

- Stephanie:* Okay, could you please state your name?
- Speaker-1:* Vanessa Tucker.
- Stephanie:* And how old are you, Vanessa?
- Speaker-1:* Forty eight.
- Stephanie:* Forty eight? Do you have any children, and can you tell us their ages, please?
- Speaker-1:* Well, my – well, they’re grown now. My twins is 21, and my oldest is 23.
- Stephanie:* Okay, and how long did you live in **Clayburn**?
- Speaker-1:* I stayed in Clayburn around about five or six years.
- Stephanie:* And you lived there with your whole family?
- Speaker-1:* Yes.
- Stephanie:* Okay. How did you come to live in Clayburn?
- Speaker-1:* Well, I was looking for – before I had moved down here and stuff, and I was looking around, and people – a friend of mine had told me a little bit about it and stuff, and I had went down there, you know, and applied for it, because I was staying at **Hirsch** \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. I stayed \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ **moved from one developed to one developed**, you know, and stuff. And that’s how, you know, I knew about it.
- Stephanie:* So why’d you move to Clayburn, then? Did something happen at your previous house, or - ?
- Speaker-1:* Yes. It was just – it was something that happened, and stuff, and then I had to move, and stuff. And then they was talking about relocating and stuff, so this why I’m right here, you know.
- Stephanie:* So you moved out of there when they did the renovation \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_?
- Speaker-1:* Right, the renovation and stuff, yes.
- Stephanie:* So then you moved here?
- Speaker-1:* Right.

*Stephanie:* I see. And you said that your boys and your husband and yourself all lived in the Clayburn - ?

*Speaker-1:* The Clayburn home, right.

*Stephanie:* Anybody else, or was it just you five?

*Speaker-1:* It was just us five, you know, just us.

*Stephanie:* Okay. Okay, great. So what was it like when you first moved in there?

*Speaker-1:* It was real nice and stuff, and you know, \_\_\_ \_\_\_ stuff for my kids and stuff. But I was kind of scared, you know, and stuff, did I really wanna \_\_\_ house to relocate, because there was too much – getting too many violent folks into it and stuff. And I was really wanting to move in a house, you know, and stuff, because I didn't want my kids, you know, to be raised around – because it was just too many gang members and different stuff, and conflicts, and a whole lot of different stuff. And so pray and stuff, and then you know, \_\_\_ \_\_\_ stuff \_\_\_ asked, you know, \_\_\_ \_\_\_ asked did we wanna move into section eight, or \_\_\_ or whatever, and that's what I signed up for. Because I was staying in Hirsch Village, and that's how I really asked if we could stay in the Clayburn home, and I stayed from the Clayburn – I mean, I stayed from the Hirsch Village to Clayburn \_\_\_ to \_\_\_, and that's when I really signed up for the section eight voucher, when they relocated us and asked us did we wanna stay.

You know, whatever's available, we wanna stay \_\_\_ \_\_\_ stay \_\_\_ \_\_\_ okay.

*Stephanie:* Okay, great. So how would you say Clayburn changed over the period of time you lived there, for the good or the bad?

*Speaker-1:* It started – police and start – it started getting a little bit better and stuff, you know, the housing and stuff, you know, because they were start letting – you know, it was good that during nighttime they started letting kids – you know, like a curfew, started coming in the house, because one thing I \_\_\_ like is they let the kids roam and stuff and night and stuff, and there was just too many stuff going on and stuff. And they started doing a kind of curfew, you know, started bringing the kids in, you know, at a certain time, or they kind of, you know, did a little better and stuff. And then it

got kind of \_\_\_\_\_ because it was the police and stuff coming around, you know, and around, and it kind of quieted a whole lot.

*Stephanie:* What about violence? Were there any instances you can remember that –

*Speaker-1:* Yes.

*Stephanie:* Got better over time, or worse?

*Speaker-1:* Yeah, it got better over time and stuff, you know, and stuff. Like I said, back then \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ girl in Clayburn that got shot, whatever, the residents or whatever in the yard, or whatever, and there was a drive-by shooting or whatever, and end up killed the girl in the Clayburn home, a little baby got killed, and that was kind of sad.

*Stephanie:* Yeah.

*Speaker-1:* Yeah, you know –

*Stephanie:* And – but then that – something like that didn't – hadn't happened?

*Speaker-1:* Didn't happen since then, you know, since they been – they been kind of strict, like, you know, ever since their little accident and stuff, so it's been a lot better and stuff.

*Stephanie:* And then –

*Speaker-1:* And had a lot of securities and stuff, so it's kind of good.

*Stephanie:* Oh, yeah, that's much better. So then in addition to that, how did the physical conditions of the buildings or the property change? Did you see deterioration, or did the city come and help you fix things up when - ?

*Speaker-1:* Yeah, they came and did stuff, and then \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ they started doing, like, a lot of programs and stuff, you know, activities and stuff, like, on the weekends and stuff for the kids, church, little activities and stuff, you know, for the kids to be \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. And I used to take my kids. And that's one thing I liked about it, they come round and did, like, little bible stories, and – you know, and stuff, and that was nice, and I liked it, because they was including not just the children, they was including the kids, us too, parents too. And that's one thing I liked about it.

- Stephanie:* So how were – how was your relationship – relationships with other people living in Clayburn?
- Speaker-1:* Well, I liked it and stuff, you know, because I was working here and back and forth, and my kids, they was, like, you know – they were smaller then. You know what I’m saying? I had them, like, in daycare and stuff, you know, so the neighbors was pretty good and stuff, because really when I was staying here I really \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ people. You know, I really just to myself.
- Stephanie:* Yeah.
- Speaker-1:* But I always speak to my neighbors. They was real nice and stuff.
- Stephanie:* Did you develop any relationships with neighbors?
- Speaker-1:* Yes, I did. I had around about – a couple of – you know, my neighbors that \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_, they was real nice friends and stuff.
- Stephanie:* Do you keep in contact with any of them today?
- Speaker-1:* I haven’t seen them since, you know – quite a few, but I haven’t seen some of them since they relocated and stuff, though. And you know, they come back and I seen a couple of my friends and stuff, you know, and I speak to them, and – you know, and I see them. They still come around and stuff, around areas and stuff, you know. And that’s why I said – I had some friends that I said \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ was talking to me and stuff, and I said, “Well” – I said, “I don’t – you don’t mind helping nobody or whatever.” And I said, “Well, I’m gonna get a list of people that I know.”
- Stephanie:* Yeah.
- Speaker-1:* My friends, and I know I have my family and stuff, and I know they used to stay over there, but I said, “But I’m gonna write down some \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.” \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ come then, I said, I got a list \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ got a list of names and \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ that I can \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ today. That, you know, they said – I said, “Then, if you call, I said \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ today, \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.” You know, \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ now, you know, \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.
- Stephanie:* And did you have any personal relationships with the police?

- Speaker-1:* Not – yeah, you know, quite – they was real nice, friendly and stuff. You know, they come by and they ask is if, you know \_\_\_\_\_ ask if we needed anything, or – they were very friendly, very polite and stuff, yes.
- Stephanie:* Yeah? Oh, good, okay. Were there any changes in the overall neighborhood that you noticed while living there?
- Speaker-1:* Yeah, you know what I'm saying, everything just started getting better and stuff, and helping with the community, and it was good that they would have, like, community – you know, like, to help with the community and stuff, you know, like – you know, like to clean up the neighborhood and stuff like that. It was good \_\_\_\_\_ certain things and stuff, and I liked it. Then they tried to get the parents to do little activities and stuff to help, you know, with the kids and stuff, and that's one thing that I really liked it.
- Stephanie:* If you ever had a problem with your home, like the water or the stove broke or something, did you have an experience like that where you had to call and someone would come?
- Speaker-1:* Yes, yes, like I said, like, my stove got whatever, and they came and, you know, they have, like, a hotline, emergency or whatever, they have, like, an emergency number of whatever. And then when they call, if anything is broken or whatever in the house, or something like that, then they'll come and fix it. So there wasn't no problem. They'd come out.
- Stephanie:* So the response was pretty quick?
- Speaker-1:* They was response pretty quick, yeah.
- Stephanie:* Oh, great, okay. And were you employed while you lived in Clayburn?
- Speaker-1:* Yes, at the time. I was until I got sick and stuff, you know, but I get disability, you know what I'm saying, for my \_\_\_\_\_. And since I was working, you know, on and off part time, I used to work for \_\_\_\_\_ part time before I got sick. So –
- Stephanie:* What was your job there?
- Speaker-1:* Memphis city school.
- Stephanie:* Okay.

- Speaker-1:* I used to work at \_\_\_\_\_ and different schools, you know, \_\_\_\_\_, but when I got sick and stuff, I had to quit, because I was a cook and I worked, like, three hours \_\_\_\_\_. But as my asthma and stuff kept flaring up, because I got emphysema COP and stuff, and I got sick, and that's what it was, and I had – they told me that I couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ kept flaring up my asthma and stuff all the time.
- Stephanie:* Yeah.
- Speaker-1:* So I had to just leave it alone.
- Stephanie:* And how did you get that job? Did you get that job before you moved into Clayburn, or did you get that job while you were living there?
- Speaker-1:* I got that job when I was living there \_\_\_\_\_ **gradually** \_\_\_\_\_ application I got on my own.
- Stephanie:* On your own? Okay.
- Speaker-1:* Uh huh.
- Stephanie:* And you said it was three hours a day?
- Speaker-1:* Yeah, three hours a day.
- Stephanie:* Okay.
- Speaker-1:* It was, like, 6:30 to 10:00, you know, three hours.
- Stephanie:* In that job, did you have any experience with unions at all?
- Speaker-1:* No.
- Stephanie:* No?
- Speaker-1:* No.
- Stephanie:* And how'd you get there every day?
- Speaker-1:* I used to work at the school where, you know, I'd just walk out my door and go to the – go to work.
- Stephanie:* You'd walk? How long of a walk would that be? From Clayburn would that be?

- Speaker-1:* Clay - ? It'd be, like, a 15 minute walk, you know, not that far.
- Stephanie:* Okay. And how did you balance your job and your kids and your household?
- Speaker-1:* Well, you know, at the time I balanced it because my kids – I would get up and the bus used to come get them and go to daycare and stuff, before I go to work and stuff. And at the time my husband, he was working and stuff. Everybody – they had jobs, or whatever. And you know, and stuff, and this, you know, but for \_\_\_\_\_ I'd come home and \_\_\_\_\_ I get off work, my kids – they bring the van and bring my kids home and stuff. And you know, like they did.
- Stephanie:* So – I'm sorry, the kids were in the daycare all day?
- Speaker-1:* Right, all day, uh huh.
- Stephanie:* And how did you find this daycare?
- Speaker-1:* I had found it – what I did – like, I was in, like, DHS and all. They had helped me, you know, like, I was getting assistance, and they helped provide \_\_\_\_\_ the daycare.
- Stephanie:* And did you have – you had assistance with daycare, or did you have enough from working at the school?
- Speaker-1:* I had – they helped me with the assistance when I – you know, \_\_\_\_\_ food stamps, stuff like that. They would provide and help me with assistance with the daycare and stuff.
- Stephanie:* Okay. So moving on to the relocation of Clayburn, how did you feel when you first learned about the plans to demolish?
- Speaker-1:* I was kind of upset, you know what I'm saying? It was a good thing, or whatever, this and that, though, but then I was kind of upset, you know, a little bit. But it was – you know, it was a good thing, because they did everything, you know, \_\_\_\_\_ gonna relocate everybody, so that was a good thing. Yeah.
- Stephanie:* What – so what was, like, the saddest part, or - ?
- Speaker-1:* The saddest part? I guess you been there for so, you know, many years, and you got \_\_\_\_\_ with all your neighbors and stuff, and there you knew everybody. And then they was kind of saying that

everybody had to re – move different places, and you know, especially because everybody was very supportive of each other, you know, and stuff. And it was kind of, you know –

*Stephanie:* Did you feel like you had enough help and support in finding a new house and services?

*Speaker-1:* Yes, I did. I did, though. They did, because they made sure that we got, you know, relocated and whatever, and you know, and stuff.

*Stephanie:* Okay, what kind of support or information do you feel like would've been helpful at the time that you hadn't received until your move? Do you feel like you kind of missed something that would've made the transition easier?

*Speaker-1:* Yes, I feel like they could've had just – you know, I'm talking about that – it – all those \_\_\_\_ neighbors, we had a meeting and stuff, and then they were just saying, like, such and such, this and that, that we was gonna – they were just saying that, you know, at the last minute, was saying that we was gonna move, or relocate, or whatever, this and that, though. But I feel like they could've had told us specific – you know what I'm saying? At the time, you know, and then –

*Stephanie:* Like, not sure about it?

*Speaker-1:* Not sure or whatever, you know what I'm saying? It's kind of – you know, we were just – we didn't know what they was gonna do, or what, you know, whatever, so, yeah, so.

*Stephanie:* Okay, do you feel like you trusted MHA to take care of you and your needs when relocating?

*Speaker-1:* Yes, I did, kind of way. Yes, I did, you know. I was just so glad that – you know, that once we got situated – because at first, I didn't know where I was gonna go, or whether I was gonna relocate, and that was what I was kind of worried about. And you know, the ones they – they kind of made me feel sure that, you know, we relocate – you know, and I kind of feel a little better and stuff.

*Stephanie:* Did they help you find this house you're in now, or did you find this on your own?

*Speaker-1:* I found this on my own.



- Stephanie:* Okay. Did they provide transportation, or any kind of – anything like – service like that to come over here and look at the house?
- Speaker-1:* No, what they did – you know, they just – whatever, you know what I’m saying. They \_\_\_\_\_ serve people and stuff over there, since \_\_\_\_\_ you know, whatever, I told them I didn’t need it, because I was trying to – you know, I looked to find it on my own and stuff, or whatever. But they had certain, you know, stuff or whatever, because we – I had a car \_\_\_\_\_ at the time, yeah, so.
- Stephanie:* And do you still communicate with anyone that you knew from Clayburn?
- Speaker-1:* Yes, I still communicate with my friends and stuff, you know, and I call them, and they call me, and we still keep contact. I got a lot of friends and stuff that we still keep contact with each other and stuff.
- Stephanie:* Do you still support each other the way that you had in Clayburn? Has the relationship changed at all, or - ?
- Speaker-1:* Yeah, it has changed a lot since we done relocated, because see, you know, they stay somewhere and I’m over here, but I still have a whole lot of friends. And when – the good thing that, you know, I kind of feel – I would kind of say because we don’t stay like we used to do, but I still feel kind of good that, you know, at least I know a whole lot of people, and we still all each other, and they call me, and it kind of makes me feel good to let me know how they’re doing, and they check on – we check on each other. We still do that.
- Stephanie:* Oh, great, great. So what kind of hopes do you have for yourself and your family now that you’ve moved away from Clayburn?
- Speaker-1:* I feel good. I feel much better, you know what I’m saying? Me and my family, and stuff, and you know, I’m happy I \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m glad that – I always wanted a house, *[Laughs]* and I got it. And I’m just glad for – that you know, I feel good, and that I ain’t got to worry about all that \_\_\_\_\_ you know, waking up at shooting, and you know, I just feel more comfortable now.
- Stephanie:* You feel safer here?
- Speaker-1:* Feel safe here, you know, and I really do.

*Stephanie:* Okay. Have you been offered any case management to assist you in meeting any of the goals that you've had for yourself and family, or has Memphis Home contacted you since your relocation?

*Speaker-1:* Uh uh, no, you know what I'm saying, I had, like, a \_\_\_\_\_ and stuff, you know what I'm saying? They helped me and stuff, because I'm on up on the section eight, you know, whatever, and stuff. They've been talking to me and stuff, you know, and they –

*Stephanie:* About the house?

*Speaker-1:* About – not about the house. Not like that, you know, just \_\_\_\_\_ you know, have I been doing all right, you know, stuff like that, so –

*Stephanie:* How often do they call?

*Speaker-1:* It's been a while. It's been a while. You know, just – you know, when the time was, you know, process – you know, going through the stuff, and that's about it.

*Stephanie:* But since you've been settled here, you haven't - ?

*Speaker-1:* No, no.

*Stephanie:* Would any type of case management or support from them be helpful to you now?

*Speaker-1:* It will – you know what I'm saying, I've been all right. You know what I'm saying?

*Stephanie:* Yeah.

*Speaker-1:* I've been pretty good. I don't need nothing, because – you know what I'm saying? – I'm doing all right, me and my family. So I think I'm doing pretty good \_\_\_\_\_, you know.

*Stephanie:* Great. So back to when you lived in Clayburn, did you feel like it was a community?

*Speaker-1:* No, I really didn't at the time, because I feel like everybody – you know, there was just so much violence and shooting and gang members and stuff. I feel like they – we didn't hardly have a lot of – parents never did get – got together, you know, because of the kids coming up, there were so many conflicts and stuff. And then

the problems that they wasn't getting together as one, you know, because there was just so much stuff going on. And really, it wasn't the kids' fault, it was just the parents, to me, because they weren't coming together. And that was the whole problem was, you know, if they would've come together, and we did a lot of things together and stuff like that – we were asked to go to meetings and stuff, but the problem was it wasn't the parents, you know what I'm saying? If the parents didn't come then for the kids then, it wasn't – you know, things wouldn't happen. And you know, if you don't participate enough, so that was a problem, so.

*Stephanie:* So what would've helped that? How could you have \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ if you had the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ homes \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, what would you say would help people get the parents together to sort of - ?

*Speaker-1:* Well, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ get the parents together if, you know, they start doing a lot of things for the kids, you know, \_\_\_\_ a lot of activities and stuff, you know, like I'm saying, like, weekends, like, you know, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, you can have, like, you know, little activities and stuff for the kids, little carnivals and stuff. You know what I'm saying? That would get the –

*Stephanie:* The block party?

*Speaker-1:* The block party, stuff like that, a whole lot of different activities that would help the kids, you know, the parents, you know what I'm saying, they do stuff, participate and stuff, and I liked that.

*Stephanie:* Get people out of their homes and meeting each other?

*Speaker-1:* Yeah, get people out of their homes and meet each other.

*Stephanie:* Yeah.

*Speaker-1:* That's when you get a chance, you know, to do things, you know.

*Stephanie:* Yeah, great. So were there any – I guess you kind of answered this, but were there any neighborhood traditions, such as, like, a festival or a holiday event or something like that?

*Speaker-1:* Oh, they did quite a few – you know, a whole lot of different stuff, they did, you know what I'm saying, little activities and stuff. Because I took my kids and stuff. And then, plus, the one thing I liked about it \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ is that, you know \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ little stuff, little block parties, you know, help with the kids,

feed the kids, you know, drinks, hotdogs, and stuff, activities and stuff. And I did that. I liked that. I really did.

*Stephanie:* Was there anyone in Clayburn who you can specifically remember that you relied upon for support? Any neighbor, or any friend, or - ?

*Speaker-1:* Yes, my sister stayed over there, \_\_\_\_\_ Jackson, which I'm \_\_\_\_\_ . She's probably at home, you know, \_\_\_\_\_ she stayed over there in – for some \_\_\_\_\_ give you her number, and she stayed over there.

*Stephanie:* Okay.

*Speaker-1:* And I remember \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Stephanie:* Fantastic. So what types of support would your sister offer?

*Speaker-1:* Well, just \_\_\_\_\_ we would stay – you know what I'm saying? – we was very supportive because I would go over there, and she would always check on – we always check on each other, and stuff, and you know, and then my mother died, she passed in 2003, and stuff. And I would go and check on her and stuff, because she has – my sister has three kids, too, and we would always do for each other, you know. She would check on me and I'd check on her and stuff, so.

*Stephanie:* Did you ever need to rely on each other for financial support?

*Speaker-1:* Yeah, at times, though you know, like, it would be hard times, because we did, you know. If she needed anything, and that's my sister, I would help her, and we help each other, and that was a good thing.

*Stephanie:* And what about, like, childcare or transportation?

*Speaker-1:* She – she did – at the time, she was working and stuff, and she had that, and stuff, you know, on \_\_\_\_\_ when she was working and stuff, you know. So we did pretty good. We always – me and my sister, we always stayed real close to each other. We didn't stay too far, because it ain't nobody but just me and her. And so since my mother had passed and stuff, you know, we – you know, we was always close, but we stayed close. We stayed close to each other so, you know, if anything happened or whatever, we'd be, you know – she'd call and she'd come right over here right quick, so.

- Stephanie:* Are her kids around the same age as yours?
- Speaker-1:* Her kids – John \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ 13 – well, what?
- Male-1:* Fifteen, sixteen.
- Speaker-1:* Yeah, 15-16, and a little girl round about 10. About – about something like that, yeah.
- Stephanie:* Did you ever go to the same daycare, all your kids, or anything?
- Speaker-1:* No. My kids went to the same daycare and stuff, but her kids went to, like, a different – they were \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.
- Stephanie:* Right. Okay, great. How did you get your community’s news and gossip? What was the traditional way of that running?
- Speaker-1:* \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ and stuff? Well, being me, I’d avoid it all. I didn’t like all that. I really stayed really to myself. I wanted to – you know what I’m saying, a lot of – this would start a whole lot of stuff. It really just – you know what I’m saying? – when you tell one thing, then that’s when the conflict comes. When I stayed there, talk about, “Oh, she’s so quiet, and she don’t never such and such.” It was just that I knew that, you know, you \_\_\_\_ a lot of people and stay this stuff, that’s what starts a lot of conflict. And I always – when I stayed in public housing, I always really stayed to myself. I didn’t bother nobody. If they see me, I go get the garbage, say, “How you doing, everybody,” and go on back in my house.
- And I taught my kids that for them to stay away from, you know, other stuff, because I seen a lot of things, and to avoid stuff, and I taught my kids the same way. So I \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. [Laughs]
- Stephanie:* So how safe did you feel living there? Like you said, there was a young girl who got killed?
- Speaker-1:* That got killed, yes, she did.
- Stephanie:* In a drive-by. Can you – do you have any other examples of - ?
- Speaker-1:* Oh, it was kind of \_\_\_\_\_. It was sad, you know, really sad, you know, about \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. And you know, she’s gone, and it was just – you know, I was kind of scared to say, you know, whatever, but then it just – told my kids, you know, but they was – you know,

they was round about eight or nine. \_\_\_\_\_ teenagers, at the time when that happened. And I just told them that, you know, I would tell them exactly what just – you know, it's – you know, just be careful the things you do, because my kids \_\_\_\_\_ I had, like \_\_\_\_\_ and stuff, the time my kids was working. You know, they had \_\_\_\_\_. I had my kids on, like, little – they do, like, little jobs or little stuff like that.

They wouldn't just, like, hang around the public housing, walking around and not doing nothing. But I had my kids – I taught my kids to learn to be responsible, to learn to do things, instead of just walking around the projects and – that's how you easy get into things and stuff like that. And I just had my kids – I always had them in – doing something.

*Stephanie:* What kind of activities would you have your kids do?

*Speaker-1:* My kids, they was – they had, like, little jobs. You know, they had, like – they was, like, in WIN programs and stuff like that, and they did, like, \_\_\_\_\_ school little activities and stuff like that. That's what I really taught my kids. That's the reason why I'm proud of them, because they ain't – my kids, you know, they've all graduated. They ain't never been in nothing, ain't never been in no trouble, and I'm blessed. You know, \_\_\_\_\_ just it's the way how you teach your kids. If you keep them from being – you know, and stuff, and let them know before \_\_\_\_\_ and you tell them and you stay on them, they will get it, you know. And that's the reason why I'm blessed that, you know, they got – you know, they're doing good.

They've got jobs, you know, and stuff, and they're doing pretty good, you know, doing better. And they still – and it stays on their mind. And I still \_\_\_\_\_ you know, I say, "Yeah, but y'all gonna still know until I'm gone, because I'm \_\_\_\_\_ keep it in your head," you know. And then \_\_\_\_\_, but I still tell them, "What you doing," or whatever, and \_\_\_\_\_ well, I don't care how I tell them, I say, I don't care how old you get, I'm still gonna wanna know what you're doing, or whatever, you know. I tell my oldest son that, and he's 23. Where you going? What you doing? Let me know where you're going. And I still tell him that. It ain't that I'm protective of them because I'm a mom, because I care, because I do that because it's too much stuff out here going on.

I told them, "I don't care how old you get, I'm still gonna call, and still just let me know where you're at. Just let me know where

you're at. That's the only thing." And I ain't ask them for too much. That's just being a mom for some \_\_\_\_\_. Because you get some parents don't care.

*Stephanie:* Right, right.

*Speaker-1:* And I do, and he's 23, and I tell him when I goes out that door, "Let me know where you're at. Call me and let me know you're all right." And I do that. And he's 23, and I tell my other kids that. And I do, and I do, but I still do. I just say, "I just – I love you and I just wanna know where you're at." You know, there's too much stuff going on with this killing and all that stuff. And as long as you call me and let me know you're all right, I'm all right. Because I look at the news and look at stuff that's going all this stuff out here and stuff, and you know, you be thinking – you know, you be concerned about your child, you know, wanna make sure that he's all right.

*Stephanie:* While you lived in Clayburn, were you ever robbed or had anything stolen from your house?

*Speaker-1:* No.

*Stephanie:* No? Did anything ever happen when you were walking back and forth to work, or - ?

*Speaker-1:* No, uh uh, no.

*Stephanie:* No?

*Speaker-1:* I just really stayed to myself \_\_\_\_\_ my kids.

*Stephanie:* Right, right. Was there anyone else, it sounds like, besides your sister, who you helped share the responsibility of raising your kids?

*Speaker-1:* I had my friends, my neighbors and stuff, you know what I'm saying, to and from, you know, and that was about it.

*Stephanie:* Okay. So thinking about your whole experiencing living there, what did you like best about Clayburn?

*Speaker-1:* I liked about – it was real nice \_\_\_\_\_ help you and stuff, you know, and then I got so adjusted to my little neighbors, you know, because then we always help each other, you know, looking out for each other. Like if I'm gone, they'll go over to my house, you

know, or whatever and this and that, so it was kind of nice and stuff to \_\_\_ \_\_\_ our keys, make sure everybody was all right. You know, and that was a good thing.

*Stephanie:* And what were some of the biggest challenges of living there?

*Speaker-1:* Well, the biggest challenge is that, you know, it was nice and stuff then, you know. We got to learn to do little things and stuff, and then your kids and stuff, then always my kids are like, "Oh, mom," and I was always saying, "You're not fixing to go outdoors. You ain't fixing to go \_\_\_ \_\_\_. You're not fixing to go \_\_\_ \_\_\_. You're not gonna do that." I always taught my kids to be – to learn to be responsible and be \_\_\_\_, because I knew that if you just let your child just go outside and just roam and stuff, that's how they get into stuff.

*Stephanie:* Right.

*Speaker-1:* And that was a no-no. My kids wasn't fixing to go out there and just walk around and whatever, because that's how you get in gangs and that's how you get into stuff. And you're not fixing – that was a – that was a not.

*Stephanie:* Yeah.

*Speaker-1:* You was gonna be in something. You wasn't fixing to just go outside and roam, \_\_\_\_\_ this guy, your friends, and they end up – and I already knew that. You know, and that was a no-no.

*Stephanie:* What were some of the challenges that you faced, the resistance from your children when you tried to say no to things?

*Speaker-1:* It just – I just said no and stuff, because I was always worried about they'd probably get in a gang member and stuff, and I was kind of scared of that. That's why I stayed \_\_\_ \_\_\_. They used to be so angry and mad at me, but they kept – "Oh, mom, you don't never want us to do nothing. You don't want us to do this. You don't wanna do this." But I said \_\_\_ \_\_\_, but see, all that they used to get mad at me about and stuff, now today all their little friends today, they said, "Oh, mom, we" – they know now. They talk about it now. "Oh, mom," they got – all their little friend they wanted to hang around back then, \_\_\_ \_\_\_, guess where they're at?

*Stephanie:* In jail?



*Speaker-1:* Locked up. They're in jail. Your friends, who you wanna hang around today, all these little friends that \_\_\_\_\_, they're locked up, or they did – they done killed somebody, they did something. And I say, "Now you think back." Whenever \_\_\_\_\_ you probably would've just – you just being there with them, you could've been responsible just – you know what I'm saying? Then my son tell me – he came and he said, "Mom, you was right." He told me today. He said, "Mom, you was right. You talking about all my friends that I knew back then, they're locked up now." I said, "See? That's what" – now he thanks me for that. He tells me that now.

*Stephanie:* Even though you knew that saying no was the best for your kids, was it ever hard for you, because they wanted to do this, but they couldn't?

*Speaker-1:* Yes, it was. Yeah, it was.

*Stephanie:* Like, you'd wanna let them?

*Speaker-1:* I'd want – I'd want to, but then I was just so mean, I was so protective of my kids. And then when I was coming up, I always did little things, activities and stuff, and I knew that it was – you know, the environment that I was staying in, I knew that – where I was at, I knew that they would easy quick could get into things – you know what I'm saying? – because they – you probably ain't did nothing, but it's a problem – if you around somebody and they're doing a bad thing, and I talked to my kids that, because you see anybody else doing it, you ain't gotta do what they gotta do. You got your own thing, you know.

Long as you be with them, then you doing – then – you know, that's gonna make you just as \_\_\_\_\_ just like them, because the point you hadn't did nothing, they done probably robbed somebody. Then because of you being there with them, you'll get messed up, because just you being there you're gonna take – you know, and you ain't did nothing.

*Stephanie:* You're still responsible.

*Speaker-1:* You're gonna still be responsible, because you was – because you what? – you was with them. And I talked to them about that.

*Male-1:* It's a good lesson.

*Stephanie:* Yeah.

*Speaker-1:* Yeah. And then, plus \_\_\_\_ my kids and stuff, but I stayed in little activities. I took my kids to bible story, and I did a lot of things and stuff, so I guess the reason why maybe because mine was going to school and stuff, and then my kids and stuff \_\_\_\_ a lot of activities. And that was the kind of help – a lesson for me, because when school and stuff – and I used to walk my kids to school and stuff, and kids talk about, “Mom, you ain’t gotta walk us to school, because you know” – I can walk y’all to school if I want. I ain’t doing nothing else. You know, that’s the type of parent I was. I walked them to school to make sure, you know, and then \_\_\_\_ school, the schools they were going to, I would be volunteering. I would do things with my kids, the schools they go to and stuff.

And I did that. And that’s why the teachers and all – everybody around – all the kids around here know me. Vanessa, you know, everybody knows, because, you know, because I helped did a lot of things and stuff at the school and stuff.

*Stephanie:* Were there any leaders that stick out in your mind from Clayburn, from the community?

*Speaker-1:* Sometimes, not really. You know what I’m saying? Sometime, you know, they did – you know, they did sometimes. Sometimes they’d be scared. There was some leaders. You know \_\_\_\_ try to help the Clayburn home. They did that. But it was just hard – that they just didn’t wanna continue. You know, they’ll just drive the \_\_\_\_ meetings and stuff to try to make the Clayburn home better than what it was, you know. But it was just that – it was just the parents just didn’t wanna participate.

*Stephanie:* Uh huh.

*Speaker-1:* That’s what the problem was.

*Stephanie:* And how successful were they in getting – or were you in getting support from the Memphis Housing Authority?

*Speaker-1:* Oh, that’s where they were less than supportive, you know, the guidance and stuff. But the police – I’m saying – like I said, when something happened and stuff that I feel like they’ll come after the accident, you know, whatever, come. And I feel like that they should’ve did a little – a whole lot more better. Then they had meetings to – you know, to talk to – you know, to kind of help with the gangs and stuff like that, and that’s where I think there

was a kind of lack of – and stuff, that – whenever – every time something comes in this one, they just come in after the fact, after it happened.

But I feel like they should've had – they would talk to the people and stuff, but I feel like – they did talk, you know, but I feel like they should've had more meetings, you know, about it, you know, to me. That's what I feel like. They should've – that the parents, you know, talk to them. And then it wasn't just the parents, they should include their children, too, more. You know, they did, though, but they should've had more meetings, you know, about a lot of – yeah. But they did that, though, but it – the should've had, you know, gradually, you know.

*Stephanie:* Do you feel like there were people who came and meddled in the community without being welcomed there, like researchers or preachers?

*Speaker-1:* No, I feel like – to me, I feel like it was good, because they needed it, because there was just so much stuff going on. I feel like it was – I feel good about it, because it made me feel more secure when they did come, you know, than less secure – you know what I'm saying? – because they was real very polite and whatever. You need anything, they drove around all the time, and they was good. And I liked it, I really did. Then everybody used to get, oh, wow, they – whatever, then, you know, I felt good about it, because I felt more secure. I really did.

*Stephanie:* Yeah.

*Speaker-1:* Because it was very supportive.

*Stephanie:* Was there any time while you were living there, before you found out about the relocation, where you'd wanted to pack up your family and move? Or were you happy there, or - ?

*Speaker-1:* No, I wanted to move and stuff, but at the time I couldn't, you know what I'm saying? \_\_\_\_\_ though, but I did, though. But you know, I just prayed for it, and I just said, "Well, you know, there'll be a day, whenever, you know – there'll be a day that I have a chance to move or whatever," and I didn't let it bother me or nothing like that, because I was – it didn't bother me.

*Stephanie:* Looking back, are there any specific memories of your time there that stick out in your head, any good times or bad times?

*Speaker-1:* It was a lot of good times and stuff, because when I stayed in Hearst Village, and then I moved from \_\_\_\_\_ Home, and I went to different developments, I moved from one development to another development, so I seen a whole lot of things, what was going on and stuff. And so, you know, just gradually \_\_\_\_\_ whatever, you know. I didn't bother nobody, my kids or nothing, you know, I taught them well, you know, so there wasn't really no problem, you know.

*Stephanie:* Did you feel the safest in Clayburn out of the three that you were \_\_\_\_\_?

*Speaker-1:* I did. I did. You know, it wasn't no problem. You know, all of them was real nice and stuff, and I really didn't have no problem, because I learned to stay to myself, and it wasn't really – you know, really wasn't no problem for me and my kids. I wasn't the type that – you know, I talked to my – you know, like, you stay in the public housing or whatever, and as I was coming up I learned to just be to myself, because I knew that my kids was small at the time. I knew that you go to this person's house, this person's house, there ain't never a conflict. And then, you know, there it go when your kids missing, you know, the kids fight, they be friends, wanna bring you into it with their parent and all little stuff. And I wasn't into that, or going to people's houses, just to let them make a lot of stuff.

So I just really just stayed really to myself. I wasn't the type to just go all in people houses next door and stuff, because that's another – that's something that I learned, that's another conflict. You know, be too much stuff, you – one person, one neighbor might say something that you might be talking to that neighbor, and you ain't said nothing, and there it go. So why – you couldn't say that I went over to nobody's house, because – you couldn't say I did, because I didn't, because I wasn't fixing to get – I knew that it was gonna – there it go, and I knew that. And my kids used to get mad at me, “Mom, can we go over to such and such's house and stuff?” I would tell them, “Hey, you – you know, they play in the yard, or the go to school, or little activities, but you can't go over to nobody's house. You can just play with them over here in the yard or whatever, they come over here.” Because I didn't want nobody coming to me saying that my kids did anything. So that's how I did mine.

*Stephanie:* So besides your sister and your husband, then it – you said that you kept to yourself. Were there any other support systems that you would trust, like a church, or - ?

- Speaker-1:* Yes, I was going, like, to the Church of Christ.
- Stephanie:* Was that right by Clayburn?
- Speaker-1:* That was – no, that was around here, you know, like I was saying, like, I used to take my kids to church and stuff when they was coming up and stuff.
- Stephanie:* How did you - ?
- Speaker-1:* It was, like, a little area and stuff then, plus sometimes they would come to my house like bible stories.
- Stephanie:* Oh, great.
- Speaker-1:* And I really enjoyed that and stuff with my kids and stuff. And I would take them, you know, and stuff like that, and they would smile, because – you know, on the bus and stuff, and we did little activities and stuff, and I liked that. And I always did the activity. I always kept an activity for me and my kids, because I was gonna make sure that they wasn't gonna get into nothing, and I knew that by me not letting them participate in nothing then, I knew that \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ on my kids, then I knew that – but I knew where I was standing, that they could easily get into anything. So I just had to stay focused. I really had to stay focused and keep them in stuff, and I kept it, and I kept it. Yeah.
- Stephanie:* Okay, well, that's all the questions I have. Is there anything else that you wanna add, or do you have any questions?
- Speaker-1:* No, that's about it. And I just appreciate it. I'm just so happy, because yesterday my son, you know, my twin son – I'm gonna show you a picture \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. Show them \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. I guess, like, my son had me a new grandson, a new grand-baby.
- Stephanie:* Oh, congratulations.
- Speaker-1:* I'm gonna show you a picture. I was at the hospital yesterday.
- Stephanie:* Oh, wow.
- Speaker-1:* Yeah, my twin boy and – weighed, like, six pounds and eight ounces.
- Stephanie:* How long is he?

*Speaker-1:* Huh?

*Stephanie:* How long is he?

*Speaker-1:* Six ounces – he weighed six pounds eight ounces. I can show you a picture. I was at the hospital yesterday. And the baby was so big, and they had to do a C-section on her. And my son, my twin boy, he would've been here, you know, whatever, to interview, but he's at the hospital. He was, like, "Mom \_\_\_\_\_, whatever." He's so – I think because it's his first boy.

*Stephanie:* Oh my gosh. Wow, that's great.

*Speaker-1:* And I'm gonna show you a picture of him.

*Male-1:* Awesome.

*Stephanie:* Great. All right, I think this was yours.

*Speaker-1:* Okay.

*[End of Audio]*