

**Domestic Workers United
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**DOMESTIC WORKERS UNITED
ALTHEA HANES INTERVIEWED BY PATRICIA FRANCOIS
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00:40.3 Interviewer: Good afternoon my name is Patricia Francios with Domestic Worker's United and we'd like to hear your story today.

My name is Althea Hanes.

00:55.2 Interviewer: Will that be the name you use on your story?

Yes ma'am.

01:04.2 Interviewer: So what is your current occupation?

I'm a domestic worker a nanny.

01:14.1 Interviewer: What borough or neighborhood do you live in?

Presently I'm living in Brooklyn.

01:22.0 Interviewer: Like living in Brooklyn?

Yes, I do.

01:24.3 Interviewer: Why you choose to living in Brooklyn?

Well I've been living there all my life the past 20 years. My family. I'm rooted and grounded in Brooklyn. I love it there.

01:38.2 Interviewer: Where are you originally from?

I'm from the lovely island of St. Vincent in the Grenadines in the West Indies.

01:49.1 Interviewer: So how did you become a domestic worker?

I became a domestic worker after living in your country as a single parent and you come out looking for a future for your kids, family back home, I realized getting to America that becoming a domestic worker was the only thing available quick and fast at the time as a job.

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02:22.3 Interviewer: I can understand that especially with the economy that.

Exactly, exactly.

02:37.0 Interviewer: How long have you done this work?

Maybe for 21/22 years now. Very good years.

02:52.2 Interviewer: How many positions have you had?

Well, I had about four positions. My first job was like two and a half years with one family in Long Island and then another one about the same two and half years and I did six months in New Jersey and my last job was twelve and a half years in Manhattan on the Upper West Side with one family.

03:26.1 Interviewer: Can I ask, you said that it lasted twelve years?

Twelve and half years, yes.

03:33.2 Interviewer: And that job ended?

Yes it did.

03:36.2 Interviewer: Can you give me a reason, how that job ended?

Well, it's not too much a nice note. After the boys become grown up and it was time to move on, it was very sad even thinking about it right now. Nobody even said let us talk let us discuss something, I was just thrown out abruptly not even saying goodbye, not even getting a hug from the two boys that I raised.

04:11.2, 04:23.1, Interviewer: That's really sad.

Yes it was very very. Twelve and half years.

04:23.1 Interviewer: What motivated you to be part of this project?

What motivated me when I heard about it is knowing that the hardships as a domestic worker, as a mother, as a black woman, I was so moved and encouraged to know that our stories would be told and as the Bible says, generation maybe six seven one they will be able to know about the struggles we went through knowing that it was not an easy task.

05:09.1 Interviewer: If you met someone on the street, how would you describe what it is like being a domestic worker?

How would I describe it? Being a domestic worker you have to be so open minded

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because it takes a lot to be a domestic worker. You've got to be kind, you've got to be honest, especially when dealing with kids you've got to have faith because there is so much you have to do, multi-task. Chief cook and bottle-washer, yep, you've got to take care of the kids, the house, you've got to go do errands, you've got to remember school time, homework, dinner, it can be so much.

06:26.0 Interviewer: My question to follow, please walk me through your daily routine and responsibilities.

Well a typical day varies because working with different families, I had different experiences, like in my first jobs in Long Island, you would get up very early in the morning, sometimes you have to wake them up and get them ready, get them out of bed, get the dressed, brush their teeth and hair, make sure they get breakfast, make sure they're ready for the school bus. Then you have to turn around you have to straighten up the beds, get the laundry, clean while you do the laundry, dust, and so many things to make the day complete before the kids are back from the bus. That's different from in the city, you have to go to school, you have to make sure you know what's for dinner that evening, start preparing dinner.

07:56.2 Interviewer: You have to be a worker with many different hats?

Exactly, and again that's where multi-tasking comes in.

08:12.2 Interviewer: What skill do you need to be a domestic worker, and how do you learn them?

I think for me my skill was within me coming from back in the island, growing up with the hard, hard life, my skill was within me. The roughness, knowing sober-mindedly what you're going to do, how you're going to do it, how you're going to get through the day. These are the simple skills from within you.

Having kids of my own then you have your family, sister's kids, brother's kids we grew up in the Islands, those are where the skills came from.

09:17.2 Interviewer: What training is necessary to be a successful domestic worker?

The training? You've got to be a good, honest person, you've got to be fully aware of what is going around you while you are there with the kids.

10:01.1 Interviewer: Let's say you have a play date and suddenly that kid started to choke and that kid needed attention. What skill would you need to assist that child?

CPR, which I'm very grateful to Domestic Workers United for having me be two or three times around now, so you must have that skill with the CPR.

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10:46.1 Interviewer: What training is necessary for being a successful domestic worker?

To be a successful, recognized nanny or domestic worker, I think it's where training comes in with our nanny training posts. Again I must say thanks to Domestic Workers United. I personally can say I had my nanny training course, my computer training course, I had leadership, and as I said before, my CPR. On behalf of all black Caribbean women, I must again say thank you.

12:13.1 Interviewer: Can I just ask what was in the nanny training course?
In a nanny training course we were taught CPR, nutrition, and quite a few other things combined in the nanny training course. Pediatrics, it's not just like just training at the basic level.

12:57.2 Interviewer: Is there anything that people who employ you have learned from you?

Yeah. I would say being patience, which it takes a lot, that's why a lot of the mothers they don't really have the patience to take care of the kids, that's why we can have a job. So I think a lot patience, because a lot of times, 'How did you do it? Oh my god, you're always ahead of us,' so it takes a lot of patience.

13:36.2 Interviewer: That motherly instinct is a natural one.

Exactly, it is.

13:56.1 Interviewer: Do you ever share cultural things from you heritage with the family you assist, for example, food, language, folktales, or beliefs about life and death? One of the fun things I remember sharing is about our culture back in the Islands you would sit down with the kids and you would tell them how hard they had it in life. When you tell them they laugh at you. When you tell them we didn't have water in the home, toilets in the house, we didn't even have radio, and they would sit down and say, 'Tell me more, tell me more, so how did you used to do it?' And that was some fond memories, telling those old time stories of how we had grown up on the islands. Our food, also, the kids will love you when you sneak in a little lunch and mommy doesn't want them to have food and they'll say, 'What is that?' You tell them and they would never understand, but oh it tastes good and they would enjoy it. They just love that Caribbean food.

15:40.1 Interviewer: I think we give them the best of us. What conditions do you face throughout your work experience as a domestic worker? What do you have to deal with especially in that workplace? For instance, the way your employer treats you, do you get meals?

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Yes, I never remember having problem with meals. One of the conditions I would always remember in Long Island was sleeping in the basement. Yep, sleeping in the basement and you'd have to get up in the night on tippy toe because the bathroom is upstairs, sometimes you hold it in if you don't want to get up because I remember coming from the basement and you don't want them to make them know that you're coming upstairs to use the bathroom, so that condition would always stand up in my mind. One of the other conditions, I don't know if this applies to your questions, is that you have to get up very early in the morning and go to sleep very late at night and you could only eat when they finish eating. I know one family you have to be down there, you almost fall asleep, but you still have to go up and eat something and then clean up the kitchen when it's ten, when it's eleven, that's one of the conditions. Very heartbreaking.

18:08.1 Interviewer: So when you're going through these kind of conditions does your mind ever linger what's going on at your home?

Often times tears would come to your eyes when you think where you come from even though we were poor in Caribbean we had our own home, little house and everyone was together satisfied, you go to bed when you want, you get up when you want, you know, food was always there, three meals, so you didn't have to wait until someone you were working for was done to get something.

18:58.2 Interviewer: So you know everything in life has its good and its bad. What was the best part of your job? Please give an example.

The best part of my job is playing with the kids, taking them to the different games, I'm such a fan of baseball because I learn it from the boys, going on play dates just meeting other nannies you can socialize with, those are the fun times. Outside in the park. I do have quite a few friends who I met as baby sitters from different islands and we are still friends today for 20 years, so that's a fun part about it. You meet other people, you learn their culture.

20:28.2 Interviewer: So like I said, everything is good and bad. What was one of the worst experiences part of your job?

One of the worst experiences I had is like when my job with the boys were getting big and the parents had nothing much for you to do in the house and you had to go out and walk the dog in Manhattan. That was one, and would always be my worst experience.

21:03.3 Interviewer: So you were a nanny, housekeeper, school teacher [AH: And dog walker.] Excuse me, let me ask you a question, and this is really serious to me in the sense that with dog walkers, do you get paid the same to walk this dog?

No. All inclusive, no extra pay.

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21:33.1 Interviewer: But do you know that the dog walkers are getting paid twenty and twenty-five dollars an hour? Do you also have to pick up after the dog? How did that make you feel?

Yes, I am so aware. Of course. Well, honestly, you really feel lesser than the person that you are but at the same time you don't have a choice, you need a job, you have to make scarifies for your family, so you just do it with a smile even though you're hurting. Our dogs are outside.

22:21.1 Interviewer: How do you feel from your heart when you have to take that dog walking?

As I said, you really feel bad, you shiver, but you've got to go, you've got to talk it outside. I heard a story that one of my country-ladies when she left here she had a good job back in St. Vincent, and when she realized that she had to walk a dog when she was going in Central Park and she saw one of her other co-workers, she dropped the dog and ran and the people's dog got away. She felt so ashamed of herself. That will always be my horrible, horrible memory.

23:41.3 Interviewer: What challenges or sources of tension do you face on the job?

One of the things I can remember on Long Island is one day one little boy came over and he spit on my head, and there was no satisfaction from his mom, his parents. They laughed and thought it was rather funny. And you live in the house and take care of them and so far. Spit right on my head. Speaking about tension. It's like when the evening hours come and you don't put in a whole week and you can't go out to breathe that sigh of relief and you hear the phone ring and you hear, 'I'm stuck in traffic, I'm running late,' I'm telling you that's tension. Because they are always late. Freedom and then you hear they'll be running late.

25:45.2 Interviewer: When they're running late, have you ever been compensated? Have you ever asked?

No compensations, that adds more to the tension. Yes, often times you ask but then you've been ignored because they know you gone today, someone will come tomorrow. And speaking about tension, on another job on Long Island that used to be from Tuesday to Saturday live-in and they would go out on a Saturday night and you you can't sleep, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00 and you just want to be free and you have to call a taxi to the train station and you start to think, 'I'm going to miss the 2:01 train,' that is tension.

27:13.2 Interviewer: How is your relationship with your current employer?

I'm not employed right now, but with my last employer it's not relationship at all. On a sour and sad note, after twelve and a half years they left and went to Maine as they

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went every summer and I would go over and I would clean up and wash up, and two years ago they went to Maine, the bigger boy he went looking for colleges, and I went over he came back the others were gone, and I went to wash his clothes and pack, he was leaving for Maine the next day, and that was it. Nobody sat down, I've never seen her up to now, never said goodbye to the boys. He came out the hospital and met me in the house, one day two days old, never get a hug, never get a goodbye. I mean, for these years I was comfortable. I felt loved with the family. We had a good thing, we had good communication, everything went well, but at the time for me to leave, that's how it went down. After twelve and a half years.

I can say no, but at the time that's how I felt. I saw it was coming and said let's sit down. All I'm asking is that you help me find a job. I told her about it, which website to go on. She said, 'I'm working on it,' and after three weeks she came with a pencil and a paper and said, 'Write your social security number there,' and I did. Nothing came out of it. You get tired of being tired so you do what you have to do. I started to lose trust coming down, I said, 'No, something is wrong.'

31:52.1 Interviewer: Are there relationships with previous children you've cared for that are particularly memorable in a good or bad type of way?

There was one little boy I raised in Long Island from eleven days old when I met him. I met them in Queens and from the day I walked in there just for the interview the mother left me with that eleven day old to go to the gym. And they were moving to a house in Long Island and it was under construction and the time they had to move out from Queens and that is what I always remember, because it reminded me of back home when we'd have the house and you'd put on an addition and you put down a plank and you walk on the wet concrete and stuff like that. I remember when they were doing the floor, that was the first time I ever went to the Hamptons. They had to go to the Hamptons to stay for a couple of days and stuff like that, so I always remember that little boy.

33:30.3 Interviewer: What was your original agreement with your employer and was it violated?

What could I say about violating? I think it's time. Time. Always being violated because you go for your interview and you sit down and they ask for ten hours, which at that time you agree, but you would end up there every day eleven, eleven and a half, twelve hours sometimes, so anything about violation it's about my time. Well, money, comes in there because with all this overtime you never get paid for it, never. We don't talk, we don't ask, even though it's hurting, it's about time. For talking about family and talking about time. Fortunately I've always lived alone here, but I can identify with other family, my sister was married she had children here that went to school, so when you work two hours over time and you have to run to Brooklyn and the train is delayed by a sick passenger then you neglect you family.

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35:57.2 Interviewer: You have kids, right? So let's say you're on the job and you get a call that there's something wrong with your kids, what do you do?

Well, honestly, I never have none of my kids living here with me so I never encountered that experience.

36:26.2 Interviewer: Do you feel that the amount of hours and your holiday schedule are being respected?

No way. I've worked in Long Island for about five years. I never get a Good Friday off, I've never gone to church on a Good Friday, because when you work from Tuesday to Saturday you can't get Good Friday off and you can't take it off because you're not going to get paid and you're working for \$225 a week and you can't lose so you would stay on the job, just like on Thanksgiving. You can't stay home. They go to family and friends and they would bring you some left overs.

37:49.0 Interviewer: We talk about your agreement. I know back then you didn't have any contracts or anything, so when you go to this interview you know you like to attend church so do you think in the future like if you go for another job, could you establish that you would have these days to go to church?

Most definitely. I have never done it, never, I think because of fear and you're just walking in and thinking about the money, holding that job, so you miss out on a lot. I remember one time it was one of those holidays which they would claim it's not a holiday and when I reached the job the woman said, 'What are you doing here?' And I said, 'Okay, let me go home.' She said, 'No, no, no, you're here already I have something for you to do.' Yep.

39:24.0 Interviewer: Did you get paid? Time and a half?

Yes. On a holiday. No time and a half, no. You see there's where it comes in again. Even though you realize it's a holiday per se you're still thinking my week pay, it's my rent this week, I have to send some money back home for my kids. You sacrifice.

39:56.3 Interviewer: When you say that you or any worker has been exploited due to immigration status?

Yes, quite a lot. Quite a lot. For example I have an auntie she was working with these Africans on Long Island and because of her immigration status it's so many things. She worked there for many years, she couldn't get a raise, she couldn't get a raise, because they know of her immigration status and they would threaten her that because one time they had a big thing about it and then she was threatening them, well you know I'm here--I think for five years she raised this little girl--undocumented and you had me here all these years so it was like a threat between them and they just find some way

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when the cold time got colder they gave her a little raise but in six months I remember telling her, they are moving. They are moving. They did not move, they just wanted to get rid of her. But at the time they are doctors, both of them, so who are you?

42:21.2 Interviewer: Do you have your own children or family or responsibilities that you are taking care of?

Yes, I do, I have my children and my mom who is more disabled partially blind now back in St. Vincent who I take care of financially. You've got to buy the food, buy the pampers, buy whatever to send back for her, so yes I do.

42:55.3 Interviewer: So what a minute. Being around workers they mention about the barrel trade. Is that classified as one of the barrel trades? How do you manage balancing your personal life and your work life? How do you manage?

Everything, in the barrel, yeah. It's very hard. Well, my life is very simple. I must honestly say, as a single person. I think I manage quite well because I'm too much of the kind of person who would go there and there, so I think I'm doing very good and would continue to.

44:02.1 Interviewer: So how does being a domestic worker impact your own family life?

How would I classify that, being again alone and living alone? I don't think it has that big of an impact, being alone.

44:48.0 Interviewer: Are you a member of any groups?

Yeah, I have other groups I have attend other than my church group, women's group, I'm also a member of my tenants association, which I love, we're out there on the front line and rally with rising rent hikes going on.

45:21.2 Interviewer: When you are doing domestic work, do you feel supported or have you felt you've worked in an isolated environment?

Yes, it varies. Experience with Long Island in my early years in the city I would say yes and no. On Long Island was very well isolated, there are not parks and playgrounds and this kind of thing you have to depend on the bus to come and pick up the kids and they're gone and you're inside there and you don't see nobody on the street you know the houses are away from each other so I would say you feel isolated wherein in the city it's a little bit different. You're always going to run to this class you want to run to this meeting you want to run to this afterschool program and pick up. On Long Island none at all, that's where the isolation comes in.

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46:52.3 Interviewer: When and why did you become a part of Domestic Workers United and how did you hear about it?

I became a member of Domestic Workers United now over ten years more than ten years and the other question is how did I hear about? I was in Barnes and Nobles bookstore on the Upper West Side with a little boy in the winter time. You can't go to the park but you've got to find somewhere to go. So we would go there and read the books for hours inside there and I remember one time inside there there were two ladies and they were handing out some flyers and one of the girls sitting next to one of the baby sitters took it, I did not. I did not take it, but I peeked at it and I read and I was all about and I honestly felt that I had no need for that so I honestly didn't take it, but then a couple weeks after back in the same place the same two ladies came in and there were not many sitters inside and so she came directly up to me and she handed me the flyers. I took it and I put it in the stroller and when I got home I put it in my bag and on the train I read it. I honestly still didn't pay no mind, but there was a lady, one of the founding members at that time who used to ride the train together, we got off at the same stop. And I heard her inviting another lady to this big event they were going to have and I was in the middle, she was on the left and then she asked me if I was interested and I asked about what and then she handed me one of the same flyers I had ignored but I took it and that Saturday I went and understanding what it was what it was all about and who it was for and who it was representing it was a place I would like to be and from there on that's the way I became a member.

49:46.1 Interviewer: What was it like getting there for there for the very first time?

It was a very very good feeling. They had a big it was somewhere in Manhattan, lots of people were there and going there I remember one special person who was sitting at the table who was doing the signing in. She had also known me but was not expecting me being there and she greeted me very well and found me a seat and from there on you could feel the love, you could feel. I don't think it was Judson Memorial.

50:48.1 Interviewer: So what has it meant for you and your work to have the Domestic Bill of Rights passed in 2010?

What it meant for me is that after the Bill of Rights passed we had a voice for the voiceless. We had a little haven. We had a little back a little shoulder to lean on especially the undocumented black Caribbean women. That gave me hope. That lifted my spirit. We had something to lean on.

51:42.2 Interviewer: So far has it worked for the domestic workers? Why is it important to you? What impact do you think it has had on the domestic work industry?

I don't think it worked for every domestic worker or if any maybe little or nothing. I don't think it had much of an impact, and my reason for saying that the bill was pass and

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we as domestic workers were happy, excited, but I don't think that employers had took it that seriously for me it was just passed and here it stuck under the table.

53:07.2 Interviewer: Employers, were they educated about the bill of rights? Did anyone take the time to educate employers that this is a bill that had to be respected?

I don't think anybody did it, of course there are some employers who know about it, but they would ignore it and there are some nannies here we go again because of being undocumented that know about it, they're happy that there's a bill passed, but they are not they would go on a interview and they are not going in there and saying, 'Well, missus, I wanted to have a conversation with you and this is the bill of rights and we should be working 40 hours per week, we should get overtime, we should get overtime, everybody just scared. Here we go again. Being undocumented.

54:32.0 Interviewer: What would you like to see happen in the future for domestics?

What I would love to see happen is that the legislatures in charge, whoever, governor whatever, councilman, they should see and make sure that these employers are fully aware that there is a bill out there that supports Domestic Workers United and should be implemented and there should be some penalty for those that don't abide with it. That's one thing I'd love to see done in the future.

55:19.1 Interviewer: From your perspective, why is Domestic Workers United important to domestic workers?

Thanks to Domestic Workers United. It's very important I know it was for me, because a voice for the voiceless I say again and Domestic Workers United has done so much for workers who did not have a voice in terms of so many problems on the job overworked and underpaid, that's one of the big mountains we have to climb and I have say because I went there, I always encourage people, domestic workers, nannies, don't be afraid. Domestic Workers United are here for you and that's why we take time off to go out and do what we have to do and that's why we're trying to keep it alive and alive it's going to stay. It's a voice for the undocumented.

56:37.0 Interviewer: I also understand that Domestic Workers United has also won justice for many many domestic workers, like 1.5 million, justice for domestic workers.

I was one of them. That's where it comes in again. After being so honestly denied thanks to Domestic Workers United. After being so abruptly discharged from your job after twelve and a half years thanks to Domestic Workers United and Urban Justice Center that I just went into the office, filed my complaint, and they took my case and dealt with those employers and then I was compensated for my overtime for twelve and half years.

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57:44.0 Interviewer: So what you're saying is Domestic Workers United working in collaboration with Urban Justice Center. How much did that cost you?

Absolutely nothing. Free, free, free. It was pro bono.

58:10.0 Interviewer: What do you want the legislature to know?

What I want them to know is that we are human and all work all work is equal and domestic work, nanny work, we play a big part in the lives of all employers. In the whole country, wherever nannies. So what I want the legislatures to know is give us a fair fair wage. It's about time. Because it's hard work. It's very hard work to raise you prized possession. Most of them, they're immigrants like us, and you here them say, 'Oh, my mom was a domestic worker, my mom was a domestic worker, my grandmother was a domestic worker,' and it doesn't mean being just a nanny, you are a domestic worker, you know so much you clean the houses, do the laundry, just to make ends meet. I think it helped in getting the bills passed because some of them would stand out with us, rally with us. So I think it helped in that way.

1:01:11.0 Interviewer: Are you happy with the bill they passed? Give me advice, one thing you think could be done differently.

I would say yes and no. I say yes because it's a start. There was nothing there but I'm just thinking, well, it's time that we get something more added to it. It didn't do really anything much. One of the things that was never, correct me if I'm wrong, I don't think that we had got a living wage, we didn't get a set price, what per hour, and that is what I would like to see.

1:01:45.2 Interviewer: So the bill that Governor Patterson signed, was that the original bill? Or was it stripped down? For instance, my understanding is that when Domestic Workers first went to Albany they were looking for like \$17 an hour and it was also categorized as if you're taking care of two kids it's one price, if you're taking care of four kids it'd be more than taking care of two kids. Was that ever implemented? So this is why I ask the question, was it the original bill?

Stripped down.

No, I don't think so. A lot of work.

1:02:49.0 Interviewer: What areas of education/skills are you looking to gain?

Well, if I'm going to continue in the domestic work, nanny work, I'd love to improve. I'd love to learn different languages because in New York or maybe the whole there are so many different cultures and different languages and like a few nights ago I went to the emergency room with my cousin, spent the whole night, and all you can hear around you the different languages the guy who came in was from Africa right and there was a lady on the bed there and she was from Africa and they were talking their own

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language. You know so I think language, I would love love to learn one or two different languages. The children, so many Asian children, nannies have more preferences now, bilingual nanny will get a better job because you've got to be a caregiver and a teacher at one time, so I'd love to improve.

1:04:36.2 Interviewer: What skills did Domestic Workers United teach you?

Domestic Workers United, being with them helped obtain my nanny training certificate. I got several-- Domestic Workers United partnered with Cornell University and that's where I obtained my certificate. I also got my computer, my basic computer skills there, which I'm so happy and so proud about because I absolutely had no computer skills leaving St. Vincent, being a postmistress, doing accounting with the government money, you sit there the whole day with a book and a pen. A big thick book and a pen, because you have to get every penny right, sale and balance. Every end amount when the postmaster general will come up when you don't expect them right? So you've got to do your sales and balance and you want to see me hide it and wrap it up in a bag because you're not supposed to take it from the office but hey, you've got to go home to meet your kids so that's what you're going to do. Take your time and [whooshing sound.] and you're going to start from up there and they're going to see where you did it wrong instead of ten ten cent stamp that's and ninety cent stamp and there'll all come down there. There were no computers and calculator skills so that's one of the things I was always grateful for, learning the computer from Domestic Workers United, yep.

1:06:51.1 Interviewer: So after listening to you in this last question, you came to America looking for the American dream as a postal worker.

Yes, which I don't say much. I was in charge of the district post office. Well you opened it every morning, got the government keys, the mail van would come, you deal with money, you deal with registered letters and stuff like that you had to give a--but here we go again. All we want is a piece of the American dream.

1:07:42.2 Interviewer: So how did you really feel being a qualified professional postal worker and have to transition into being a domestic worker.

I mean, it was very very hard. Sometimes it brings tears to your eye. Sometimes you feel bad about what you left there, but I honestly don't have regrets and if you ask me why, salary wise, it was nothing compared to coming here and working for two hundred and twenty-five dollars that was my first week's salary in Long Island I can remember.

1:08:44.0 Interviewer: All the people all over the world do this transition. I think it was the economy that forced people out of their countries to come here to get a piece of this American dream. But you know what, kudos to you. So before we finish, how is cultural expression used as a tool for advocacy and outreach of Domestic Workers United such as music, dance, poetry.

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Let me see if I get that. Well, the little that I can say from my experience from Domestic Workers, had we not come from the islands with a little bit of culture, mixed together, I personally could not have been a part of the cultural committee for domestic workers for such a long time in which that helped us thanks to sister Christine, that we could have been a part of the public theater for the past three years and even perform at the Delacorte Theater for the past three years.

1:10:55.1 Interviewer: Do you have any last words you would like to share.

My parting shot is that I'm very happy and I'm proud to be a domestic worker. It has done me well. I stayed the course, I kept the faith, it has done me well I have no regrets, I have honestly no regret and I would encourage anybody everybody black, strong, woman don't be afraid, don't be afraid, if you've got to do it, you have to do it with respect. There is no shame in the game as sister friend would say because at the end of the day that's what puts the food on the table, especially for single parents. And that's why I can say thanks to Domestic Workers, thanks, again Domestic Workers United, again thanks to the United States of America.

1:12:26.2 Interviewer: One more question, would you recommend anybody Domestic Workers United to tell their stories and why?

I would, I would, because it's very thoughtful very, I can't find words to describe it, to know that we can sit down and share our story. It's such a great honor such a great opportunity that when ten, twenty, fifty, a hundred years from now our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren can go to the Library of Congress and know that grandma's voice is here, her story is here, tell about the hard life, the hard knocks, 'Oh, was it that bad? We didn't know, we were getting everything we wanted, we never knew grandma had it so hard even though she's gone, the memories, the thoughts, the voice could live on, so I would encourage anybody to share their story.

1:13:46.2 Interviewer: So at this point I also want to thank you for sharing your story. It was wonderful.

Thank you Chris, for collaborating with us so we can have our stories in the Library of Congress, and it can't get any better. Yes, no, I shouldn't say that, it always could get better.

Long live domestic workers, yes.