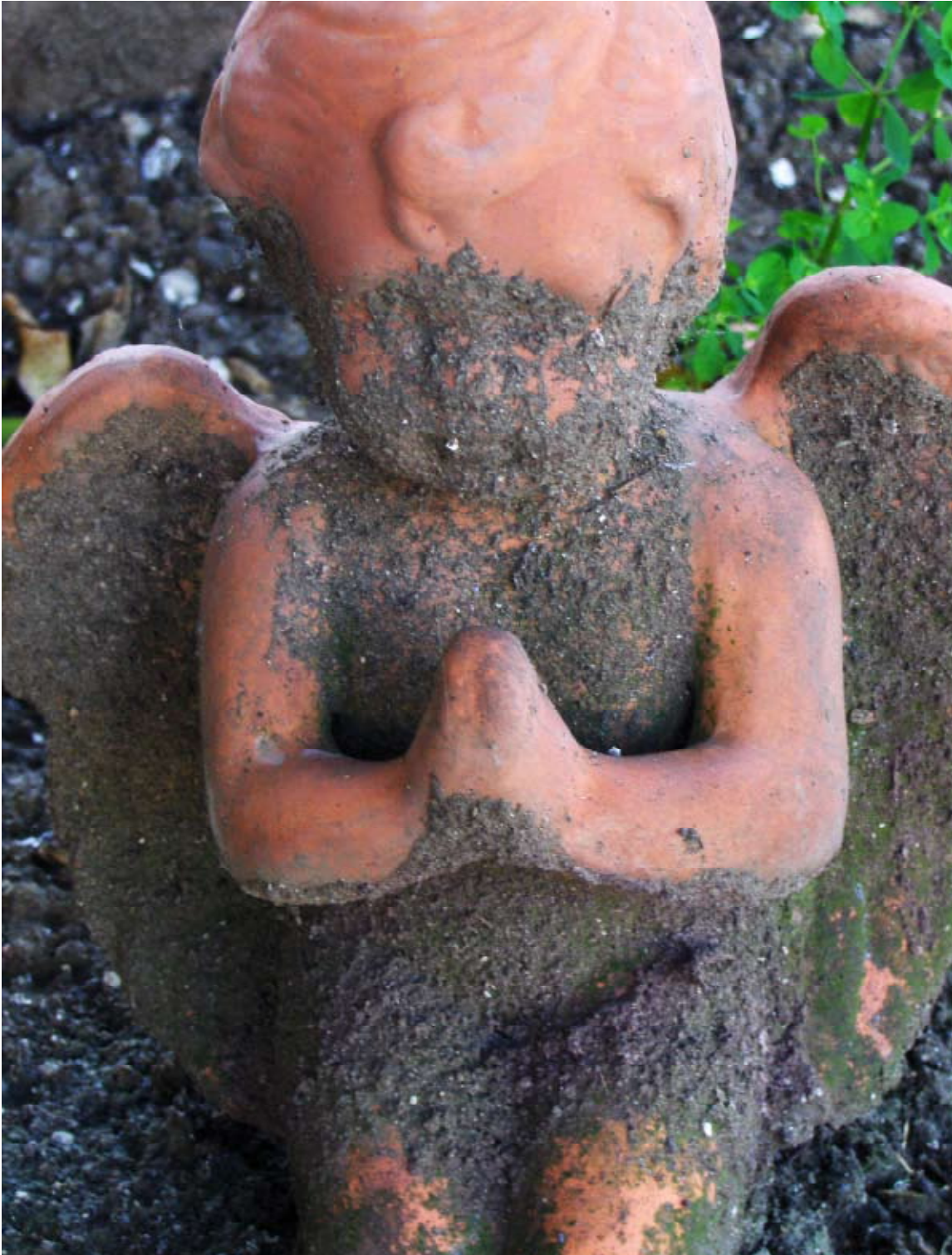


# Predetermined



Photos and text done by Yetzenia & Jose

## Foreword

We, Yetzénia and Jose, were given an assignment to do a documentary about something we were passionate about, something that had a lot of meaning for us. After a lot of thinking, we chose to document what it is like for young Latinos who are the first generation of immigrant families to graduate from high school or go to college. They are the first in their families to have the opportunity to succeed in a foreign land, and the act of achieving the goals that were predetermined for them when their parents came to America, is something to be noted. The odds are truly against them. It is only with the purest determination and perseverance, love and support from families, and a genuine desire for a beautiful life that makes it possible for people like us to succeed.

This topic has been the repeating theme of our upbringing. Both of us come from immigrant parents, who have pushed us our whole lives to lay the foundation for a better life. Not a day has gone by that we have not been reminded, consciously or unconsciously, of what our parents have gone through decades ago. What we truly know is that it does make a difference, that we do make a difference.



Making it through school and graduating is something to be recognized. Only 54% of Latino high school students graduate from high school, which makes succeeding in high school that much more impressive for that Latino. The thing is, it doesn't just end at that one individual. A diploma does not only stand for that one person. Graduating sets up that one person to live a better life than their elders had, but that prosperity will be reflected even more so on the generations to come. The future generations are guaranteed an American life, and have a decent shot at achieving the "American Dream." The seed of comfort and security becomes planted with that one person, and will grow to give an everlasting fruit of opportunity and knowledge to more and more generations. This is why we had chosen to do a documentary on this issue, because it is something very dear to our hearts.













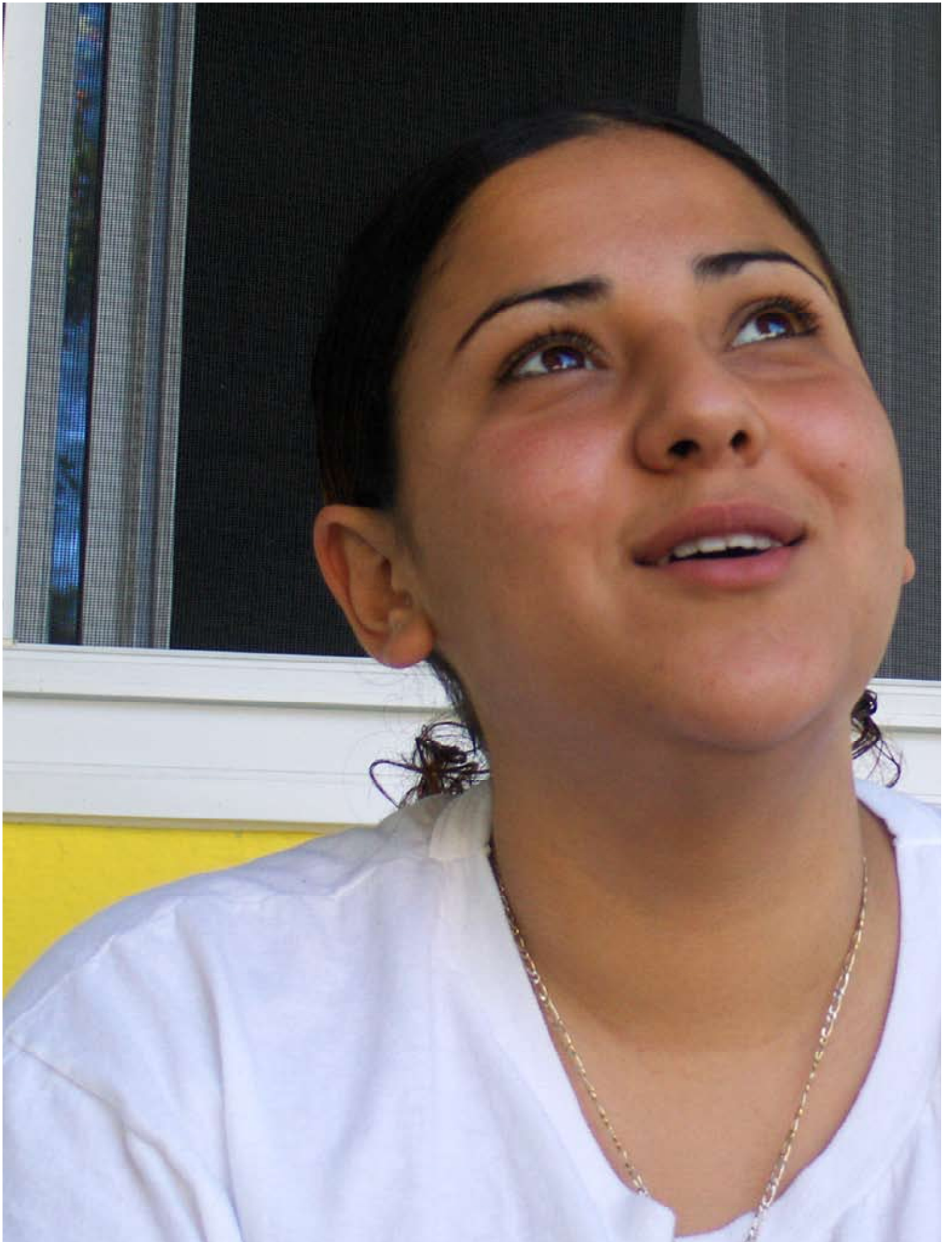


Lisa Retana is a senior at Mountain View High School in her second semester. She is the first in her family to graduate from high school. Her father came to the United States in search of a better life and to start a family. She recognizes the struggles her father went through to get where he is today and can't wait to graduate.









"It feels good to be the first one in my family to graduate because my brother didn't make it, so now all the focus is on me, but I really want to do it."

- Lisa













These are pictures of Yetzenia and Erik when they were each about 1 year old.

Erik was born in November of 1983, while

Yetzenia was born approximately 6 and a half years later in April of 1990.



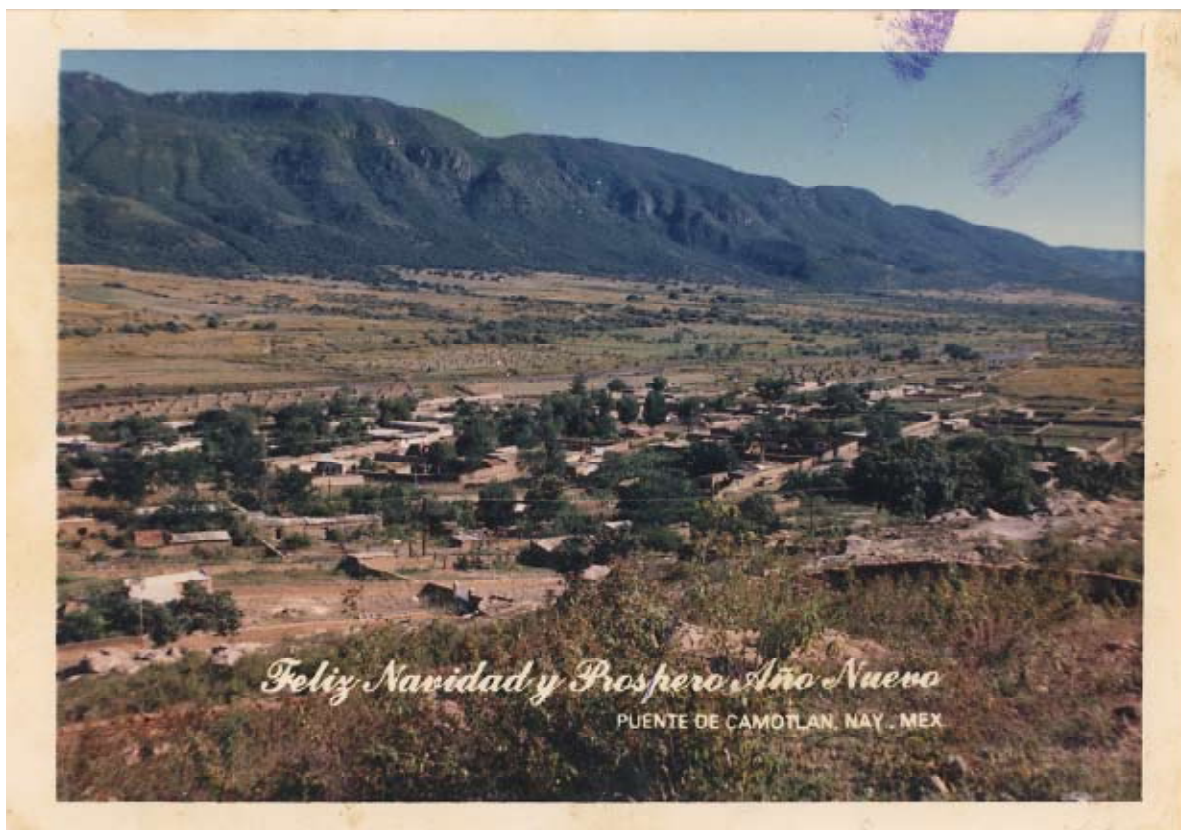
When Erik, Yetzenia, and thier sister Yvette were younger, they used to live in Santa Clara, California. When Erik was entering his freshman year in high school, their family decided to move to a better place that provided more security and broader opportunities. They moved to Mountain View in '97 and have lived there ever since. Yetzenia is currently attending Mountain View High School.



Yetzenia; Age 2



Yvette, Erik, Yetzenia



Erik's and Yetzenia's mother was born in Nayarit, Mexico during the late 1950's. When she was 15 years old, she came to the United States to live with her aunt in Palo Alto, California.



Manzanillo, Mexico

Yetzenia's and Erik's father was born in Lomoncito, Jalisco. His family continued to live in Jalisco until an unfortunate incident occurred within the family. The family decided to move to Santiago, Colima, where Erik's and Yetzenia's family still lives today.



Manzanillo, Mexico







All pictures taken in Nayarite, Mexico



After Yetzenia's and Erik's great grandfather had passed, their grandfather invested money in buying a few acres of land on the outskirts of El Puente.





“El Rio Grande”; Nayarite, Mexico

















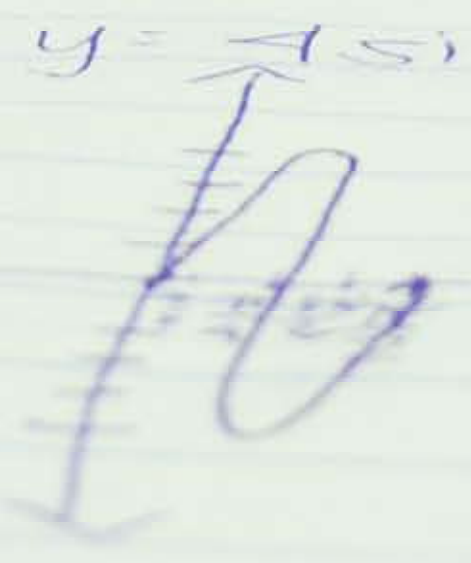




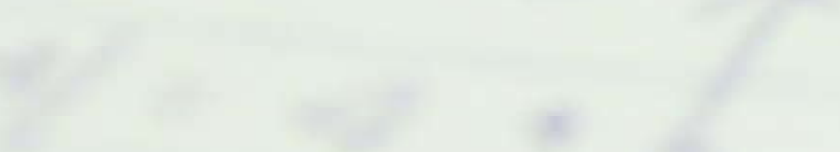
“College came to me as a push from counselors, parents, at the very end it was an option, another door open and when I did open that door, I just opened every single college, and it didn't really matter where it was, I mean the worst thing they could ever say was No.”

- Erik

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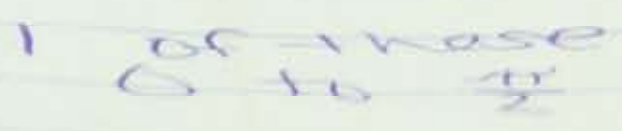
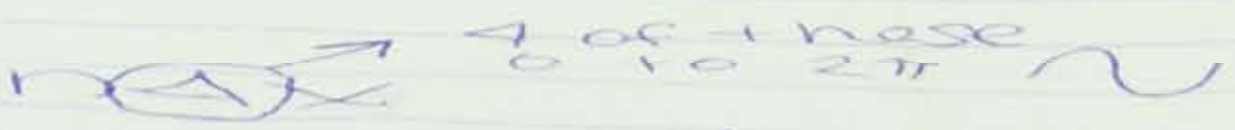
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FELIX

CHEVROLET



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*After Erik graduated from Mountain View High School, he moved down to Southern California to go to school at USC. He graduated from college in 2005.*











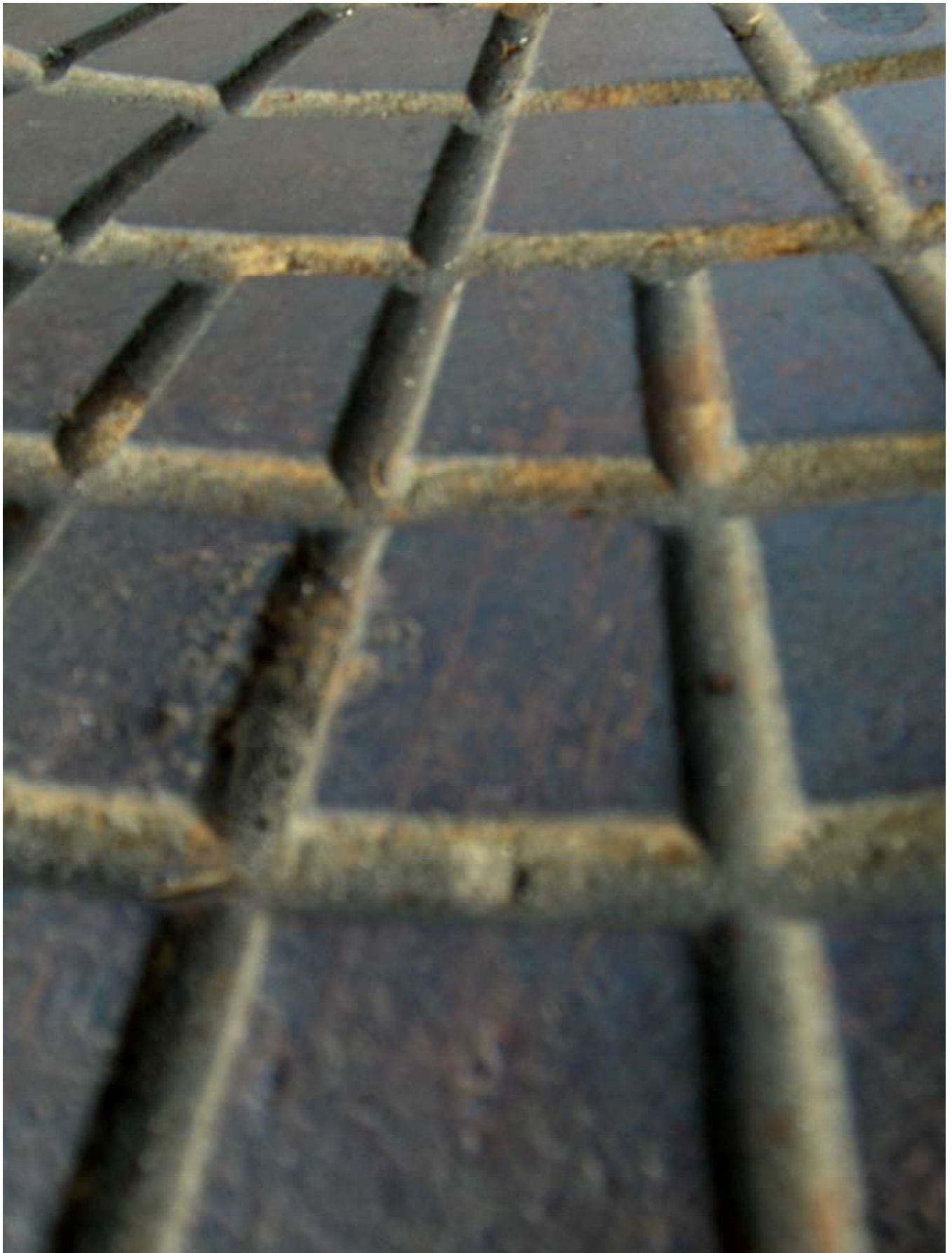
















# Special Thanks

We would like to give a special thank-you to all the people who helped make this documentary possible: those we interviewed, who let us photograph them, and helped us in any other ways possible. Thanks for cooperating.