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Hannah: Please state your name

Jose: My name is Jose Santana

1.03

Hannah: How many kids do you have

Jose: I have 3 boys, 3 and a half to 12

1.10

Hannah: Do you live in the area?

Jose: I do, I live in the area, I live about 4 blocks away from here

1.20

Hannah: How long have you lived in East Palo Alto?

Jose: I've lived here for most of my life, I was born and raised here, I did do some moving around, I was in houston texas from 2008 to 2012. And then i moved back to california, ended up in the central valley, and then came back to the bay area and uh came to the realization of the housing market, is just unsustainable for the common people in this area

2.45

Hannah: How do you feel your child's educational experience has been

Jose: My children's educational experience has been... uh... its been ok, it hasn't been the most consistent experience due to our moving every few years, so they had to do some bouncing around from school to school. Especially with my older son, who is a bit of an introvert he's more shy, its harder for him to make friends, i definitely saw how it affected them

3.17

Hannah: How have you seen it affect them socially?

Jose: Socially, I believe it affects them in a way where they are kinda hesitant to engage with other students and make friends because they don't know if they're gonna be back at that school the following year, and they're gonna have to break that relationship which is not the easiest thing to do, especially at that age.

3.38

Hannah: How would you describe the community of your kids' schools?

Jose: They actually do not go to this district, like i said we've done some moving around, so when i came back from the central valley i ended up in san mateo so they are in the san mateo district. It's a good experience for them there, there is diversity so they get to experience different cultures and values. They like it, they like it. ANd again I'm in a situation nowhere, I don't know if they're gonna go there next year, I have to make a decision, are they gonna come here, am i gonna bring them into this district or should i leave them there because i'm in a situation where I may need to move myself in the near future, just to try to give my kids a better space, if you will. We don't have our own space right now so we're kinda sharing a home, and that, i know, i'm just trying to do better so they can have what they need.

4.45

Hannah: How would you describe your family dynamic, what do you do for fun?

Jose: My family dynamic is, it's a very positive one, we have open 2 way communication. So if there's anything that's becoming an issue, we talk about it and we try to get through it together.

We do a lot of events on the weekends, we go to you know, my kids used to do football for a few years, they are currently taking the year off of sports, but you know we are engaged at the school. When they have school activities, we go, we try to go to the park and just anytime of quality time i can get with my kids, we try to take advantage of it

5.42

Hannah: In your own words what is gentrification?

Jose: in my own words, its when individuals are from a certain area, group up in a certain area, or have been there for a long time and are no longer able to be in the area due to the increase in the costs of rent where they grew up in. We see it all the time especially when, in school like when the kids go to their summer or winter breaks, alot of them dont come back because they had to move and most of them moved to the central valley, modesto, tracey, and stockton areas. That has ran through my mind personally a few times, cause i'm in that situation. It kinda sucks because i have a masters degree like i went and i prepared myself and did everything that i'm supposed to do. To be able to have a good decent life and right now in this area, i dont think thats enough. Imagine people that didn't go to college, if i'm in that situation, imagine the situations they are in. so that's what i think of gentrification is when you can no longer be where your roots are and you have to adjust to a different, to living somewhere where you may not have family and a whole new environment all together, which can definitely impact not only the adults but the kids as far as the education goes as well, um and their social life so in my words thats what it means.

7.32

Hannah: How do you feel your impact differs from your children?

Jose: it's a little different because, they don't have to worry about getting the bills paid, you know how or what they're gonna eat. That is on the parents, but as far as them it is more the social impact, educational impact, where they have to keep adjusting to different teachers, different classes, so many different environments and it's not the most effective way to try to learn and get the most out school.

8.19

Hannah: Have you noticed any changes in your home community?

Jose: I have, I do see a lot more diversity i do see like before you wouldn't see. Um a lot of races here. It was mainly hispanics, african americans, and polynesians, now you see a bit of the asian community, the indian community. It's mainly the people that are moving in seem to be people in the tech industry that are more than capable of affording these houses. That's a different dynamic, a more of a positive thing i think, because it brings more diversity into the community but at the same time you see all those different things, that also means that whoever was living there before may have had to leave the area because they couldn't afford to live there anymore.

9.25

Hannah: would you say the tech boom places a different feel of gentrification here vs in other places?

Jose: I think that the tech field is one of the main reasons why gentrification in this area is occurring. Literally, right to my right is facebook. A few miles down you have google, you have all the big tech companies and they have a high demand for employees. And the people that live in this community unfortunately a lot of them, do not have the skill set or the background to go into the workforce in those industries. So the prices are going up to adjust to that industry and get that side of the workforce here and it's just moving everybody else down, i mean if you drive up and down these streets you'll see people living in rvs, you'll see people renting out garages, renting out rooms and im in a similar situation, so i know how it is and it's a definite struggle and it takes some getting used to, and people shouldn't have to get used to those circumstances.

10.55

Hannah: Do you think society has the power to change anything? Who has the power?

Jose: I believe the tech companies, they have the power because they have a lot of money they have a lot of resources where if they can pour those resources into the community. And i'm sure they've done this to a certain extent, but if they could focus more on the housing crisis and how they could possibly come up w some sort of solution for that. I mean the community will have their back 100%, i know right now a lot of people in the community do not like the fact that all the companies are here because its making their lives much more difficult, but if the community can feel that they are really trying to help, you know they're putting all these things in place so that you can stay here, you were born and raised here, you like the area, you should have a decent chance of staying in the area were you grew up at, so if there could be a more proactive effort on that end that can be a plus, and also if they can communicate with the school and the district because we have a more direct relationship with the families, so if there is any messaging that they might want to put out, they can come through the district and we can make sure that more people get the message and start building that relationship between them and the community, you know a positive one.

12.30

Hannah: So what is one thing that you would like your children to know about this topic?

Jose: never stop striving to be successful no matter what challenges come your way just be resilient and take this as a learning lesson. See what you can do as you get older to maybe not be in that situation yourself and maybe help the people in that situation get out of that situation