

Nayeli Arellano

ITHA Scholarship

July 11th, 2021

Prompt 3; "The backstretch community is a tight knit community. Describe ways the backstretch community is unique from other communities. What are the challenges and benefits of growing up in the backstretch?"

Adversity Obtainment

Whether an individual believes it or not, the world exists with certain limitations, expectations and personal views based on; point of view based on economic factors (outside factors, that are simply out of our control); interactions that involve nurturing, essentially becoming assimilated to a type of view; and being on one side of the margin not allowed to be involved in the humanity that is designated within the margins of being called a human. In the world these instances occur, they can help and hurt at the same time due to the unpreparedness one may be.

I seem to understandably think that the backstretch community in which I have grown up in has protected me and prepared me for the occurrences in which my upbringing, my background, my skin color, my accent that holds my roots, my cultura, my genetics, my "smelly dirty shoes" that would always get laughed at during school, my awareness to embrace and accept all of the wonderful experiences that growing up inside the backstretch community would allow me to experience, camp during summer, a mobile library, an early morning bus ride to school, trips to the surrounding pools, and parks. It was the best childhood I could have received. From the long summer days, to the dark filled friend activities that held me busy and active throughout my whole childhood. When I was younger, I did not understand why my family had to live and work from the track, why my father had to wear funny looking pants (chaparreras) when he dropped us off during school mornings, why I had to live inside one room with all of

my family, why everyone in school made fun of my living situation, and finally why I had to get bullied and stigmatized for being or originating inside a racing horse track. I did not realize my parents didn't and couldn't make better wages during my childhood, but regardless of this I never felt like I was missing anything, due to the fact that every single summer was filled with warmth, with friends, and with memories that would stay with me forever and would develop into who I am today, and for that I am completely grateful and proud. Thus, furthermore the famous Shakespeare once said, "For though the chamomile, the more it is trodden on the faster it grows, yet youth, the more it is wasted, the sooner it wears". I have grown to love my life and learned to be proud of my roots and extend to bring about more awareness into keeping communities like these together and allowing for them to be the most potent, to create opportunities like higher education, and allowing further developments of individuals that are representation of happiness and humbleness.

"Run Nayeli, correle tenemos que ganarles a todos," said Jacqueline my friend. The cold fogginess was starting to lift upwards, and the warm weather was beginning to show through, as I began to tie my colorful orange shirt with a tie and then fold it in itself making it into a stylistic choice. It was time for daily morning breakfast at camp, a carton of milk and a Kellogg's cereal box, with a banana muffin, was sufficient to keep on with the activities of that day, that involved a library day, and crafts that allowed for a creative side to be seen.

It was hot outside; the sun was beaming. The highest temperature today was set to be 103 degrees Fahrenheit, to the point where shade was where it was recommended to be. It was getting to be the last day of summer camp full of different activities that revolved on solely consummating smiles on all of my friends and people around me. I remember drinking what felt like a large cup of cold water with ice, but it was nothing but a little cup cone that was able to get

filled with water that poured out of a large gallon of water standing upside down, through the push of a blue lever that streamed cold water running through hitting the paper cut, instantly getting full and moistening the edges you obtained a sip and finished to race your friend to the yellow group under the tree shade. The activities were initiating; a carnival theme last day, a large bus that had a magician that was doing tricks, and everyone laughed and had the best time, a station with caramel apples churros and other desserts, a big water dunking game, many stuffed animals and treats and candies going around to enjoy the last day with your teacher color leaders and the staff volunteer that wore the white shirts.

A bus stop filled with all of my friends, and family that are in it to have a good time too early on a morning school day. From eating, to laughing, to doing homework together, to listening to music, to simply staring out of the window looking at the dizzy highway that came with every single morning. I lived and continue to fully support the backstretch community, due to the way in which we show consolidation in numerous ways. From the opportunity to apply towards this scholarship, to ITHA summer picnic, to parties out in the open, to the best fourth of July fireworks with a carne asada in the cuadras... (To the dormitorios 9,10, y 11 who were my childhood), to the backstretch community who will showcase that loving animals can have a meaning in many people's lives as a whole, and breaking adversity to test us again to only get pushing back through a community that shows to be resilient, with culture, sabor, and post times that come with winners and losers that train and train to be the best horse, to be the best trainer, all of this in a similar battle I face to be the best human being I possibly can, through filling moments with happiness and living in the moments as well as in the humanistic side of the world, through my love of medicine which I intend to practice through the profession of nursing

with the continuation of this scholarship, finally to the race track that gave me a childhood to forever look back on years of felicity.