

Salvation Army Pathway of Hope Oral History Project

Interview with Amanda Ervin October 2, 2019

Interviewer: Vanessa Dotson

Interviewee: Amanda Ervin

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Transcription prepared by Kierra Burda

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00:00

VD: The following interview was conducted with Amanda Ervin on behalf of the Salvation Army Pathway of Hope Oral History Project. It took place on October 2nd at the Salvation Army of Roanoke, Virginia and the interviewer is Vanessa Dotson. The time is 5:14 [pm]. Alright, and would you please state your name, date of birth, and where you are from?

00:37

AE: Amanda Ervin. I'm from Roanoke. And [1989].

00:43

VD: And what was it like growing up here?

00:48

AE: Kind of boring [*laughter*].

00:51

VD: Was there anything interesting growing up? What time period...in the [19]90s is when you grew up here mostly?

00:58

AE: Yeah.

00:59

VD: What was it like in the 90s here?

01:01

AE: To a certain age, it was good. Because then my dad got sick with cancer and that's when it like went really downhill.

01:14

VD: And how was life in your house growing up?

01:17

AE: When I was younger it was good. I had my mom and my dad, but then my dad died and my mom got real depressed.

01:28

VD: And how did the death of your father affect the household?

01:33

AE: Well, family stopped coming over. He was like the glue. Everyone has that one family member that keeps everyone together, I think that was my dad. And when he passed...because now I got family that live in Roanoke that my kids don't even know.

01:54

VD: And you have two brothers, right?

01:56

AE: Yes.

01:57

VD: What's your relationship with your brothers?

01:59

AE: They now live with me since my mom died. One has autism and one's on the spectrum.

02:12

VD: And what was your social life growing up?

02:18

AE: I had friends. I had two best friends that we'd always go and have sleepovers and stuff.

02:30

VD: And what kind of education did you receive?

02:33

AE: I didn't graduate. I ended up getting my GED.

02:37

VD: And what was it like going through school?

02:41

AE: I liked school up until high school. And then middle school and high school I just didn't go.

02:50

VD: What made you stop liking school?

02:53

AE: Well, my dad died when I was in 5th grade, and then in middle school, my mom either wasn't there or she was at work. I didn't have no one making me go, so I didn't go.

03:08

VD: Oh okay. And did your family have any expectations for your school career?

03:15

AE: No.

03:16

VD: What were your goals for your education if you had any?

03:20

AE: I didn't have any when I was in middle school. I just didn't want to go.

03:26

VD: And after you dropped out, what happened?

03:31

AE: My mom moved to Bedford and I stayed in Roanoke. I was like 13 [years old], and I kind of like just bounced around to friends' houses and my grandma's. And I didn't ever go to school or anything like that.

03:45

VD: How old were you when you got your GED?

03:48

AE: It was after my son was born, so I was like 21, 22 [years old].

03:55

VD: And what made you want to go back and get your GED?

03:59

AE: I wanted a better job.

04:03

VD: And how many children do you have?

04:05

AE: I have three.

04:07

VD: Three, and how old are they?

04:09

AE: Ten, four, and five.

04:12

VD: When you had each of your children, how did it change your life?

04:18

AE: My son made me grow up, made me want to do better. I didn't want to screw around anymore and do dumb shit. I wanted to do better.

04:29:

VD: How old were you when your son was born?

04:30

AE: Twenty.

04:32

VD: Twenty, so that was a big experience. How old were you when your other children were born?

04:38

AE: Twenty-five and twenty-six.

04:42

VD: So they were pretty close together. And what is your relationship with the fathers of your children?

04:50

AE: My son's dad don't have nothing to do with him. We don't talk to him. He might pay child support once every year, if we're lucky. My son's ten so he sees it, and he knows I can't make him talk to him when he does call out of the blue. So he doesn't really have a relationship. But my girls, their father, they have a relationship with their dad.

05:16

VD: That's good. And is there anything you wish you could give your kids but your financial situation prevents you from doing so?

05:26

AE: I just wish I had a vehicle. Because I just got my learners permit so I just need a vehicle. My mom had a car but when she died, like, that was hers. I never had to learn how to drive, but now I wish I had a vehicle.

05:47

VD: Once you get a vehicle, do you think it will be really freeing, like you'll be able to go places?

05:52

AE: Yeah, I won't have to ask or have to ride the bus.

05:57

VD: How do you feel about riding the bus? What's your experience with that?

06:00

AE: I don't mind it, it's easy.

06:06

VD: How do you think your kids feel about their upbringing?

06:12

AE: Well, my girls are toddlers, they're always happy. And [my son], he's a good kid.

06:27

VD: And how are your kids doing in school?

06:30

AE: My son's a straight-A student. My daughter is in Kindergarten, they don't get A's and B's yet, but they get S's for success, and their teachers never have bad comments.

06:46

VD: That's good. And what's your experience like being a single parent?

06:52

AE: I'm used to it. It was hard at first, but I'm just used to it. It's like autopilot, like I know what to do when stuff happens, but I know at first it's really stressful.

07:05

VD: How has the experience changed from your first child to now?

07:09

AE: My second child was hard, because I was trying to find balance. I had him by himself for five years, and then here comes another child. But I figured out how to balance that and then when my third child came, I just worked her into it.

07:33

VD: And what are your goals for your children growing up?

07:36

AE: My son's ten, he wants to go to college. He already knows what he wants to go to college for and everything. And my daughter, she loves school, but she's four. I just want them to do good in school and graduate and go to college.

07:59

VD: So you want them to complete high school, go to college, and have good careers, good goals?

08:02

AE: Yeah.

08:06

VD: And how has your experience been living in the Roanoke community with your kids?

08:16

AE: Good and bad. I guess that's like everywhere.

08:21

VD: What are some good things?

08:24

AE: Some of my neighbors are older, so they don't do a lot of drama. But some of the younger ones, there's a lot of drama. So my kids know they can only go, my son can only go to like two people's houses. I don't let them walk around by themselves. When I was a kid though, we used to walk to the stores by ourselves and no one cared. But I'm like, "No, I got to walk with you, or someone has to walk with you."

08:55

VD: Yeah, that's something that's changed over the years. What are some of the bad sides of living here?

09:04

AE: Neighbors... I don't know how to put it, like the neighbors are just rude. And people don't look out for kids anymore like they used to. We used to play on the street and didn't worry about being hit by cars. My kids can only play in the backyard.

09:31

VD: Yeah, I understand. And how have you been dealing with being on welfare programs currently?

09:43

AE: I'm slowly getting off of them. I have a job. I think if I'm able to go full time, I'll probably be cut off completely, because right now I'm part time. I haven't had a bad experience with it.

10:00

VD: And what was it like dealing with being unemployed before you got your job?

10:05

AE: Stressful. Really stressful.

10:10

VD: I guess it's gotten better now since you got the part-time job? How'd you feel when you got it?

10:16

AE: I had worked there before so I kind of knew what I was walking into. I was excited. I wasn't sure how you would go back, because you know some places you can't get rehired, but I was excited when they told me I could become rehired.

10:35

VD: That's good. And what welfare programs are you on currently?

10:40

AE: Just food stamps.

10:41

VD: Just food stamps, okay. And do you use those a lot?

10:45

AE: Yeah.

10:47

VD: What do you think could be improved about food stamps and welfare programs in general?

10:53

AE: Not really for families, but I know my brother, who has disabilities, he couldn't get them when they lived out on their own. People with disabilities, I know some people who can get them but they only get like \$50 because their disability check is so high. But a lot of times a disability check, it goes towards rent and water bills and electric bills, and they don't have money at the end for food. I think that part of it could be better, but I think they do good with families.

11:27

VD: So you think it could be improved for people that are single, by themselves?

11:32

AE: Yeah.

11:33

VD: What is your brothers' experience going through all that? How do you think they feel?

11:39

AE: They don't understand. One of my brothers could only get it for two months but no one explained that to him when he first got them. They just gave them to him, and then on that third month when he didn't get them I was like, "Did you get a letter?" But he can't read so it's not like he could read the letter.

12:10

VD: That seems kind of weird that they wouldn't explain it to them. That could definitely be fixed. You'd think they would take the time, due to his disabilities, and help him out.

12:24

AE: I wasn't the one who helped him do his paperwork so I haven't... But he said they said he was approved and he showed me his approval letter, but the approval letter didn't say nothing about two months either.

12:38

VD: Yeah, that could definitely be improved. It looks like there's some things that need to change for people with disabilities. And how has your financial situation affected your life as a single mother throughout the years?

12:52

AE: It's affected it a lot, depending on where we lived, what we could eat, what they got for birthdays and Christmas, and just what we could do as a family.

13:09

VD: What do you think was the experience when you first had your first child to now? How has it changed, for the better or for the worse?

13:22

AE: I kept a job until my last daughter was born, but I had complications after her. I had a wound vac for three months and I lost my job.¹ And then I found another job after ten months... a year. But that year of not having a job, I had my son. He was old enough to get told "look, we can't go out to eat, we can't do a lot of things we've been doing because I don't have a job now." And I was like "we have to cut back." He understood, because I mean my kids are spoiled, but they're not spoiled rotten to the point where they can't understand if something comes up. But that year with no job, I had to get help paying bills and stuff. That was hard.

14:25

VD: What was your financial situation before you had your child? Because you said you dropped out when you were in high school and up until then, what were you doing?

14:36

AE: Illegal stuff mainly.

14:40

VD: You don't have to talk about that if you don't want to.

14:46

AE: Yeah.

14:47

VD: Yeah, alright. What do you think have been the biggest obstacles that you have faced so far in your life?

14:53

AE: Getting my GED.

14:56

VD: How was that?

14:58

AE: I had passed everything on math but geometry, and I had to learn that. And I dropped out at 9th grade. Algebra and all that came easy to me, but geometry? Trig? It's on the GED test and it was the hardest thing for me.

¹ A wound vacuum is a vacuum-assisted closure of a wound that decreases air pressure on the wound to help it heal more quickly.

15:22

VD: How did you get to learn that before you took the test?

15:25

AE: There's classes. Roanoke city offers free classes.

15:31

VD: And once you got into it, were you able to pick it up fast or did it take a little bit?

15:35

AE: It took a little bit for the math, but they make you do a pretest, so they see what you know so they're not going over it. They'll go over it but they're not focused on that with you, because each student will be working on something different. Science and history, I didn't need none of that, but trig and geometry I had to learn that. It was like a foreign language.

16:03

VD: What do you think life would be like if you hadn't gotten your GED?

16:08

AE: Hard.

16:10

VD: How have you gotten new opportunities after you've gotten it, because you have that education level?

16:16

AE: Yeah, because now I go to Virginia Western [Community College] and stuff. I've been looking into that, but I haven't decided anything yet.

16:27

VD: So you'd like to get an education beyond that?

16:30

AE: Yeah.

16:32

VD: Are you looking for a certain degree or are you just wanting to go?

16:35

AE: I've been looking at what they offer. I haven't decided anything. I was hoping my last child would start preschool this year, but she's on a waiting list. I was going to try to go back to school when she went back, because daycare's really expensive. Whenever I can get her in school I was going to try to look at classes. Go to school while they're in school.

17:00

VD: How do you think your life would change after you've gotten another degree?

17:07

AE: I could probably further my career in something I'm already working in.

17:15

VD: How did you first hear about the Salvation Army?

17:19

AE: We moved close by here [Southeast Roanoke], and my son had asked if this was a church, and I was like, "yeah." I knew it was a church, I didn't know they did social work type stuff. I just knew they had an Angel Tree program, that's all I thought they did. Because I used it one time before when he was a baby-baby. I was like "yeah, it's a church," so he asked if we could go to it and then we've been coming here ever since.

17:56

VD: So you said you went when your son was little, what was that like? You said you came for the Angel Tree when your son was little?

18:02

AE: Yeah, like his first Christmas.

18:07

VD: What was that like?

18:10

AE: It was weird, because I didn't know what questions to ask. Now I help volunteer to help sign other people up. But like, I get their feeling when they come in, these people asking you questions about your kids. It's weird.

18:28

VD: So now you got it on both ends, you've been there and now you're helping other people. What's your experience working and volunteering with that?

18:37

AE: I like volunteering with them. My son, I try to get him to do it, too, with little stuff. Because I try to tell him, "Look, this looks good on college applications and you want to go to college."

18:53

VD: What is your experience with the Salvation Army ever since you've joined in with the social work stuff?

19:00

AE: It's good, I like helping people. I work for the Salvation Army, for Turning Point.

19:10

VD: What's that like working there?

19:12

AE: It's different. When I first started, I was nervous. But I like working there.

19:18

VD: What do they do there exactly?

19:21

AE: It's a shelter for domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault victims.

19:26

VD: I'm sure you do a lot of good stuff there. And what's your experience with the Pathway of Hope Program?

19:33

AE: It was good. I'm not in it no more, but when I was in it they helped me out. They gave me a budgeting binder so that helped a lot. I was in it when my mom passed and they helped me deal with all of that because I didn't know the first thing to do.

19:57

VD: And what was it like transitioning out of the program?

20:04

AE: They made it easy. They don't just push you out, and I know if I ever needed anything even though I'm not in it, I can go talk to them and they will try to help me out.

20:17

VD: What's your experience been like with J [the program manager]? How has she helped you?

20:22

AE: I haven't had to come ask for help in a while. I know J, she would do it.

[The interview is briefly interrupted as a Salvation Army staff member walks into the room and asks Amanda a question]

20:54

VD: What does the Pathway of Hope Program mean to you? How did it help you?

20:59

AE: I was kind of all right with budgeting. Like I do spend on stupid stuff. I think anyone with kids, there's been extra money and then they don't need it. So they gave me a binder so I could see where... I had to write down where all my money went, so I could see it and that helps out a lot. If you have a job and if she gets you to do that, you can see where all your money is and you

can see where you can cut, like, “Hey, if I don’t do this I can put it in savings.” So that helped out a lot.

21:42

VD: Were there any things that you found helpful besides the budget binder? What else did they do for you?

21:55

AE: When my mom passed, she passed in Lynchburg, they’re the ones who gave me the rides up there. And they stood up there with me, for three or four days. They basically took care of her with all the stuff afterwards, and helped me. I needed rides from Lynchburg to Roanoke. I had to identify the body and they gave me a ride and everything to do that.

22:38

VD: And how long were you a part of it before you transitioned out of it?

22:42

AE: I think maybe a year and a half.

22:46

VD: And before that year and a half, how do you think you were doing?

22:51

AE: I was doing alright, like I wasn’t saving money. My bills were being paid, it was just nothing ever leftover at the end.

23:12

VD: And then now that you’re done with the program, you know how to budget and do all that stuff, are you good with the money?

23:16

AE: [*inaudible assent*]

23:18

VD: That’s good. And what kind of career are you interested in?

23:25

AE: I haven’t decided yet. I like what I do. I’m a house monitor, and I like that type of stuff but I want to go back [to school]. So I’ve been looking and I’m trying to decide exactly what I want to go for.

23:46

VD: And do you have any goals? Like how much do you want to be making, where would you like to be working, like that?

23:55

AE: I don't know where I would like to be working, but I know as a ballpark with how much, because I would like get a place out in the country. I don't like the neighbors being all close, because I can literally hear everything next door.

24:13

VD: Do you think your kids would like to move out to the country to get a little more space?

24:17

AE: Yeah, my daughter thinks she can have every single animal she sees, she asks for, including elephants and giraffes. She's going to ask her daddy for a horse for Christmas. It's like, that's not gonna happen [*laughter*].

24:37

VD: And what general goals do you have for the future?

24:43

AE: Short-term future is going back to school. And long-term future is having a career where I can be out of the city and having a vehicle, a stable enough vehicle, to go back and forth.

25:05

VD: And where do you see your life in a year?

25:09

AE: Probably going to school, because even if my daughter doesn't get into preschool this year because of the waiting list, she has to start Kindergarten next year. So in a year I know I'm definitely going back to school.

25:24

VD: How do you think your daughter's going to feel when she goes to preschool?

25:30

AE: She's going to like it at first. She wants to ride the big, she calls it the "big girl bus," because her sister rides the bus. So she wants to ride the bus. I don't know how she's going to like the school part!

25:45

VD: And where do you think you'll be in five years?

25:50

AE: I hopefully have my degree in something, and putting the degree to good use.

26:00

VD: Do you think you'll be living somewhere else?

26:02

AE: Yes.

26:06

VD: What obstacles do you think you're going to face to reach these goals that you have for the future?

26:15

AE: If anything ever happened to my kids where I wouldn't be able to go to school, or my brothers.

26:25

VD: And what experiences have you had that has shaped who you are as a person today?

26:36

AE: I don't remember my mom being vocal with me. She would never, to the day she died, she wouldn't really talk about anything serious. She would always like push it off and would never sit down and have a conversation with me about it. I'm the opposite with my kids. My son is ten but he knows he can come to me and talk to me about anything. I won't judge you, just talk to me. So I'm the opposite of that, with my mom. I don't ever want my kids to feel like they can't talk to me, like I felt like that with my mom.

27:13

VD: How do you think your parenting style differs from you parents?

27:18

AE: I'm more hands on and I'm more pushing for school. I never had that.

27:31

VD: What was your financial situation like growing up?

27:36

AE: When I was really young my mom and dad worked, and we moved in with my grandma because she needed help and she had this really big house. So she worked, and my grandma was retired but she worked at Burger King. Because I remember I used to get little Burger King toys, that's when Burger King used to have good toys [*laughter*]. So she worked at Burger King and my mom was a CNA [Certified Nursing Assistant] and my dad was a carpenter. So like, if I ever wanted anything I was able to get it. I don't remember my mom being around much because she was either asleep or at work. My dad and my grandma were around.

28:26

VD: And what was it like after your dad got sick?

28:32

AE: It was hard, because he did a lot of his treatments in the house, so he had nurses come over. And when he first got sick, they would come over while we were at school but then the summer hit and I was there. I didn't really understand it at first, but now I'm older and I still remember all that. I know what they were doing, and it got real bad to a point where he couldn't walk up

the stairs so we had to put a bed downstairs. But as a kid you don't realize that they did that because he couldn't walk, because they would never tell me that.

29:18

VD: And then once he passed, what was it like?

29:23

AE: My mom was always gone and my grandma, she just didn't care what we did. I felt like everyone was always worried about my brothers because they had mental disabilities, and I always got put off on the back burner so I could do whatever I wanted to and no one would care.

29:47

VD: So they paid a lot more attention to you brothers than you?

29:50

AE: Yeah.

29:54

VD: What would you say has been the low point of your life so far?

30:00

AE: Probably when my mom died. We weren't close for so long, and then we got really close. And she died so sudden. She was literally at my son's birthday party, and a day after she had a major heart attack. And then five days after his birthday we had to pull the plug. There was no sign that any of that was going to happen. I talked to her that morning and then I got a phone call at three-something that evening.

30:42

VD: What would you say has been the high point thus far?

30:53

AE: Probably being stable. All I do get help with now is food stamps, like I don't get help with anything else. And I'm still able to pay everything, and my kids have everything they need. I didn't have to ask for help for school supplies or anything like that this year, I was able to do it for them. Just being able to do stuff for them.

31:21

VD: How did it feel before you got help and you had to kind of ask for stuff?

31:28

AE: I hate asking for help. I don't know if people might say that's a pride thing, but I feel like I'm their parent, like in my head I should be able to do it for them. I shouldn't have to ask for help. So I hate it, ever having to ask for help.

31:49

VD: So once you got into the program, how did you feel once you were able to start doing things on your own?

31:54

AE: It makes you feel proud about yourself when your able to do stuff like that.

32:00

VD: How do you think your kids feel about being in the program here? Being here in the Salvation Army?

32:13

AE: I know they like it, because when my daughter goes to her dad's and she misses church she's so mad. And I'm like, "Just tell your dad to bring you. He can come get you after, I'm not going to keep you from him." And I think my youngest, it helped her, because she was really really shy and wouldn't talk to no one at first. She wouldn't even leave my side at first. But now, she'll go off by herself and she talks to more people. Sometimes she does still get in her moods where she's shy and she'll just look at you.

32:54

VD: How do you think your son's getting along with everybody here?

33:00

AE: He likes it. I know he likes it because if he didn't he wouldn't come. Because I'm usually at work on Sundays. He's a Junior Soldier here. He goes to camp and everything in the summertime.

33:27

VD: That's good, and what do you think has been your experience with the concept of intergenerational poverty. How has your financial situation when you were growing up affected your life now and your finances?

33:43

AE: Growing up, like we didn't get food stamps or anything. We weren't on no type of welfare. I knew my aunt and them was, because I remember the first time I'd seen it was like the paper books. I didn't know what it was, but then they told me. And then they let me use one. I thought it was the coolest thing, I was like seven [years old]. I didn't know what it was though. But I don't know, I didn't have an experience with it until I needed it. So from growing up to now, I didn't even know it was on a card until after my son was born.

34:24

VD: So you feel like nobody really prepared you for finances and what you would do if you were in that situation?

34:28

AE: No.

34:33

VD: What does it mean to you to be in poverty?

34:47

AE: Poverty is a struggle, but you have to pick yourself up and get out of it. It seems hard, but it's doable. You just have to have patience.

35:04

VD: And now that you are through the Pathway of Hope Program, do you feel stronger than you were going in?

35:14

AE: Yes.

35:16

VD: And do you feel like it's helped you get the basis for a good career and a good future?

35:21

AE: Yeah.

35:22

VD: Good, and how do you think others feel coming into the program?

35:28

AE: Probably nervous, because when I first came into it I really didn't know that much about it. I really don't think... probably they're nervous, probably wondering what they can really help with.

35:52

VD: What would you say to people who wanted help but didn't know how to get into the program or didn't know if it would work for them?

36:03

AE: I mean all they have to do is call and talk to anyone that works here basically, since they all kind of know the program. Even if she's [J's] out or busy, they can speak to anyone up here and they'd try to help them.

36:19

VD: And would you recommend the Salvation Army and specifically the Pathway of Hope Program for people that need help like you did years ago?

36:30

AE: Yes.

36:31

VD: And are there any other places that you went to for help besides the Salvation Army or have you gone solely to here?

36:42

AE: I went solely here. I don't even know if we have any other places that offer what Pathway of Hope does. I think it's a kind of unique program and concept with them trying to help people.

37:04

VD: Do you think that it's done good for the people who live here that need it?

37:09

AE: Yeah.

37:11

VD: And do you think that they're working good to build the community up and make it a better place?

37:19

AE: Yeah. Salvation Army is always out in the community. In the summertime they have the garden that's free. You can go plant your own and there's always other stuff down there. So they're always out in the community.

37:38

VD: And growing up, was there anything similar to that around you?

37:44

AE: No. I know now... like I grew up where Morningside area is [in Southeast Roanoke]. I know now Carillion bought up some of that part, near Morningside Park, and now there's a garden up there. But when I was growing up, there was nothing like that. The community gardens are now a new thing. Back in the [19]90s, no one had community gardens.

38:11

VD: So you feel like in the '90s, for people that would have been in similar situations to you, they probably wouldn't have been able to get up from where they were very much.

38:22

AE: Probably not, because a lot of the stuff is new.

38:28

VD: And what do you think is the best aspect of the Pathway of Hope Program?

38:38

AE: It gives you resources and gives you a person to hold you accountable. Because you meet with her [J] every week. And if you told her you were going to go out and put in ten applications, she can hold you accountable for doing that or not doing that. And sometimes that's

all people need is someone to hold them accountable for doing what they said they were going to do.

39:09

VD: Yeah, before the program you said you kind of just spent money on random things?

39:14

AE: Yeah.

39:19

VD: And are your brothers a part of the program here or are they getting along on their own?

39:27

AE: No they're not part of the program, they live with me. One gets disability and one we're working on getting his disability back. Once he gets the disability back I can probably get them their own apartment, it's just [that] one disability check isn't going to pay for an apartment and everything else.

39:51

VD: What do you think is their experience going through similar financial situations to you? How have they faired?

40:02

AE: Their experience is probably more shitty because they had a payee before who their stuff was getting cut off because he wouldn't pay it. They weren't getting none of their bills sent to their house, it would be sent to the payee. And he wasn't a legit payee, so I don't know how he even became their payee in the first place. But I had stopped all that when my mom passed away and there was a check written out for like \$500 for clothes, and they had been at my house that whole month and I was like, they don't have clothes. They brought clothes from their house but they don't have new clothes. So I had to put a stop to all of that. So them being not able to pay bills, I think it's harder when you need pay, you have to depend on someone else. If you can't find the right person, that sucks. They would have to come to my house and then I would have to, basically, I felt like I was getting the run around with Blue Ridge [Behavioral Health] and then their payee, why their bills were cut off.

41:24

VD: How do you think they experienced welfare programs and such, being disabled?

41:31

AE: I think it's harder because they can't read. Even a worker who's trying to rush through it and doesn't want to sit down and read everything, people with disabilities it's not as good because they can't read all the little fine stuff.

41:52

VD: And what do you think their situation will be in the future once they get their disability check?

41:59

AE: Well it would be up to them if they want to move out or stay with me. Or if I move away, I already told them, "If I move, and you all want to come with us, you have to let me know that so I know how big of a place I need." So one of my brothers always says he would come and my other brother's a little more hesitant moving away from Roanoke, because they have never left Roanoke.

42:30

VD: So have you left Roanoke?

42:32

AE: Yes.

42:34

VD: What's your experience outside of Roanoke?

42:37

AE: I like country more than city. I've lived in Florida, stuff like that, but I wouldn't move my kids down there. Florida's nice if you're young and you're single, because Florida's different, it's hot, but I wouldn't move my kids down there. Too many hurricanes to worry about.

43:04

VD: So you think you'll be in the general Roanoke Valley area probably for a while or do you plan on moving somewhere else?

43:14

AE: I plan on moving somewhere else. I haven't decided where yet, but I know it won't be up north because I don't like cold weather. But me and my son had talked about it.

43:34

VD: Do you think you'll stay in Virginia or go to a different state?

43:38

AE: Who, my son or my brother?

43:41

VD: Just anyone, do you think that you'll take them to a different state or stay in the state of Virginia?

32:48

AE: Oh, I'll go to a different state.

43:51

VD: Where do you think you'd like to live?

43:55

AE: Probably somewhere out Midwest.

44:01

VD: And once you're able to move away, do you think you'll be fully sufficient and you won't need to...?

44:09

AE: Yeah, I wouldn't try to move unless I already knew I could be fully sufficient. I don't want to have to depend on anything. When I move I know I need to have a job already lined up and all that.

44:31

VD: Is there any certain thing that you would like to do that you would go into a career with?

44:38

AE: I like to cook, but I don't know if I would want a career in that. I kind of like helping people too, so I've been looking at them two things. And I know Virginia Western, they offer both counseling stuff and they have culinary arts and stuff like that. My son told me just do both.

45:03

VD: Alright and we are wrapping up so is there anything else you would like to add?

45:13

AE: Nope.

45:14

VD: Alright, then thank you so much for letting us talk to you today. We appreciate it.

45:19

AE: You're welcome.

[END]