



NADIA FAJARDO

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Immigration is a topic that often divides people with differing opinions. There are numerous amounts of negative comments being said towards immigrants. These comments are being made not only in public, but also on social media, and on the news. A great number of Americans view immigrants as people who have come here to steal their jobs and bring nothing but crime. Personally speaking, I see hard workers who have sacrificed so much by leaving their home. I see beautiful people whose only intentions are to have a better life, for themselves, and for their family.

Growing up, my mother always told me stories about her childhood. She would tell me how she could never make a lot of friends at school because her family was always moving from place to place. Her English wasn't the best and she would get made fun of at school. She felt like an outsider. My mom was the only one out of her siblings who was born in Mexico. That being said, she was the only one who was not able to cross the border legally. She was just a little over a year old when she had to hold on to my grandma's back as they swam across the river. As a kid, my mom didn't have a lot of free time. On the weekdays she went to school like any other child, but she spent her weekends working with my grandparents and uncles, picking crops on a field. It was the same thing every week. They picked cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers in Ohio. They picked strawberries in Florida, peaches and apples in Michigan, and onions in Texas. Those are just a few of the states that they had migrated to.

They were out on the field from sunrise until sunset. They lived in trailers that had up to 7 families living in them. There wasn't much space and the bathrooms were outside. This is still the life of many immigrants today. My grandpa was undocumented and living in Mexico. It was only my mom, her brother, and my grandma who were working here in the U.S and that was difficult for them. There was a program called "La Raza Unida". It helped provide for food, clothing, and shelter. It was like a united way, but for immigrants. This program helped my mom's family.

In 1998, my family moved to Dalton, Georgia. They were seeking opportunities in the carpet industry. After some years, my grandma left to go back Texas. She had 2 jobs and 4 kids to take care of on her own. My mom decided to stay in Georgia. She worked in the medical field for 12 years. While working at a doctor's office, she got her citizenship. They gave her a cd full of all the information and facts that she needed to know. I was only 9 years old, but I remember we would listen to it on repeat. To me, it was so boring, but I didn't understand how much it meant to my mom and how important it was. After working as a nurse for a while, she decided that she wanted to help people out more. She got a job at the department of family and children services and she loves her job.

Although I never had to go through what my mom had to go through, I will always appreciate everything around me, and all that is given to me. This country would not be the same without immigrants, yet, they are always looked down upon. Without them, there would be a negative impact in many jobs and industries. Immigrants work hard and they help provide, it's time we start seeing them that way.