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1 July 2022

Prompt 3: The Backstretch Benefits And Challenges

First I want to talk about how the backstretch is unique. It's unique in many ways, one of them is how it's build it has multiple buildings and has many rooms more then normal then an outside of the race track apartment buildings. What really makes it special to me do how it was it has many different things for kids to play is like having your own park on your front yard. It has a soccer field, basketball court, baseball, and volleyball but that's only in Arlington Heights backstretch sadly because Hawthorne doesn't have that. What they both have is security and it makes us feel safe, the whole area is surrounded by a fence which makes it like our own little town. That's how many people see it because we all know each other like literally everyone, we also get along very well and become close have each other's back and makes us a strong community and makes us unique.

Now I want to talk about challenges growing up in the backstretch. The biggest challenge was the space I had for myself at home. I have to live in one room one bathroom with 3 sisters and a brother and my two parents it made us be cramped. It was ok as a was a little kid because that was the only way I knew. Slowly growing up I wanted more personal space and started seeing the outside homes from the track it made me wish for the amount of space my friends had that didn't live in the backstretch. Another big challenge was when we where In Arlington I had to wake up at 7am to catch the bus to take me to school because there was no other way, my parents where working at that time and it was an hour trip with strong heat. I'm not sure if it was just me and a couple other friends but we had to start working young and help out parents out. I started working at the age of 12 helping my dad in any way

possible and slowly started learning how working with the horses and just kept working harder and harder. Other than does challenges to me everything is normal and use to it is just the way I grew up and had no other choice of way to live.

Now last thing I want to talk about is the benefits of growing up in the backstretch. I say just growing up there in the community like had said before, we all knew all knew each very well and where close and faced many challenges together and understand how it is to live in the backstretch so we had each other's back and stayed strong as a community. I also want to say another benefit to me was having a lot of friends growing up. They helped me not to feel alone because they always had my back and I had theirs. Growing up together made them understand the way I grew up because they went through it too. We are still close till this day and are good friends that I consider them like brothers. Another benefit living in the backstretch is not paying bills like rent, light, water, and taxes it helped us save a lot of money. But still had to live in a small home so it has its benefits and challenges to it. Last benefit I'll say is being able to work young. It made me understand how hard work really is and understand the value of things and appreciate every amount of effort my parents put on their jobs. It also made me realize how the world isn't easy and had to work for what you want. Just working with horses to me is a blessing because I love horses and is my favorite animal and just enjoy and still enjoy working with them till this day.