

Angie Contreras

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Prompt#3

Imperfect family

I am an example of been born and raised in the backstretch of Chicago. My community is very different from others because we have the benefit to be more free, united and open to everyone. However, we have some challenges along the way. We do not have a stable home and the household, and the workplace environment is not the best. Even though these challenges may not be great for us, we still manage to appreciate the backstretch and be more humble with life.

The backstretch can be an example that symbolize freedom in 3 ways. One way is by having the opportunity to get some jobs in the racetrack, two is by not worrying about ICE immigration and three you can be your self no matter what. We have so many jobs offer in the backstretch for anyone that needs or wants a job. Of course, you must be 16 and older because that's the law of Illinois to be able to work. The jobs that they offer are hotwalker, groom, assistant trainer, delivering hay or working in the departments that are available in ITHA. Most of these jobs has help many people to level up in their life and become more humble because these jobs helps you grow into better things. With these jobs you do not have to worry about the ICE immigration coming or coming in after you. Most of the time, ICE comes for people that are danger to others However, ICE can be unfair to immigrants that has done nothing wrong. Most of the people that works here, has done nothing wrong or try to get in trouble with the law because Chicago backstretch lifestyle shows is not worth a trouble. The only thing that is worth it is to get yourself into better things that will benefit you. Not only the backstretch represent

freedom with their jobs. They also represent freedom with their people by allowing them to be themselves and share their culture with everyone. The people who live here have a strong cultural perspective with their cultural and traditions because of their ancestors and they love to show it. For instance, the people show their cultural or traditions by growing crops. Where they plant their vegetables, flowers or any type herbs. They plant herbs because their ancestors have shown them how it could benefit their health or helped them with pain.. As it can be shown the backstretch represent freedom with their people and jobs.

Not only backstretch represent freedom, but it also represents unity and open with people. This backstretch shows how the people is really united with everything they do. They have an amazing way to show it. When it comes to united, people get together by helping each other out. One example, is when someone has a celebration. People offer to help with cooking or decorating. Not only people just get united with parties. But, hey also get united when someone gets hurt, someone got sick, or someone dies. When someone gets sick or hurt, we offer any type of helped to the sick family. Not only the people but the bosses too. With death, everyone shows ups to the funeral and gives the family condolences because they are family. The people are united because backstretch has showed them how to be united and open with each other. The backstretch has open many doors for immigrants families and also other people. For instance, my father has come a long way with the Chicago backstretch. He started working as groom at the age 14. Even though, it was a young age it has been give him many doors open. He had the opportunity to become an Assistant Trainer to Tom Swearingen. Both my father and Tom Swearingen is an example how Chicago backstretch is open and helpful with

their people. With this been shown, it can be concluded that the backstretch is united and open to everyone.

Even though the backstretch has open doors and made us more humble. We still faced some challenges that come with us most of the time. The challenges that we faced are that we do not a good condition for the household and workplace. We also do not have a stable home that we can stay in. Based in the conditions of the household, we do not have good environment because we suffer from not having enough hot water in the winter or having good electricity and the space of the household is not the best size for big families. The working conditions are also not the best because barns do not have heater or air conditioner for the people who works and the horses. Throughout my 19 years of been part of this community. I have experience not having enough hot water in the winter or not having light for 1 or 2 days straight. We suffer for both when we get to Hawthorne and sometimes Arlington. I also suffered from been crowed in the room because the household space is not the best space. Not only I'm suffering but others family are too. However, that is the only struggle that I suffered. We do not have a stable home that we cannot stay in for both seasons in one racetrack. We seem like birds immigrating for good weather but we do not immigrate for the weather. We immigrate for the job. Not having a stable home is one of the frustrating things of been part of the backstretch. These challenges that we faced are both frustrating and can make it hard for us because we want stability with house and work.

Although, these challenges can make it hard for us. We still manage to see the bright side because it gives more hope that things will get better. Both challenges and benefits makes this

backstretch different and unique from others because we are a big family. A family that gives us a privilege to see each other grow and become who we are.