to do so. Others would charge a lot more and not do everything that a child needs.

00:33:41: To relax: takes walks with her husband, has coffee with friends.

00:34:55: Children have same feelings as everybody else. They have a sincere love for others. No bad or malicious thoughts.

00:36:28: Difficult for a mother to separate emotions that she might have. Friday "escapades" with friends are important given how hard her work week has been. Helps her unwind.

00:37:29: End of interview.