

Station 2: English Transcriptions

OK: Irma Vasquez / Mexico. Language: Spanish

I had my first daughter, and oh no, I also did not do very well with the guy I lived with. And well, I decided to leave him, and at the same time I met my current husband. And together I feel we have been able to have a better story, maybe.

When I entered the program of the *Agencia latina*, we discovered how to have a healthier life as a couple. We started establishing goals every time, and from the point of not having anything, to being on the street, not having a place to sleep, we were able to buy a house. Well, during this time we lost a baby and we struggled for about two years or so to have our second son, who is Sebastian. I have two children. My first daughter is named Samantha, my second son is Sebastián, and since Samantha was three, we have been in the *Agencia latina*. Since four years ago my husband and I have been able to buy a house, and if you ask me if I consider that I have been successful in this country. I think so, because when you come from somewhere else without speaking English, without knowing anything and you have to adapt, everything we have managed to do so far, I think I have.

Well, nowadays we have tried to instill good things in my children, to teach them that you have to work hard to be able to achieve what you want. I know that there are many successful families that come and have their own businesses or do other things, I don't know. We haven't done that, but we are on the way to doing it, and I think that soon we are going to achieve it, and well, that's it.

Irma Vasquez / Moon Song

The moon goes for a walk following your eyes.
The night shines true after you look at it.
No one knows how to be happy at the cost of dispossession anymore.
Thanks to you and your eyes.

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OK: Maria Trejo / Honduras Language: Spanish

I was working as a waitress in a restaurant called Honduras 504, you know why 504? Because it's the area code of Honduras and I heard that there was a crossing there, there was a crossing and I came over. I made it. I never, never, ever thought that crossing to the United States was so easy. I crossed this way with a harvest, and from there at night I took the train and arrived in California

Suddenly I get a call from my sister and she tells me: "Ornelia", I'm going to fill out an application, do you want me to include your daughters to come in?", and I say, "But my daughters are Mexican, can it be that they are eligible?" And she tells me "Yes, I am Honduran and they give it to me because they accept us Hondurans". OK.

So when they arrive I had to come from California to Oklahoma, because I need to have somewhere to put them. In California it costs about 3,000 - 4,000 to rent, I arrived here and a house is 850-900, so it is much cheaper. When they arrived I remember that I needed to get a vaccine for my daughters and someone told me: "Oh, on Thursday, on such date, they will be vaccinating there in a place called la Agencia latina". I arrived at the Agencia latina, and very kindly they vaccinated my daughters. I told the girl "Look, we have just arrived and we do not have anywhere to sleep, we have nothing to eat, we do not have anything", and they heated food, they fed my daughters and one of them referred me for a program for my baby, and she also helped me fill out some paperwork to request beds. From there, the lady told me to do an interview; they told me that my baby's social worker was going to help. I told her I

have many problems with my girls, they do not seem to adapt. She told me: "You know, there is a new program starting where they can help you" and well, I got to *Celebrando familias*. When I got to that program, I never thought they would help me as much as they did.