

00:00:00:10 - 00:00:02:17

My name's Lisa Liang.

00:00:02:17 - 00:00:05:00

I'm 35 years old.

00:00:05:00 - 00:00:09:16

I'm actually a family physician
and a sports medicine physician.

00:00:09:16 - 00:00:11:17

And I live in Burlington.

00:00:12:03 - 00:00:15:12

One fun fact about me is I play
trumpet and piano.

00:00:16:20 - 00:00:18:19

I guess the story starts
with my grandparents.

00:00:18:19 - 00:00:23:17

My grandparents were all from
villages in Southern China.

00:00:23:17 - 00:00:28:10

So small villages. My grandfather's
moved to Tanzania for work.

00:00:28:11 - 00:00:30:11

They had two different jobs.

00:00:30:11 - 00:00:33:11

One worked for Shell,

I believe, and one was a farmer.

00:00:33:14 - 00:00:37:28

And then they sent back to China

for mail-order brides from those villages.

00:00:37:28 - 00:00:42:20

So that's how my grandmother's

ended up moving to these remote villages

00:00:42:20 - 00:00:46:15

in Tanzania, having to learn Swahili,

having to adjust to a whole new culture.

00:00:47:08 - 00:00:48:16

And there was a small community

00:00:48:16 - 00:00:52:13

of Chinese people who kind of

grew up together in Tanzania.

00:00:52:13 - 00:00:55:10

So my parents were in Tonga

and Dar es Salaam.

00:00:55:10 - 00:00:58:08

And essentially how my parents
sort of moved out of

00:00:58:08 - 00:01:02:04

there was, Tanzania gained
independence from the UK,

00:01:02:15 - 00:01:06:14

and my parents were sort of offered
the opportunity to go to the UK.

00:01:06:15 - 00:01:09:15

So they went to the United Kingdom.

00:01:10:00 - 00:01:12:04

They lived there for quite a few years.

00:01:12:04 - 00:01:14:03

And then, they had me.

00:01:14:03 - 00:01:17:12

So I was actually born in London, England,

00:01:17:12 - 00:01:22:03

and my parents decided
to try to enter a lottery

00:01:22:03 - 00:01:25:14

to come to Canada because at the time
my grandmother was here,

00:01:25:24 - 00:01:28:00

I believe 1 or 2 of my dad's
brothers were here.

00:01:28:00 - 00:01:30:21

So they wanted to see
what life was like here.

00:01:30:21 - 00:01:34:15

And they just decided to enter
this lottery that the United Kingdom

00:01:34:15 - 00:01:37:15

was holding to have the
opportunity to come here.

00:01:37:15 - 00:01:43:12

So, they actually came in
November of 1989.

00:01:43:25 - 00:01:46:28

And, they originally didn't like it,
so they found

00:01:46:28 - 00:01:50:26

it was very cold and
they didn't feel it was a good fit.

00:01:50:26 - 00:01:52:18

So they actually went back to England

00:01:52:18 - 00:01:55:28

for a month and then realized
they actually liked it more in Canada.

00:01:56:10 - 00:01:58:29

And I think the main reasons
why they liked it

00:01:58:29 - 00:02:02:16

more was because economically
it made more sense.

00:02:02:16 - 00:02:06:15

They were getting, you know, a little bit
more living space for,

00:02:06:15 - 00:02:07:28

the amount that they were making.

00:02:07:28 - 00:02:10:12

They also just loved being outdoors.

00:02:10:12 - 00:02:13:11

I think the opportunity
to live in a country that was just,

00:02:13:12 - 00:02:16:00

you know, less busy than the UK,

00:02:16:00 - 00:02:19:24

a little bit more space,
a little less densely populated.

00:02:19:24 - 00:02:23:29

Just having a little bit more freedom
that way, I think really appealed to them.

00:02:24:10 - 00:02:27:01

And it was sort of was similar
to how they grew up

00:02:27:01 - 00:02:31:28

just having more outdoor space and
not living in such a crowded city.

00:02:32:26 - 00:02:36:05

So I think those were the main reasons
why they decided to come here,

00:02:36:05 - 00:02:39:25

as well as obviously having,
you know, family here as well.

00:02:40:01 - 00:02:45:03

So I ended up being in Burlington
because my husband at the time was

00:02:45:14 - 00:02:49:02

working in Toronto, and when we moved to
Burlington, I was working in Hamilton.

00:02:49:02 - 00:02:52:02

So it just seemed like a nice in-between
place to be.

00:02:52:06 - 00:02:55:08

We had also lived here for a year,

00:02:56:20 - 00:02:58:07

before we officially moved here.

00:02:58:07 - 00:02:59:15

And we really liked the community.

00:02:59:15 - 00:03:04:11

We liked, the fact that we could,
you know, do lots of outdoor things,

00:03:04:11 - 00:03:05:14

go hiking.

00:03:05:14 - 00:03:09:12

We had, you know, Toronto fairly
close by and Hamilton fairly close by,

00:03:09:18 - 00:03:11:10

and we had family in both of those places.

00:03:11:10 - 00:03:14:06

So it was kind of a
convenient place to be.

00:03:14:06 - 00:03:17:22

But we tried moving here
just to see what things would be like

00:03:17:22 - 00:03:21:12

when it was kind of a central place
for us in terms of commuting.

00:03:21:28 - 00:03:24:16

And we loved it so much
that we ended up buying a house here

00:03:24:16 - 00:03:26:05

and actually settling here.

00:03:26:05 - 00:03:28:22

For, again, lots of reasons.

00:03:28:22 - 00:03:30:17

The outdoor spaces.

00:03:30:17 - 00:03:34:21

Being able to go hiking,
you know, convenience in terms of transit,

00:03:35:01 - 00:03:36:04

all of those sorts of things.

00:03:36:04 - 00:03:39:29

And I think the Burlington community
has a lot to offer young families,

00:03:39:29 - 00:03:44:01

you know, lots of opportunities
for our kids to be able

00:03:44:01 - 00:03:45:05

to play with other children.

00:03:45:05 - 00:03:47:27

We have the EarlyON programs,
community centers,

00:03:47:27 - 00:03:50:13

just some opportunities
that wouldn't really be available

00:03:50:13 - 00:03:53:02

in some of the smaller cities
that we were looking at.

00:03:54:17 - 00:03:57:14

So I think for my parents,

00:03:57:14 - 00:04:00:02

the difficult
things were obviously leaving

00:04:00:02 - 00:04:03:01

when they initially left Tanzania
to go to the UK.

00:04:03:01 - 00:04:08:07

Like my mother literally had \$100 and,
you know, her suitcase of clothes, like,

00:04:08:07 - 00:04:11:09

it was very much that immigrant story of

00:04:11:09 - 00:04:14:13

just trying to find your place,
start working, start earning money.

00:04:15:04 - 00:04:17:21

Coming to Canada,
I think was--the biggest challenge

00:04:17:21 - 00:04:21:19

was probably, again,
adjusting to living in the countryside.

00:04:21:19 - 00:04:26:12

So my parents were living in London,
England, like a very, very busy city.

00:04:26:23 - 00:04:30:21

And coming to Canada, they had to adjust
to living, you know, in the suburbs.

00:04:31:00 - 00:04:34:09

And then my parents moved
very quickly from the suburbs to a farm.

00:04:34:09 - 00:04:37:09

So, you know, having to adjust to that

00:04:37:09 - 00:04:41:11

drastic change,
I think, in culture was difficult.

00:04:41:11 - 00:04:45:19

I think the weather was also difficult,
like having grown up in a fairly mild

00:04:45:19 - 00:04:49:10

climate and moving to the UK was colder,
but moving to Canada was even colder.

00:04:49:10 - 00:04:53:10

So I think adjusting to, you know,
the weather, driving conditions,

00:04:53:10 - 00:04:56:10

all of those things
I think was difficult for them as well.

00:04:56:22 - 00:05:00:20

But I do think that having, you know,
some family here really helped them.

00:05:00:20 - 00:05:04:07

I think making those new connections,
because they had me,

00:05:04:15 - 00:05:07:16

they were kind of forced to talk
to other parents at the school.

00:05:07:25 - 00:05:10:09

They already knew how to speak English.

00:05:10:09 - 00:05:12:09

So that wasn't a major barrier for them.

00:05:12:09 - 00:05:14:12

I think that made things a lot easier.

00:05:14:12 - 00:05:18:15

And then obviously, as I got involved
in more activities, they kind of met

00:05:18:15 - 00:05:21:15

other people and started to find
and form connections in the community,

00:05:21:15 - 00:05:25:18

even though they were living in the farm,
in a farm area, like a rural area.

00:05:26:06 - 00:05:28:06

That's sort of
how they started making connections.

00:05:31:01 - 00:05:32:22

The first year we came here,
there was quite a lot of snow.

00:05:32:22 - 00:05:35:11

So, our first Christmas was
like a white Christmas.

00:05:35:11 - 00:05:37:15

Which was kind of nice.

00:05:37:15 - 00:05:41:00

So I think my parents were kind of
struggling to deal with that.

00:05:41:00 - 00:05:44:20

And manage,
that was was a challenge for sure.

00:05:45:20 - 00:05:50:04

I think that was the biggest thing
for them from their first winter here.

00:05:51:12 - 00:05:53:10

And in terms of,

00:05:53:10 - 00:05:57:01

me moving to Burlington specifically,
I think the biggest surprise,

00:05:57:20 - 00:05:59:19

I guess it wasn't a challenge to me,
but the biggest surprise

00:05:59:19 - 00:06:02:28

has just been, I think, how much
has been available in the community.

00:06:02:28 - 00:06:07:05

Again, having grown up in Flamborough,
I didn't have as many opportunities

00:06:07:06 - 00:06:09:13

like we don't have like
several community centers.

00:06:09:13 - 00:06:13:02

We didn't have any of those things,
especially at the time where when I grew

00:06:13:02 - 00:06:17:05

Waterdown really wasn't developed,
so there really wasn't anything nearby.

00:06:17:24 - 00:06:21:24

So it's nice for me to, you know, be
able to take my kids to community centers,

00:06:21:24 - 00:06:25:24

you know, to these different places
because I grew up in a,

00:06:26:01 - 00:06:29:01

you know, a time and a place
where there wasn't those opportunities.

00:06:29:16 - 00:06:31:05

So I think that's been the

biggest surprise for me

00:06:31:05 - 00:06:34:07

moving to Burlington, was really getting
that sense of community.

00:06:36:21 - 00:06:41:01

I think for my parents,
the biggest challenge was transportation.

00:06:41:01 - 00:06:45:07

For them, you know, in London,
it was very easy to get places.

00:06:45:07 - 00:06:48:07

You could walk to places,
you can take public transit.

00:06:48:08 - 00:06:51:08

But when they moved out to Flamborough,
that really wasn't,

00:06:51:22 - 00:06:53:14

an opportunity that they, they had.

00:06:53:14 - 00:06:57:03

So they had to sort of drive everywhere,
which they weren't really

00:06:57:08 - 00:06:58:05

used to.

00:06:58:05 - 00:07:01:05

I think that's probably
something that they miss

00:07:01:05 - 00:07:03:27

and they probably still miss it
because even though Waterdown

00:07:03:27 - 00:07:05:04

has developed quite a lot,

00:07:05:04 - 00:07:08:15

they still are at least a 10 minute
drive from everything.

00:07:09:03 - 00:07:11:14

Whereas it's just not a
great walkable community.

00:07:12:01 - 00:07:14:01

And I think that was the biggest

00:07:14:01 - 00:07:16:15

challenge for them,
was kind of leaving all that behind.

00:07:16:15 - 00:07:19:26

I think they really did miss,
you know, that circle of friends,

00:07:20:15 - 00:07:23:02

that they had and, you know,
they kind of grew up together.

00:07:23:02 - 00:07:27:14

They struggled together
when they all immigrated to the UK

00:07:27:14 - 00:07:30:27

because they all came
from those communities in Tanzania.

00:07:30:27 - 00:07:33:10

So I think they kind of missed that.

00:07:33:10 - 00:07:35:09

And then to this day,
you know, they always, you know,

00:07:35:09 - 00:07:39:24

reconnect and talk about,
kind of their life lives now.

00:07:39:24 - 00:07:41:27

But I think that was a big adjustment

for them for sure,

00:07:41:27 - 00:07:46:01

because they kind of left that community
that they had grew up with

00:07:46:01 - 00:07:50:23

and had struggled with,
I should say, for all those years.

00:07:50:23 - 00:07:52:25

And, you know,
that's your formative time, right?

00:07:52:25 - 00:07:54:06

Like when you're in your early 20s,

00:07:54:06 - 00:07:58:16

I think that was the biggest challenge
for sure, was leaving that behind.

00:07:58:16 - 00:08:00:09

And I think that's the biggest
thing that they missed.

00:08:02:18 - 00:08:04:12

So, yeah.

So it's still a functioning farm.

00:08:04:12 - 00:08:05:25

My dad doesn't farm it anymore.

00:08:05:25 - 00:08:09:01

He rented the land to other farmers,

00:08:09:01 - 00:08:12:05

so he still lives on the farm,
but he doesn't actively farm anymore.

00:08:12:20 - 00:08:15:16

So my dad actually bought the farm
a bit on a whim.

00:08:15:16 - 00:08:17:15

So my dad actually was a carpenter

00:08:17:15 - 00:08:21:15

when he was in the UK.

00:08:21:15 - 00:08:25:15

And then when he came here,
he was kind of just looking to farm

00:08:25:15 - 00:08:29:11

because he kind of knew a little bit about
farming, like his father was a farmer.

00:08:30:09 - 00:08:34:20

So he was actually going to farm,
you know, Canadian crops.

00:08:34:20 - 00:08:38:25

But then the person that he connected to
was actually selling

00:08:38:25 - 00:08:40:01

a Chinese vegetable farm.

00:08:40:01 - 00:08:43:10

So my dad was like,
oh, this is a great opportunity for me

00:08:43:10 - 00:08:46:17

because I already know
Cantonese and Mandarin.

00:08:46:17 - 00:08:50:29

He had spent some of his high school
years in Beijing.

00:08:50:29 - 00:08:52:26

So he actually did
some schooling in Beijing.

00:08:52:26 - 00:08:54:29

So because he knew the language,

00:08:54:29 - 00:08:58:01

that's why he decided
to take over that particular farm.

00:08:58:01 - 00:09:00:01

But it was definitely

00:09:01:00 - 00:09:04:19

a bit of an adjustment for sure, because
that's not really what he intended to do.

00:09:04:20 - 00:09:07:27

He intended to just farm,
and then he sort of had to,

00:09:09:10 - 00:09:13:27

adjust to taking over an existing farm
with existing clientele.

00:09:13:27 - 00:09:17:19

And, and so that was, it's different,
I guess than starting from scratch.

00:09:17:19 - 00:09:17:28

Right.

00:09:17:28 - 00:09:20:11

Cause you're trying to fill
someone else's shoes.

00:09:20:11 - 00:09:23:02

Yeah I think my dad had--

I mean, you know there's always

00:09:23:02 - 00:09:26:05

these like courses and certificates

that you can kind of get to

00:09:26:05 - 00:09:29:16

to learn about the different pesticides

and different things that you use.

00:09:30:00 - 00:09:34:06

But obviously in theory

it's always different than in practice.

00:09:34:06 - 00:09:38:02

So actually doing those things

and adjusting,

00:09:38:02 - 00:09:41:21

to seasonal climate changes and all those

kinds of things throughout the season.

00:09:41:21 - 00:09:42:00

Right.

00:09:42:00 - 00:09:45:25

So oftentimes things happen
where you lose a whole field of crops,

00:09:46:01 - 00:09:50:26

you know, or, you know,
the refrigerator is not working properly

00:09:50:26 - 00:09:51:21

and you lose a lot of crop.

00:09:51:21 - 00:09:53:17

So I think a lot of those
kinds of challenges

00:09:53:17 - 00:09:57:20

can happen, like unforeseen challenges,
which you might not expect,

00:09:57:20 - 00:10:00:11

like you might feel like
it's a very straightforward path.

00:10:00:11 - 00:10:03:11

I think my dad did have to his advantage,
that he did have

00:10:03:22 - 00:10:07:15

those, that language ability,
like he was multilingual.

00:10:07:15 - 00:10:11:17

So he was able to kind of make
those connections a little bit easier.

00:10:11:28 - 00:10:15:16

But at the same time,
he still had to go out there and and meet

00:10:15:16 - 00:10:18:20

all these new people and sort of establish
new relationships with them,

00:10:19:06 - 00:10:22:02

from somebody who had a relationship
with them for years and years.

00:10:22:02 - 00:10:22:05

Right.

00:10:22:05 - 00:10:22:29

And so always,

00:10:22:29 - 00:10:26:16

you know, trying to fill someone else's
shoes is, I think, a big challenge.

00:10:26:16 - 00:10:28:13

And so he was

00:10:28:13 - 00:10:32:08

pretty happy doing it, though, like,
I think he enjoyed doing it.

00:10:32:08 - 00:10:35:25

I think if you had the opportunity
to have more education, he was younger.

00:10:35:25 - 00:10:39:10

He probably would have chosen,
to do that kind of job.

00:10:39:10 - 00:10:44:02

But I think, he made a good living out
of it, and he was successful in doing it.

00:10:45:29 - 00:10:46:27

So my,

00:10:46:27 - 00:10:51:14

I feel like the most helpful people for
my parents were probably

00:10:51:14 - 00:10:55:16

my grandmother and my uncles
who were here at the time.

00:10:55:16 - 00:10:59:16

I think they sort of,
you know, gave them that sense of,

00:11:00:28 - 00:11:05:01

like home and community when they didn't
really have that established yet.

00:11:05:01 - 00:11:07:24

So knowing people here,
I think was definitely,

00:11:07:24 - 00:11:10:24

definitely their biggest support.

00:11:11:17 - 00:11:14:12

And obviously, you know,
I was very young at the time, like,

00:11:14:12 - 00:11:17:05

I was only a year and a half
when they moved here. Right?

00:11:17:05 - 00:11:20:05

So having my grandmother around
to kind of help with childcare

00:11:20:07 - 00:11:23:05

while my parents were kind
of establishing their careers, I think was

00:11:23:05 - 00:11:24:03

super helpful for them.

00:11:26:23 - 00:11:27:08

So I think

00:11:27:08 - 00:11:31:28

my parents have been really resilient
through their whole lives.

00:11:31:28 - 00:11:35:16

Like obviously they've had to adjust
to multiple different transitions.

00:11:36:00 - 00:11:38:08

I actually think they found strength
within themselves,

00:11:38:08 - 00:11:39:26

like their own resiliency.

00:11:39:26 - 00:11:45:20

Being able to kind of say, like,
if you work hard, you'll be able to succeed.

00:11:45:20 - 00:11:49:24

Because they kind of experienced
that in their transitions over time.

00:11:49:24 - 00:11:52:23

So I think that's kind of been
their biggest source of strength.

00:11:53:03 - 00:11:56:25

Obviously being able
to rely on each other, but obviously just

00:11:57:10 - 00:11:59:13

being confident themselves
and knowing that they.

00:11:59:29 - 00:12:04:03

Had the ability to work hard
and be persistent, and that things

00:12:04:03 - 00:12:08:20

would probably turn out for the best
if they kind of just, kept trying.

00:12:08:20 - 00:12:12:03

I think that's the belief in themselves
that was the really,

00:12:12:03 - 00:12:15:15

driving factor to kind of
get them through those difficult times.

00:12:16:24 - 00:12:22:11

I think my parents have friends of all
different ages, of all different cultures,

00:12:22:25 - 00:12:27:13

and I kind of have a similar,
friendship group.

00:12:27:13 - 00:12:30:13

And I look at some people
from my parent's generation,

00:12:30:23 - 00:12:35:22

and they only have friends of one culture
or one age group or one hobby.

00:12:36:12 - 00:12:40:14

And I think that, you know, them
being able to be open minded, them

00:12:40:14 - 00:12:44:18

having all these unique experiences,
has really given them a very rich life

00:12:44:18 - 00:12:47:18

in terms of the activities
that they're involved in.

00:12:47:18 - 00:12:49:13

The community that surrounds them.

00:12:49:13 - 00:12:54:16

I think that kind of brings
you know, a more unique

00:12:54:25 - 00:12:57:22

life experience, having friends
from different backgrounds

00:12:57:22 - 00:13:03:22

and different ages and
I think that's been the biggest,

00:13:04:29 - 00:13:08:15

advantage, I guess, for my parents,

00:13:09:06 - 00:13:12:16

having had such a unique life
and also having that,

00:13:12:16 - 00:13:15:27

you know, advantage to me, being able
to talk to people from different

00:13:15:27 - 00:13:17:13

backgrounds, you know,
whole conversation

00:13:17:13 - 00:13:19:22

with different people,
make friendships, make connections.

00:13:19:22 - 00:13:23:19

You know, always being able to find a way
to connect with people from different

00:13:23:19 - 00:13:27:09

backgrounds is really helped
me, obviously, in my career in medicine,

00:13:27:09 - 00:13:30:16

like being able to connect
with people from different

00:13:30:16 - 00:13:34:28

ethnicities and cultures
and ages and life experiences.

00:13:34:28 - 00:13:39:27

I think that's the biggest lesson,
that their, you know, their journey

00:13:39:27 - 00:13:43:22

has taught me, and their struggles
have reflected for me.

00:13:45:23 - 00:13:48:00

So a couple of big things.

00:13:48:00 - 00:13:52:08

So in our culture, we exchange,
hong bao (red pocket).

00:13:52:08 - 00:13:55:08

like lai si when you get together for family

00:13:55:08 - 00:13:58:13

events like birthdays or, you know,

00:13:59:20 - 00:14:03:23

like introducing a new baby to
the family, like these kinds of events.

00:14:04:01 - 00:14:08:12

So we still follow a lot of those Chinese
traditions of giving money

00:14:08:12 - 00:14:09:28

in red packets.

00:14:09:28 - 00:14:11:10

That sort of tradition.

00:14:11:10 - 00:14:15:13

We all do speak Cantonese still.

00:14:15:14 - 00:14:19:28

So we have maintained some,
you know, language connections for sure.

00:14:19:28 - 00:14:23:12

One of the things
I think that my husband was quite

00:14:23:12 - 00:14:28:18

surprised at is that we still, visit
my grandfather at the cemetery,

00:14:28:18 - 00:14:31:27

and we perform like, a traditional, like,

00:14:32:11 - 00:14:35:27

ceremony for him to celebrate his life.

00:14:35:27 - 00:14:38:08

And it's
kind of like a tribute to your ancestors.

00:14:38:08 - 00:14:41:05

So in Chinese it's called 'Bai San',

00:14:41:05 - 00:14:46:01

So you're basically like, praying to your
ancestors or like, wishing them well.

00:14:46:18 - 00:14:47:19

He was really surprised at that

00:14:47:19 - 00:14:50:29

because he's from Hong Kong
and they didn't really do that.

00:14:50:29 - 00:14:54:27

So I think that's something
that's quite unique to my,

00:14:54:27 - 00:14:57:28

grandparents
having grown up in those small villages.

00:14:58:24 - 00:15:01:21

So that's a tradition
that we've continued to this day.

00:15:01:21 - 00:15:04:27

And I think that's kind
of a really meaningful tradition

00:15:04:27 - 00:15:06:24

that I'd like to continue
with my kids as well.

00:15:08:04 - 00:15:09:18

So for my family.

00:15:09:18 - 00:15:11:05

So I have three kids.

00:15:11:05 - 00:15:15:07

We try and do some,
you know, family traditions

00:15:15:07 - 00:15:16:29

now that they're a little bit older.

00:15:16:29 - 00:15:19:00

So one tradition that,

00:15:19:00 - 00:15:22:20

we started a couple of years ago
was going to the Maple Syrup Festival.

00:15:22:29 - 00:15:25:29

So a very uniquely Canadian experience.

00:15:26:05 - 00:15:29:21

So usually we'll go
to, you know, Crawford Lake or Kelso.

00:15:29:21 - 00:15:33:07

And the kids really enjoy it,
and we kind of learn about,

00:15:33:08 - 00:15:36:07

you know, the history of how
they make maple syrup.

00:15:36:07 - 00:15:39:18

And they just like
to eat the maple syrup candy.

00:15:41:25 - 00:15:45:12

I guess when my parents were
growing up in Tanzania.

00:15:45:12 - 00:15:48:25

Like, my mom always talked about the fact
that they, you know,

00:15:48:25 - 00:15:49:28

would always help each other out.

00:15:49:28 - 00:15:52:21

And they had like a very open community.

00:15:52:21 - 00:15:56:10

So if somebody needed something, they may
need somebody to watch their kids.

00:15:56:10 - 00:16:01:04

You know, I think they were just kind
of all interconnected.

00:16:01:28 - 00:16:06:13

And I think the pandemic
kind of messed things up a little bit

00:16:06:13 - 00:16:10:02

in terms of developing that in
some of our communities in Canada.

00:16:10:13 - 00:16:14:13

But I think that's the direction in which,
a lot of communities are going.

00:16:14:14 - 00:16:17:04

So I've seen even in my neighborhood,

00:16:17:04 - 00:16:20:05

like people having like annual
Christmas parties now.

00:16:20:05 - 00:16:23:24

We kind of started doing
kind of more neighbourhood traditions,

00:16:23:24 - 00:16:26:01

you know, garage
sales, those kinds of things.

00:16:26:01 - 00:16:29:21

And so I think as you get to know
your neighbours and feel more comfortable,

00:16:29:28 - 00:16:34:17

that openness,
you know, is something that is similar.

00:16:34:17 - 00:16:37:17

Obviously it's just human nature
to try and help somebody else.

00:16:37:21 - 00:16:42:11

So I think that's kind of, the biggest
similarity that I think we can

00:16:42:11 - 00:16:47:01

probably replicate, now that we're kind
of emerging from the pandemic.

00:16:47:01 - 00:16:51:02

And yeah, it is a little bit surprising
cause I think culturally,

00:16:51:02 - 00:16:56:21

you know, Canadians and North Americans
tend to be more individualistic.

00:16:56:21 - 00:16:57:26

Like we try and stick to ourselves.

00:16:57:26 - 00:17:00:15

We try and stay at our own
individual family homes.

00:17:00:15 - 00:17:04:27

But, you know, as you know,
we kind of come out of the pandemic.

00:17:05:03 - 00:17:07:16

We kind of learn that we have to
sort of rely on each other.

00:17:07:16 - 00:17:08:21

And I think building

00:17:08:21 - 00:17:11:26

that sense of community
through all of these community events,

00:17:11:26 - 00:17:13:27

you know, neighbourhood parties,
all of those things,

00:17:13:27 - 00:17:17:20

I think that sense of community
is something that,

00:17:17:25 - 00:17:21:18

you know, will hopefully emerge again
and be a similarity across, like,

00:17:21:19 - 00:17:22:28

you know, different countries for sure.

00:17:24:11 - 00:17:27:09

So these are, like,
super, super old pictures.

00:17:27:18 - 00:17:33:22

So this is, like, my grandparents, like,
getting married in Africa.

00:17:33:23 - 00:17:34:19

Like super old picture.

00:17:34:19 - 00:17:40:09

So this is my mom's dad and my mom's mom
and so as I mentioned before, like,

00:17:40:09 - 00:17:45:17

both of my grandmothers were kind of mail-order
brides or like, arranged marriages.

00:17:45:17 - 00:17:49:22

So they kind of really didn't know what
they were, what they were getting into.

00:17:51:02 - 00:17:52:18

But, yeah.

00:17:52:18 - 00:17:57:03

And then this is a picture here
of my mom as a baby.

00:17:57:16 - 00:18:01:03

So again, not a ton of pictures,
obviously, at the time.

00:18:01:03 - 00:18:04:02

But there's a little picture of her
as a baby.

00:18:06:09 - 00:18:07:28

I'm just going there to see.

00:18:07:28 - 00:18:10:27

If there is another one here.

00:18:11:21 - 00:18:13:15

To show.

00:18:13:15 - 00:18:17:23

This is my parents when they
first moved to the UK.

00:18:17:23 - 00:18:20:24

So I have a bunch of pictures here.

00:18:20:24 - 00:18:22:04

But these are like the pictures

00:18:22:04 - 00:18:24:17

from my parents

when they first moved to the UK.

00:18:24:17 - 00:18:26:20

So this is them with their

like friend group

00:18:26:20 - 00:18:29:24

all growing up together,

like in their 20s,

00:18:29:24 - 00:18:32:24

like going to the beach.

00:18:33:11 - 00:18:36:11

So there's a couple pictures there.

00:18:36:24 - 00:18:38:11

And then I will just jump ahead

00:18:38:11 - 00:18:41:26

to some of the more recent pictures.

00:18:44:04 - 00:18:47:04

So these are pictures

00:18:47:04 - 00:18:50:05

of like our first experiences in Canada.

00:18:50:05 - 00:18:54:28

So my parents came for a visit
a couple of times.

00:18:54:28 - 00:18:58:29

So this is me when I was around,

00:19:00:03 - 00:19:02:17

eight months, nine months or so.

00:19:02:17 - 00:19:05:17

So they came for a couple visits.

00:19:05:26 - 00:19:06:27

There are some pictures of them.

00:19:06:27 - 00:19:10:09

This is still also back in the UK,
so there's a couple pictures there.

00:19:11:06 - 00:19:14:20

And then there is a picture here
I wanted to show,

00:19:14:20 - 00:19:17:25

which is like my first Christmas here.

00:19:18:13 - 00:19:21:13

This is the house
that I grew up in in England.

00:19:23:16 - 00:19:26:28

And then there's a picture here

00:19:41:28 - 00:19:43:18

So this is

00:19:43:18 - 00:19:45:24

this is the first Christmas here.

00:19:45:24 - 00:19:48:17

So this picture in this picture
we had just moved here.

00:19:48:17 - 00:19:49:23

We've been here for about a month.

00:19:51:11 - 00:19:54:11

And so that's,
that's my first Christmas in Canada.

00:19:54:13 - 00:19:57:13

So I was about a year and a half old,

00:19:58:02 - 00:20:02:00

and that's, I think, was our
first snowstorm here.

00:20:02:28 - 00:20:06:02

So that's me in front of like,
my grandmother's house in a snow suit,

00:20:07:08 - 00:20:08:28

which I never would have needed, I guess.

00:20:08:28 - 00:20:11:02

in London.

00:20:12:03 - 00:20:17:11

So, as I said, like we grew up,
I grew up in a pretty rural area.

00:20:17:11 - 00:20:22:17

I mean, you can see the houses around us,
but it wasn't really a walkable neighbourhood.

00:20:22:17 - 00:20:25:17

So I think one of the biggest ways
that we got involved

00:20:25:17 - 00:20:31:10

when I was really young was that,
I joined Brownies and Girl Guides,

00:20:31:10 - 00:20:34:26

so it was at, like, one of
the local churches, and it

00:20:35:03 - 00:20:38:04

kind of brought people in
from all over the community

00:20:38:04 - 00:20:40:14

because, again,
we couldn't really walk to one place.

00:20:40:14 - 00:20:41:28

So we kind of drove there.

00:20:41:28 - 00:20:45:15

You know,
they kind of gave us that sense of,

00:20:45:15 - 00:20:49:15

you know, purpose because we were going
on, like, camping trips together.

00:20:49:20 - 00:20:53:11

We were like, earning badges, you know,
you were doing activities together

00:20:53:11 - 00:20:54:10

as a group.

00:20:54:10 - 00:20:58:22

And so a couple of the girls that, I did

00:20:58:22 - 00:21:01:22

Girl Guides with, I'm actually still
friends with to this day.

00:21:02:07 - 00:21:05:23

So that's kind of nice to
still maintain that connection with them.

00:21:05:23 - 00:21:08:23

But for my mom,
she joined as a Girl Guide leader,

00:21:08:24 - 00:21:12:20

and that really helped her again,
to get to know her community, get to know,

00:21:12:29 - 00:21:16:08

you know, the local resources
and what was available to her

00:21:16:08 - 00:21:19:09

because we would take trips,

you know, to Valens Conservation Area.

00:21:19:20 - 00:21:21:17

We would do community events at seniors homes.

00:21:21:17 - 00:21:24:27

That kind of let her kind of learn, you know, the neighbourhood

00:21:24:27 - 00:21:28:20

a little bit more and the surrounding neighbourhoods and also helped her meet

00:21:28:20 - 00:21:33:08

other parents, who were like kids of similar age to me.

00:21:33:08 - 00:21:34:12

So that was nice for her too.

00:21:35:16 - 00:21:38:10

So now the biggest community

00:21:38:10 - 00:21:41:14

thing that my husband and I are both involved in is music.

00:21:41:24 - 00:21:44:13

So we both are part of the Burlington
Concert Band.

00:21:44:13 - 00:21:46:29

We actually met through music.

00:21:46:29 - 00:21:50:13

My husband and I have been playing
instruments for quite a long time.

00:21:50:13 - 00:21:53:21

So we,
we met while we were both in university.

00:21:53:21 - 00:21:57:22

We both were playing
in musical ensembles at McMaster.

00:21:57:22 - 00:22:00:27

And so we just continued

00:22:00:27 - 00:22:03:27

to do that, as we've,

00:22:04:12 - 00:22:06:14

you know, grown together
as a couple.

00:22:06:14 - 00:22:10:08

And I think it's really nice event
for us to be able to--it's a really nice,

00:22:10:08 - 00:22:13:09

activity for us to do together
once a week, which is really nice.

00:22:14:04 - 00:22:16:14

And it also allows us
to give back to the community.

00:22:16:14 - 00:22:21:15

So that concert band provides,
you know, music for the community,

00:22:21:15 - 00:22:24:17

but they're primarily
a non-profit organization

00:22:24:17 - 00:22:26:27

to raise money
for different charities.

00:22:26:27 - 00:22:29:24

So I think that's kind of been
a nice way for us to volunteer.

00:22:29:24 - 00:22:31:14

We've both been on the executive,

00:22:31:14 - 00:22:35:14

and helping organize concerts
and making connections with community.

00:22:35:14 - 00:22:40:26

You know, getting to know, people
in the Burlington community in that band,

00:22:40:26 - 00:22:44:08

like a lot of our closest friends,
we met through that band as well.

00:22:44:08 - 00:22:48:27

And, you know, talking to, again,
people of different backgrounds,

00:22:48:27 - 00:22:52:14

of different musical backgrounds, but
of different cultural backgrounds as well.

00:22:52:25 - 00:22:56:28

And we all learn from each other,
whether it's through music or through our,

00:22:56:28 - 00:22:58:05

you know, life experiences.

00:22:58:05 - 00:23:01:25

I think it's a really nice
community to be a part of.

00:23:01:25 - 00:23:05:07

So I really am appreciative of that.

00:23:05:07 - 00:23:08:13

And I think that kind of, again,
stems from the fact that

00:23:08:13 - 00:23:11:27

my mother was determined
to get me involved in community events.

00:23:11:27 - 00:23:12:04

Right?

00:23:12:04 - 00:23:15:07

So whether it was joining
Girl Guides at the same church,

00:23:15:07 - 00:23:17:19

we did Girl Guides,
we also joined a children's choir.

00:23:17:19 - 00:23:21:14

And it was, a choir,
eventually became an adult choir

00:23:21:14 - 00:23:23:04

that my mom

was able to be a part of as well.

00:23:23:04 - 00:23:27:17

So I think, you know, establishing in me
at a young age that sense of community,

00:23:27:17 - 00:23:32:17

like going and taking me out to events,
making that extra effort to, to take me,

00:23:32:17 - 00:23:36:26

to all these different activities,
I think really, showed me the value

00:23:36:26 - 00:23:39:26

of joining those community
activities when I was older.

00:23:42:13 - 00:23:43:17

So to be honest,

00:23:43:17 - 00:23:47:14

I haven't found anything
that's been that helpful in Burlington.

00:23:47:14 - 00:23:51:17

To connect me to other people

from a similar background,

00:23:51:17 - 00:23:54:26

I suppose I would identify as being,
you know,

00:23:55:04 - 00:23:58:14

a foreign born Chinese person.

00:23:58:14 - 00:24:01:16

So we would love to have more friends

00:24:01:16 - 00:24:04:29

who, you know, speak Cantonese
or do the same kinds of,

00:24:05:10 - 00:24:10:05

you know, traditions as,
you know, our families have growing up.

00:24:10:17 - 00:24:15:10

But in Burlington, there are just
are not a lot of Cantonese Chinese people.

00:24:15:10 - 00:24:19:20

Most of the people who live in Burlington
are Mandarin speaking from mainland China.

00:24:19:20 - 00:24:22:05

So I haven't really actually found

00:24:22:05 - 00:24:26:04

any great organizations
that have connected me with my community.

00:24:26:14 - 00:24:28:13

I think there have been,

00:24:28:13 - 00:24:31:28

you know, definitely a lot of Chinese
cultural events in recent years.

00:24:31:28 - 00:24:35:09

They've they've had,
I believe the last 2 or 3 years

00:24:35:09 - 00:24:38:17

they've had, Lunar New Year, events.

00:24:38:17 - 00:24:42:22

But again, not necessarily
directed towards, you know,

00:24:42:25 - 00:24:45:15

the Cantonese population.

00:24:45:15 - 00:24:48:22

My husband growing up in Mississauga,

he had, you know,

00:24:49:08 - 00:24:53:06

much more opportunity to connect
with his culture, when he was growing up,

00:24:53:06 - 00:24:54:02

because there were just

00:24:54:02 - 00:24:57:16

a lot more Hong Kong Chinese people
that were living in his area.

00:24:58:11 - 00:25:03:21

His parents, you know, mostly had, Hong
Kong Chinese people around them.

00:25:03:21 - 00:25:06:03

They were kind of, I guess, what
I was alluding to that generation

00:25:06:03 - 00:25:08:26

of people who only connects with their own,

00:25:08:26 - 00:25:11:14

you know, people from their own background.

00:25:11:14 - 00:25:14:23

So he had a lot of that growing up.

00:25:14:23 - 00:25:16:29

And it would be nice
to kind of reconnect to that.

00:25:16:29 - 00:25:19:01

But I think it's difficult
in Burlington, for sure.

00:25:19:01 - 00:25:22:02

We just don't have a big community

00:25:22:09 - 00:25:23:10

of Cantonese speaking

00:25:24:11 - 00:25:25:07

of immigrants.

00:25:26:08 - 00:25:27:15

I think would be nice
for a couple of reasons.

00:25:27:29 - 00:25:29:05

Like, I think it would be nice for my

00:25:29:05 - 00:25:31:09

for my children
to learn a little bit of Cantonese.

00:25:31:09 - 00:25:34:26

We try to speak to them
in Cantonese at home.

00:25:34:26 - 00:25:38:16

But it's different than obviously, you
know, being able to take them to events.

00:25:39:07 - 00:25:42:12

When I was growing up,
I was actually in a Cantonese

00:25:42:12 - 00:25:46:02

Chinese school
every Saturday morning, in Hamilton.

00:25:46:02 - 00:25:51:00

But that actually has really diminished,
like there's only, I think, one Cantonese

00:25:51:10 - 00:25:52:07

school now.

00:25:52:07 - 00:25:54:17

And that is that same one in Hamilton.

00:25:54:17 - 00:25:58:23

So, the opportunities I think
are very limited for us to continue

00:25:58:23 - 00:26:02:27

to maintain, you know, our language
and try and pass that on to our children.

00:26:04:03 - 00:26:05:04

So I think

00:26:05:04 - 00:26:09:23

trying to have them learning at home
is probably the easiest way.

00:26:09:23 - 00:26:12:27

I don't think it's going to be that easy
for them to learn it in the community.

00:26:13:09 - 00:26:16:01

Or I was telling my husband,
maybe we have to take them,

00:26:16:01 - 00:26:19:24

you know, to Hong Kong,
like every other summer and suffer through

00:26:19:24 - 00:26:23:22

the heat together to try to get them
to learn a little bit more of the language.

00:26:24:10 - 00:26:27:29

But it is definitely,
definitely difficult to maintain,

00:26:27:29 - 00:26:29:00

the culture and the language.

00:26:29:00 - 00:26:33:25

One good thing, though, about,
you know, being in this generation

00:26:34:02 - 00:26:38:19

is that we do have so many opportunities
to find resources on the internet.

00:26:38:19 - 00:26:41:25

So I know a lot of my friends
who are trying to teach their children

00:26:42:07 - 00:26:43:17

specific languages.

00:26:43:17 - 00:26:45:10

You know, they find children's shows

00:26:45:10 - 00:26:47:10

that are only in that particular language,
right?

00:26:47:10 - 00:26:49:16

And it's like, oh,
you only get to watch this show if it's in

00:26:50:17 - 00:26:53:17

you know, French, or in Cantonese,
or in Mandarin.

00:26:53:20 - 00:26:57:08

So, I think there
are a lot of resources online.

00:26:57:17 - 00:27:01:03

I just think it's not the same
as learning it through a community,

00:27:01:18 - 00:27:02:27

like it's just not the same thing.

00:27:02:27 - 00:27:06:22

And obviously we don't we try not to
give our kids too much television.

00:27:06:22 - 00:27:08:08

We're trying to restrict the screen time
already.

00:27:08:08 - 00:27:12:19

So, face to face is obviously always better.

00:27:12:19 - 00:27:16:12

As they get older, I'd like to take them to
to more of those cultural events for sure,

00:27:16:12 - 00:27:19:19

like the Lunar New Year
event in Burlington.

00:27:20:04 - 00:27:21:09

I'd like to do all of that.

00:27:21:09 - 00:27:22:28

When they get older,
they kind of can understand

00:27:22:28 - 00:27:25:09

a little bit more about
what's happening,

00:27:26:29 - 00:27:30:12

I would say Burlington's community is,

00:27:31:24 - 00:27:34:06

I find when I'm walking around,
there's kind of like a mix

00:27:34:06 - 00:27:35:15

of two different communities.

00:27:35:15 - 00:27:39:05

There's obviously people who've lived here for a very, very long time.

00:27:39:05 - 00:27:43:10

And in my neighbourhood, there's people, you know, who moved into that neighbourhood

00:27:43:10 - 00:27:45:10

as their starter home and lived there for 40 years.

00:27:45:10 - 00:27:47:08

I think there is that generation.

00:27:47:08 - 00:27:51:09

And typically I think Burlington has been seen as being an older population.

00:27:51:20 - 00:27:56:01

But I do think over the last 4 to 5 years there's definitely been a lot of growth.

00:27:56:01 - 00:28:00:00

So in the Alton neighbourhood, lots of young families of different

00:28:00:00 - 00:28:03:13

backgrounds coming in,

and even in my neighbourhood, on my street,

00:28:03:13 - 00:28:06:13

you know, there has been, you know,

00:28:06:22 - 00:28:10:06

several new families who have moved
in, lots of younger babies being born,

00:28:10:06 - 00:28:14:19

in the last 3 or 4 years,
which is nice, for me and my family

00:28:14:19 - 00:28:17:19

cause we can sort of
let our kids, you know,

00:28:17:19 - 00:28:20:19

have play dates and things
with other neighbours.

00:28:20:29 - 00:28:24:14

But I think overall,
the perception of Burlington

00:28:24:14 - 00:28:27:21

is that we still cater
towards older populations.

00:28:28:05 - 00:28:31:27

I think that's going to be a difficult thing to just sort of shift over time.

00:28:32:16 - 00:28:35:24

Even looking at, you know, Burlington, culture and recreation,

00:28:35:24 - 00:28:40:04

like a lot of those activities are aimed towards seniors 55 and up.

00:28:40:04 - 00:28:40:12

Right.

00:28:40:12 - 00:28:43:04

So you even when I was looking for activities for myself to do

00:28:43:04 - 00:28:47:06

or for my kids to do,

I do think that as the population,

00:28:48:09 - 00:28:51:04

shifts to, you know, under

00:28:51:04 - 00:28:54:01

30, we kind of have to offer more

00:28:54:01 - 00:28:57:01

as a community to those

00:28:57:01 - 00:28:59:22

families that are coming in.

00:29:02:12 - 00:29:03:29

I would say be

00:29:03:29 - 00:29:07:24

open to the opportunities,
that are presented to you.

00:29:07:24 - 00:29:10:27

I think, you know, sometimes people again,

00:29:10:27 - 00:29:13:29

have that ideal situation
of what they want life to be like.

00:29:13:29 - 00:29:18:22

And I think it's very difficult
now with the rising cost of housing,

00:29:18:24 - 00:29:22:29

and all these things, like,
I think you just kind of have to lower

00:29:22:29 - 00:29:26:13

your expectations
to some degree and be realistic.

00:29:26:22 - 00:29:30:04

And be opportunistic
about what comes up for you.

00:29:30:04 - 00:29:31:19

And as my parents said,

00:29:31:19 - 00:29:34:22

if you work hard at the opportunities
that present themselves to you,

00:29:35:02 - 00:29:38:20

you will be able to be successful
and hopefully be able to take steps

00:29:38:20 - 00:29:42:19

towards your dreams
as you know, as it comes up.

00:29:42:19 - 00:29:46:09

But I think you kind of
have to be more realistic

00:29:46:18 - 00:29:49:09

and more opportunistic
about what's available to you.

00:29:50:17 - 00:29:51:13

You know,

00:29:51:13 - 00:29:54:23

I think there's a couple of big issues,
obviously, right now.

00:29:54:23 - 00:29:57:15

I mean, housing
prices is one of them,

00:29:57:15 - 00:30:00:11

but also, I think even finding
childcare is really, really difficult.

00:30:00:11 - 00:30:04:17

So a lot of my friends
who have their first baby

00:30:04:17 - 00:30:06:15

are having a really hard time
finding childcare,

00:30:06:15 - 00:30:09:19

and they've had to be resourceful
in using like home daycares

00:30:10:02 - 00:30:13:06

or, you know, using relatives or friends
to kind of help them out.

00:30:13:12 - 00:30:16:29

So I think, my advice to new immigrants
would be

00:30:17:16 - 00:30:20:23

just try and take the opportunities
as they come. Try and use community

00:30:20:23 - 00:30:24:26

resources as much as possible,
and try and use

00:30:24:26 - 00:30:28:28

other people as much as possible.
Like ask your community for suggestions.

00:30:28:28 - 00:30:30:23

Like what home daycares are good.

00:30:30:23 - 00:30:33:03

You know what
to take my children to?

00:30:33:03 - 00:30:35:17

What events can I take,
you know, my elderly parents to?

00:30:35:17 - 00:30:36:26

And I think that will be

00:30:36:26 - 00:30:41:27

really is the best way of connecting
with people and being able to survive.

00:30:41:27 - 00:30:44:04

But I do think it takes a village
now more than ever

00:30:44:04 - 00:30:48:26

because we have such limited resources,
you know, in healthcare,

00:30:48:26 - 00:30:53:04

in housing, and childcare,
that we do need to rely on others.

00:30:53:04 - 00:30:56:23

And those online forums,

00:30:56:23 - 00:31:00:20

they can sometimes be a very, you know,
dangerous place in terms of scams.

00:31:00:20 - 00:31:02:11

Or they can seem be very negative.

00:31:02:11 - 00:31:04:27

But I do think there's a lot of positivity
that comes out of them.

00:31:04:27 - 00:31:08:24

I do think there's a lot of people
who are giving helpful suggestions

00:31:09:06 - 00:31:11:21

and recommendations
based on their experiences,

00:31:11:21 - 00:31:14:21

and it really does help me,
as a young parent,

00:31:15:05 - 00:31:17:27

to take my kids to different things,
to know what's available

00:31:17:27 - 00:31:20:27

and what's out there,
and I would encourage new immigrants

00:31:20:27 - 00:31:23:27

to do the same thing,
to find those opportunities

00:31:24:09 - 00:31:25:11

that would be helpful for them.

00:31:27:18 - 00:31:31:03

Yeah, so I think the biggest challenges,

00:31:31:03 - 00:31:35:02

are that we--I think
in Canada in general,

00:31:35:02 - 00:31:39:14

we have a hard time supporting
the population with public services.

00:31:39:14 - 00:31:42:28

So again,
I think the childcare issue is huge.

00:31:42:28 - 00:31:46:23

Just not having enough spots
for the number of parents

00:31:46:23 - 00:31:49:23

who need childcare,
who want to go back to work.

00:31:49:24 - 00:31:51:07

Healthcare is a major problem.

00:31:51:07 - 00:31:53:18

Not having a family physicians,

00:31:53:18 - 00:31:56:24

who want to do family medicine
because of funding issues.

00:31:57:05 - 00:32:00:08

I think there is,
you know, a lot of challenges

00:32:00:08 - 00:32:03:15

in terms of being able to provide
enough of those public services

00:32:03:15 - 00:32:07:09

at a high enough quality
for our growing population.

00:32:07:10 - 00:32:10:13

I think that's
the biggest challenge for sure.

00:32:11:03 - 00:32:14:26

And that's why I think new
immigrants, again, kind of have to

00:32:15:07 - 00:32:20:00

rely on their communities a little bit

more to be able to connect,

00:32:20:00 - 00:32:23:28

and to be able to find,
you know, a health provider, to be able

00:32:23:28 - 00:32:26:28

to find childcare,
to be able to find housing.

00:32:27:06 - 00:32:30:10

I think it's more important than ever
that we sort of rely on each other

00:32:30:10 - 00:32:33:26

to find those resources.

00:32:34:21 - 00:32:37:15

Because I think those are the
biggest challenges for sure.

00:32:39:28 - 00:32:44:01

So I think there are definitely
some similarities.

00:32:44:01 - 00:32:48:24

I think that, you know, my mother's
stereotypical immigrant story

00:32:48:24 - 00:32:51:09

of going somewhere with a suitcase
and a hundred dollars

00:32:51:09 - 00:32:55:26

is probably not
the traditional story anymore.

00:32:55:26 - 00:33:01:04

But I think the similarity of,
you know, having a cultural struggle

00:33:01:15 - 00:33:04:20

trying to, you know, adjust to,

00:33:06:06 - 00:33:10:14

being in a city versus
you living in a rural area.

00:33:10:23 - 00:33:13:24

I think all of those challenges
are still there

00:33:13:24 - 00:33:16:24

for a lot of immigrants,
and most immigrants who come here,

00:33:18:11 - 00:33:22:15

a lot of them, I should say, are coming

from very developed cities overseas.

00:33:22:15 - 00:33:26:27

And then to come here, try to navigate,
navigate learning to drive, potentially,

00:33:26:27 - 00:33:27:29

all of those sorts of things.

00:33:27:29 - 00:33:32:28

I think those are, you know, struggles
that everyone kind of shares.

00:33:33:25 - 00:33:38:14

Whether it was my parents story or now.
I think the struggle to,

00:33:38:14 - 00:33:42:16

you know, find a job, find connections
with community,

00:33:42:16 - 00:33:46:13

you know, sort of orient yourself
to what's available in your community.

00:33:46:13 - 00:33:49:02

I think that challenge is also similar.

00:33:49:02 - 00:33:52:29

And probably easier now
because of the internet, I would hope.

00:33:53:18 - 00:33:56:21

And also all the resources,
you know, that the library provides

00:33:56:21 - 00:34:00:06

that, different,
you know, organizations provide.

00:34:00:06 - 00:34:03:06

I think it is probably easier
now than it used to be.

00:34:03:15 - 00:34:06:10

But I do think that's still
still a struggle for sure.

00:34:08:09 - 00:34:12:02

So I think it was
a pretty good opportunity

00:34:12:02 - 00:34:15:20

to talk about some of the challenges
in the community,

00:34:16:26 - 00:34:19:04

and share a little bit of my family's story.

00:34:19:04 - 00:34:22:27

I think it was nice because obviously

00:34:24:09 - 00:34:26:00

before my

00:34:26:00 - 00:34:29:00

before my grandparents,

I think the story kind of gets lost.

00:34:29:03 - 00:34:30:11

And so being able to kind of

00:34:30:11 - 00:34:33:14

share a little bit of that,

with my community is nice.

00:34:33:14 - 00:34:37:11

And also for my children

to kind of know where they came from,

00:34:37:11 - 00:34:41:05

and know kind of how I felt

in the moment, when they were young.

00:34:41:05 - 00:34:43:15

And, you know, my perspective

probably will change

00:34:43:15 - 00:34:45:15

by the time

they're old enough to understand

00:34:45:15 - 00:34:49:10

sort of the situation, as well,

and in terms of where they came from.

00:34:49:10 - 00:34:51:14

So I think that's,

that's really nice for them.

00:34:51:14 - 00:34:53:01

So thanks for the opportunity.