

valued. everyone



Malachi's Stories 2023

Malachi's  Storehouse

everyone is welcome. everyone is valued. everyone is fed.

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Introduction

by Wayne Ware

Prior to the pandemic a few years ago, Malachi's was an indoors operation. We had groceries laid out for people to choose, a hot lunch and a place to gather and form community in the main sanctuary of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

With the coming of the pandemic, the serving of clients moved outdoors. Boxes of food were put into cars. Bread and pastries were handed through car windows. People were able to exit their cars to look at clothing and household items, but then got back in their cars. "Walk-up" clients were also served outside. Gone was the hot lunch and the natural forming of community that happened through clients talking to each other while waiting their turn to go through the lunch line or get groceries. And, that's where we are now.

To be sure, community continues to happen at Malachi's. It germinates between families who share a taxi together, folks who gather at the Malachi's cafe for coffee and pastries and between folks waiting in the walk-up line. All sharing something of their lives with each other. In all of this there is still a hunger for more community.

So this project is an attempt to further create an even deeper community through the sharing of some of our stories. Not all of our stories are pretty and some are quite difficult. Knowing where someone has come from and how life experiences have shaped them creates a natural magnetism for community building. We hope you will find connection with the lives of the people who have shared their stories here.



Walter

Malachi's Client

August 30, 2023

Interview by Wayne

This is Wayne and I'm here with Walter Davis this morning. Can you tell me a little about when and where you were born?

Walter: Well, I was born in Houston, Texas on June 13, 1961.

Wayne: And, did you grow up in Houston?

Walter: Well, really not the whole

time. Actually, I've been migrating different places. I've got family members in LaGrange, Georgia. But, I get a little frustrated with small towns. I feel that they can be boring and a stress factor is that people can be going out just being nosy. My main thing was leaving Houston during Hurricane Katrina. Yep, in 2005 I came to Georgia, but I decided not to go to LaGrange. I stopped in Atlanta, and that was 18 years ago.

Wayne: Coming to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina is not an uncommon story.

Walter: Right. It was a scary situation, believe you me. When I first came here, I had to go to mental health classes to deal with the situation. I got rescued off the top of a roof by a helicopter. That is a very horrifying and scary sight. You know, I have flashbacks.

Wayne: So, Walter, the next question I have is what kind of traditions did you have in your family that you find you are passing down?

Walter continued

Walter: The main thing is what I got from my father. Having a united family makes you feel a whole lot better and helps you deal with situations out away from that inner circle. He taught me a few things being with him. He loved to go hunting and fishing. I learned a lot from him in doing that with him. I had 2 brothers who went, too. He taught us about being a man and who God is. We also have one sister. He said, eventually, you've got to leave home, and you have to be able to get grown on your own. You'll have a family, and you have to be the man of that family. And, you'll have to show your kids and grandkids how to live in this world. And, now you'll have a united family. You could go to them for any assistance or whatever.

Wayne: So, Walter, you look out for each other.

Walter: Yes, and it also teaches you how to relate to other people. You know me. I like to joke around and I love it. I got that from my dad. He liked to be joyful and all that. It makes the time go by and it's a stress reliever.

Wayne: Walter, what led you to come to Malachi's in the first place?

Walter: Ok, first of all, I had a place of my own and my daughter was in a very troubling relationship. She kept calling me on the phone talking about what she was going through and that he would want to beat her up. That can't happen. So, I brought her to my place, along with her son, my grandson, but might as well by son because I take care of him. This is my second marriage I'm in now. My first didn't work out. I went through some mental difficulties with my first wife. I had a house when I first came to Stone Mountain and then lost it. I moved into an apartment. So, I married this lady from South Georgia. Very nice

Walter continued

country lady. She loves to cook. We just stay home and watch a movie and that's fine with me. Yeah, and then her daughter stays with me. So, the family just got bigger. So, I was on the train one day and I heard someone talking about Malachi's. So, I said to myself I gotta go out and be a breadwinner and see if I can get some food. I'm telling you the grocery prices and everything keeps going up. And, I said to myself, my dad said as being the man of the house, you got to take care of things no matter what. If times get hard or whatever. You have to go out and try to provide for that family. So, I said to myself, we're running short on food. If found out you can take the bus and it puts you out right here. And, that's been 6 years ago.

Wayne: How would you say being involved in Malachi's has impacted you, Walter?

Walter: One thing is everyone here is so friendly. When I first came, I was carefully observing. Sometimes people don't like to play around or whatever. But, that's me. I'm playful. Once I felt at home here, then it let me come out with how I feel. This is me. And, I've been here ever since. It's like I got another family right here.

Wayne: That makes me happy to hear that, Walter. Thanks so much.



Sophie

**Malachi's Volunteer
August 10, 2023
Interview by Bonnie**

Good morning, this is Bonnie and I will be interviewing Sophie this morning. Sophie where were you born?

Sophie: I was born in Guinea, West Africa but moved to Senegal when I was 6 and moved to France at 17.

Bonnie: And then when did you come to the United States?

Sophie: December 1999. It has been 20 years.

Bonnie: What brought you to Malachi's?

Sophie: I used to live around here and then I know about Malachi for a long time. But when my kids used to go to school I was involved in school and everything. And then they all grew up and went to college. I find myself bored. Nothing to do and then I come.

Bonnie: Wonderful. And what keeps you coming to Malachi's.

Sophie: I like here.

Bonnie: What do you like about Malachi's?

Sophie: Everything. Especially basically in specially in helping people. I don't really need to come for the food. But helping my neighbor. When I take food is for them, because it's just me and my son home, okay and me and my foster child.

Sophie continued

Bonnie: Oh, that's right you have a foster child.

Sophie: And about to adopt her. Yes, we in the process.

Bonnie: If I recall she was a very sweet little girl.

Sophie: Yeah, she's three and half now. She keeps me company, yeah, keeps me moving.

Bonnie: So how would you say Malachi's has affected you through the years.

Sophie: It gives me perspective of healthy people more, you know, because I do more than I used to. Because I was focused on my kids. Now they are a grown up you know? That's one of the things I involve myself with the fostering and then coming here just to give to people.

Bonnie: How many years have you been here?

Sophie: Since January 2015.

Bonnie: That's great. Well, thank you so much I really appreciate you taking the time. I know you're so busy over there.

Sophie: But you know I go to work , too.

Bonnie: Oh, and what do you do.

Sophie: I work at the John Marschall Law School at the Library.

Sophie continued

Bonnie: Do you enjoy that?

Sophie: Yeah, yes. It is quiet in a nice flexible spaces . Flexibility allows me to do this, right? I like to be moving. Busy even home. You know that and I like it. When my kids used to play football. I have 3 boys. And then I used to be a football team mom. You know? Helping out. But I don't understand the game of the football but for my kids, you know, yeah I was there. And then you know that's a lot of time because you have like Thursday, Friday and Saturday. That's a lot of time. Yeah, then all of a sudden, nothing to do. And then I like the atmosphere here, you know, and I like Ida a lot. We get along really good. We have a Tuesday and Wednesday team. Okay.

Bonnie: You commit a lot of time here.

Sophie: Oh yeah we're here 5 or 6 o'clock.

Bonnie: Thank you for your commitment to Malachi's.

Sophie: Yeah, I will be moving back to France in a year. I have all my family there. My brothers and sisters. My little girl loves Paris!

Bonnie: We would miss you.

Sophie: But I'll be coming back every year because my sons be here. When I come I still be coming here.

Bonnie: That's wonderful, well, thanks again!



Martha

Malachi's Volunteer

August 10, 2023

Interview by Wayne

Wayne: Martha, can you tell me a little bit about when and where you were born?

Martha: Sure. I was born in 1950 in Lubbock, Texas, and lived there until I was 9 years old. We moved to Dallas, Texas, where I lived until I graduated from high school.

Wayne: Wow, that's a big change from Lubbock to Dallas.

Martha: It is. Yes, Lubbock was a very dusty place. I remember people used to scrape off their lawns because the dust would build up and create a little mound. And, I remember the tumbleweeds. Girls had to wear dresses in elementary school. When we were out on the playground, the tumbleweeds would scrape our legs. And the tumbleweeds had thorns on them. So, I was okay to see Lubbock in "my rearview mirror", as the song says. But, I also remember we had good family there.

Wayne: So, what traditions have been passed down in your family that you really enjoyed, and found that you've passed on?

Martha: At Easter, I remember my mother and I getting corsages that we would wear on our wrist or in our hair. I was the only girl in the family, so it was something special that my mother and I did together. I did that for awhile in our family, and that was kind of a sweet tradition that I enjoyed.

Martha continued

Wayne: And, can you say a little bit about what brought you to Malachi's in the first place?

Martha: Well, Malachi's is what brought me to St. Patrick's. We were looking for a new church. We visited St. Patrick's because Liz Beal Kidd was here and Liz had been at the church we were attending at that time. We had known Liz since she was in high school with our kids. So, we go a long way back. She was so enthusiastic that we decided to visit St. Patrick's. I said to Jim, my husband, that I wanted to go to this church and be a part of what was going on. It took me awhile to figure out how I could be a part of it. Virginia, a Malachi's volunteer, would always sit behind us in church. She asked if I would like to go with her on a Wednesday to see what Malachi's was like. So, I went and found myself looking for anything I could do to help out. Virginia was on the line serving food and I ended up in the nave, welcoming clients as they would gather on Wednesday mornings.

Wayne: How would you say being at Malachi's has impacted you?

Martha: It has had quite an impact on me. I lived, and still live, a rather insular life. And, Malachi's has given me an opportunity to be with people I would never have met otherwise. The atmosphere here at Malachi's is that we are all one, and that was an adjustment for me to think about it that way. We really are one and that changed my view of people from different walks of life, to have that realization that we are all one and all God's children. Of course, I was aware of poverty, but meeting people and getting close to them, caring about people who lived really different kinds of lives from mine has been and continues to be really important to me. It's really changed my view of what Jesus asks me to do. Jesus didn't just ask you to put on nice clothes and go to church on Sunday

Martha continued

with all the other folks with nice clothes on, and then go out to eat afterwards. Going out to eat after church was another tradition in my family. So, not everyone can do that. Sometimes people say that Malachi's is their church. I began to think that what happens at Malachi's is really a kind of worship. So, all of this has altered my thinking in a huge way.

Wayne: Thank you so much, Martha, for sharing your story.



Jim

Malachi's Volunteer
August 15, 2023
Interview by Martha

Martha: Jim, can you tell me a little bit about when and where you were born?

Jim: I was born in Arkansas in 1947. My mother was living in Portland, Oregon and flew with me in her belly to Arkansas, so she could join her sisters who were also pregnant. And be with her mom and dad when I was born. So it happened in 1947. She flew from

Portland to Arkansas, and then a few months later flew from Arkansas back to Portland.

Martha: What traditions have been passed down in your family that you really enjoyed and found that maybe you've passed on?

Jim: Couple of things were important in our family. First of all, lifelong Episcopalian. So some of the traditions kind of centered around some of the big church, religious holidays. For example, Christmas and Easter, I can always remember how excited my mother was when she would get out the decorations and put up all the decorations around the house. I come from a big family and all the kids got into the holiday spirit for Christmas. And then again at Easter, we always got Easter baskets with some new clothes and we got dragged out into the yard to stare at the sun and get pictures taken. So those are a couple. Another was we had added little jobs as kids. My parents always had a garden and we would have an abundance of

Jim continued

crops so that my job was to get a little red wagon and drag some of the vegetables around the neighborhood, selling vegetables to the neighbors. And then in the fall we had a bunch of walnut trees. So we had to crack walnuts and take the walnuts around to the neighbors to sell cracked walnuts to all the neighbors. So I guess it was a little bit of work ethic going on. I think I've passed those things on to my kids.

Martha: I wonder if you could say a little bit about what brought you to Malachi's, in the first place.

Jim: The main thing that brought me to Malachi's was Martha. She had been volunteering there and suggested that I come along to lift boxes of meat for her. So that's what I did. I've been trained on handling the meat. That's basically my job at Malachi's and that's what I do.

Martha: how would you say being Malachi's has impacted you?

Jim: Well, a couple of ways. First of all, I enjoy Malachi's a good bit because of the community that we have there, the community of the volunteers. Mostly we all get along and have a good time throughout the morning as we serve the clients. The second way is to impress on me how serious food insecurity is even in Dunwoody. I don't know how far away these clients come from. But clearly Malachi's plays a really crucial role in helping them feed their families over the course of the week. And it's just amazing to me the extent of what must be a really serious problem because so many people come out week after week to get the food that Malachi's hands out. It just drives home the need and drives home the fact that our country isn't fulfilling the need in a reasonable way.

Julius

Malachi's Volunteer

August 15, 2023

Interview by Wayne

All right. This is Wayne. And I'm here with Julius. And we're doing an interview. Would you tell me where you were born?

Julius: Born in Atlanta, Georgia at Grady Memorial Hospital. Yeah, I grew up by Georgia Tech back in the 70's, in the old Techwood projects. You know, Georgia Tech was the first establishment to make projects back in the 30s. Then as the 80s rolled around, they migrated and turn them into into racial community. Yeah, a lot of people didn't know that. I hadn't. Yeah, they was projects for low class whites back in the 30s. And they were the first projects in the United States. The 60's and the 70's rolled around and the projects were integrated. That's when they got black and drugs and Wayne

Williams and oh, yeah, I remember that. And I was living over there when he was coming over there. He would come over there around the kids, talking to us. My mom used to be like, who? You know, remember the guy they said was with him? The black guy, that young guy. They said they do martial arts. They used to be together side by side. I remember those monsters like yesterday. Wow. I, technically, survived a child murderer. Yeah, because I used to be over there and actually saw him one day. My friend was playing in the grass, wrestling. So, he was standing, watching us wrestle.

Wayne: Anything else you want to say about what it was like growing up over there?

Julius: Oh, man. These two white guys. They used to come over to take us to church. They used to be involved with the community and come over and play kickball, and stuff like that. They would teach us about God and this and that. That was a good experience during those times. You know, it was

Julius continued

interesting because it was like a melting pot. One of my best friends growing up as a kid was a white guy. I didn't know nothing about racism. You know? I'm a free spirited kid, you know? And I was a little advanced for my age because I had a mouth on me. I like to talk. My other friends taught me against him. Yeah, they gonna say that he wanted to fight me. But, as a kid, I was spiritually aware. Something about it don't feel right. They said we have to fight. I'm letting the older kids psychologically boost me to fight him. Yeah, and when we fought, I started crying. Because I had a sensitive heart. Dude, it's what I've been through. You know, I had a hell of a life. You know? My mom was in domestic issues, drugs, you know. I come from that background. So when I was a kid, I'm gonna share it with y'all on the microphone. When I was a kid, a man tried to rape me. I was going to school when I was in sixth or seventh grade. This guy was standing by a tree. I felt the energy. I felt something bad. He walked up behind me and put a knife to my throat. And he took me in an abandoned house and he didn't penetrate me. I'm like, this is happening to me. You know, and I pray, while he's doing it. I get emotional about it because I carried that burden for years. I never told my mom while she was alive. And back then, when you tell people that, some people get insensitive. I went to school and I cried in the bathroom. I cleaned myself up and I never told anybody about it. You know? When I was locked up, I saw the guy. He was sitting behind a desk, eating some cookies. It didn't dawn on me who it was. During that time, I found out that my mom had passed. And, also, I had figured out who that guy was who was sitting behind the desk, eating cookies. So it was like, I had the devil on this side. Like, "get him". And, on the other side, it was like, "No. Forgive him. Don't say nothing to him. Pray about it." So, I'm going through all this pain. And I'm like, I know this man in another room who tried to take my manhood when I was a kid. And, the next day, they shipped me to Clayton County. The very next day. I was like, "Wow, God

Julius continued

removed me from that.” And they got me to Clayton County. The atmosphere was better. I was still upset I was in jail, but it was better. You know, I’ve been through a lot. Yeah, man. And when I come here (to Malachi’s), I love it. You know? The love is genuine.

Wayne:

Would you tell me what brought you to Malachi’s?

Julius:

Oh man. It was word of mouth. Okay. We used to go to a food pantry at a church off of Bolton Road. You know, it was a good church but the area, bro. And, somebody that we knew told us about this place. So, I came up here and I was like, “Okay, cool.” I like to come because, like I said, it’s the energy I get. Yeah, it’s genuine.

Wayne:

So I think you may have already answered this. But how’s coming here affected you?

Julius:

In a positive way. Yeah. Malachi’s has helped with my food. I’ll get disability, but the way things are with inflation and stuff like that. Personally, it hard for me. I can’t do the things I used to do. So when I do come here, it gives me that feeling. You know, that good feeling, like “I can do something. I can help give back some kind of way.” So that’s why I come here, to give back and to give people that energy. You know me. I’m wide open and I like to make people laugh. I like to give people that good energy, even if I’m having a bad day. I want to give that energy that “it’s gonna be ok”. That’s why I come, the energy I get and the help that I get, because it’s genuine. I really appreciate it. Hold on.. If I win the

Julius continued

lottery, I would donate so much to this church. Just because of, you know, the genuineness that goes out every day. I know, like I had people complain some time. "This is not fresh. What's in that box? This don't look good." I think first of all, everything ain't perfect. You know, be thankful for what is good. Some people who run these food banks are not as genuine as this place. You know, I mean, I've been to a few. This is one of the few I've been to that's been genuine and really substantial in life. Some people will get on my nerves sometimes, but it's like a real family. You know, I mean, because under the eye of the beholder, we're all the same spiritually. The enemy is out there dividing us in so many ways. You know, it sucks. You know what I mean? Like when I leave here and get on the train, I gotta be, you know. This is like a safe haven to a degree.

Wayne: Julius, listen, I know we're about out of time but thank you so much. Anything else you want to say before we stop?

Julius: Well, just this. Keep doing what you're doing. I got love for y'all because you show me genuine love. I know me. I can spot a rat and I can spot an angel. You know what I mean? So far as I'm concerned, this is one of the best places here. I'm just grateful to be here. I'm grateful to be alive. I'm grateful to know people like you guys. Seriously. You can know people all your life. And then you can meet people that you hardly know. And people that you hardly know are more genuine than the people you grew up with. You talk about a life lesson. There was one time I needed some help. I was tempted to go back to the bad ways. Go back to making money how I was in the 90s. I'm like, "no, no, no, no, no." And I'm in the area where I could do it. I'm not gonna do that. I'm not going to contribute to some crap that killed my mother. You know, I'm not doing that no more. You know, when I was doing it, I felt wrong. People tease me about my sensitivity sometimes. Yeah, really understand who I am.

Julius continued

And what I've been through. I see my mom go through domestic violence. I've seen a lot, a lot. This is the best place to come to meet good people and a few flaws. But, this is a real community.



Lucy

**Malachi's Volunteer
August 15, 2023
Interview by Wayne**

Wayne: Where were you born?

Lucy: I was born in Michoacan, Mexico. I grew up there until I was nine years old. From there, my parents took me to live in Veracruz.

Wayne: What is your favorite tradition that has been passed down in your family?

Lucy: The celebration of the Day of the Dead is my favorite. We get to spend the whole entire day in the cemetery. We get to feel as if we are spending the day with the people that have passed away. And that's just a very beautiful day, to pass it with the people that are no longer here with us.

Wayne: What word do you think you would use to describe your life in the last year?

Lucy: Extraordinary.

Wayne: And, can you say a little bit about how you chose that word?

Lucy: I enjoy every second, every day of my life. I try to enjoy every person in my life. Anything that is brought to me in my life, I try to enjoy it with the love of God.

Wayne: How long have you been at Malachi's, Lucy?

Lucy: About 20 years. I've had the experience of seeing who come and goes. A lot of people have.

Lucy continued

Wayne: And what led you to come to Malachi's in the first place?

Lucy: I would bring people to get food from here. From there, I decided to become a volunteer.

Wayne: And how would you say that volunteering at Malachi's has impacted you?

Lucy: I've learned to understand and hear people's problems. When they need advice or anything, I can give it to them from my point of view. It's helped me to become a better person and just see other people's lives. Just comparing my life and seeing that other people have it a lot worse teaches me how to appreciate life a lot more.

Wayne: Is there anything else you want to say, Lucy, before we stop?

Lucy: I'm just very happy for the experience that I've had here at Malachi's. The opportunity has led me to learn other cultures and traditions, and just to meet other people. I am just very grateful for the experience I've had throughout the years at Malachi's.



Judy G.

**Malachi's Volunteer
August 15, 2023
Interview by Wayne**

Wayne: Is there anything you wanted to say, Judy, before we get into the questions?

Judy: Thank you for the opportunity to discuss my experience. Well, I really appreciate it because people have stories and it's a wonderful way to build community.

Wayne: Can you say a little bit

about where you were born?

Judy: I was born in the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas to be exact. I grew up there from my whole life through elementary, middle and high school. Then I went to Tallahassee to college and that's where I met my husband, my college sweetheart.

Wayne: So how would you describe the Virgin islands or what life was like when you were growing up?

Judy: It's pretty laid-back there. Not everybody knows everybody because it still is a big space, but we treat each other more or less like family. We look out for each other. Traditionally, if somebody saw you down the street and you weren't doing the right thing, they would tell your mom and you would be in big trouble. While the kids were growing up, I was like the neighborhood mom. I miss that now, being an empty nester.

Wayne: Are there any traditions that you've passed down in your

Judy G. continued

family that have been important to you?

Judy: I think we have a close knit family, and I still have that close knit feeling with my family and friends. We try to keep that even when we were moving place to place.

Wayne: Can you think of one word to describe your life in the last year?

Judy: I would say “transitional”, because of the people in our family who died due to Covid. These were people who really kept the family together. So that torch has been passed to me. My husband lost his mom and I lost my mom within a year. It was a lot, but I’m so grateful for the time I had with her then.

Wayne: What led you to Malachi’s’s originally?

Judy: I attended St. Patricks, where Malachi’s operates. I attended a class in what they call the parlor. I would always attend that class because we didn’t have a lot of classes for adults back in the day. So I was sitting there and they had a meeting for Malachi’s and I was asked what I might like to help with. I said, “clothing”. I think dressing well is important.

Wayne: So how would you say being involved in Malachi’s’s has impacted you?

Judy: I used to teach my kids about kindness. We have to have compassion for each other and we have to be of service to others. We are blessed and we are highly favored, so we have to pass it on. We are able to be a beacon in this world. I know food is important around here at Malachi’s, but if you don’t have money for food, you can’t buy clothes

Judy G. continued

for your kids and they grow very fast. I come from a long lineage of people who were tailors, so clothing has just been in the atmosphere.

Wayne: Is there anything else that you would like to say?

Judy: I look forward to coming to help at Malachi's, and I do hear the stories of other people. You'd be surprised about the stories that you get. And, something as small as giving somebody a pencil or a bag that you see can be important. I may think, "that bag suits you." When I think that and say it, it's like a gift. They may say, "That made my day. It's my birthday." That's cool because I had no idea that it was their birthday. I was just trying to be nice to somebody, and that goes a long way.



Jonathan

Malachi's Client

August 23, 2023

Interview by Martha

Martha: Can you tell me a little about when and where you were born?

Jonathan: I born in Venezuela in November 29 of 1989. I live in Venezuela about 17 years. And after that, I I move to Argentina to live in Argentina about 10 or 12 years almost. My wife is Lorna. In Venezuela, we are working in a hotel because she's in hospitality

with guests and I am cooker. Now, then we decide to live in Argentina, because Venezuela is really harder country to live in because the politics and everything. The two last years, we live in Argentina. (They were) very difficult, and almost the same as Venezuela. We decided to move to USA because part of the family of my wife lives here in Georgia. And we try to get a better life. And try have a better future here working hard like always. And we try to have a baby. We are looking for a baby about three years since. Since the pandemic, we try and we try anything, go to the doctors and everything. They always say that everything is okay. Everything's fine. In the last seven months, since January, we are luckier, having our first baby.

Martha: What traditions have been passed down in your family that really enjoyed, and found that you have (or will) pass on?

Jonathan: My family is a little quite different because my grandmother is from Spain. My

Jonathan continued

grandfather is from Argentina. My family is a little European. Something about this culture that I like - (we) always try to be with the family. No buying things or going places - only share time together. Always the family have problems - (this) is normal. But I miss that you always have warm people by your side, worrying about you and how is your life how is going. I love this. The family of my wife is like this, but they worry about their problems first. We miss the part of my family that always will worry about the other problems first. We try to share for our good things. You always try to be empathic with everything and with everyone because you do not know what is the problem that the other people have. And you try to make a little smile only one day.

Martha: Can you say a little bit about what brought you to MSH/St Patrick's in the first place?

Jonathan: Well, living, starting a life in another country is sometimes very difficult. We have some experience because we move from Venezuela to Argentina. In Argentina, we (don't?) have so many people that help us to start again. But I think living in Georgia, we have the family of my wife, in part. We try to start by ourselves. We know a neighbor - she says that in St. Patrick's, sometimes they give food and you try to share everything. We say, well, maybe we try. Maybe we have been coming one year, on Wednesday. We try to share the food that we can't eat because my wife have (gestational diabetes) until the birth. Because I'm a chef, I try to use everything the same day or the two next day to prepare some food. We try to share with the people in the street. We try to share what we receive.

Martha: How would you say being at Malachi's has impacted you?

Jonathan continued

Jonathan: In our economy, yeah, is a big one. We try to save money to the future and try to share like, like I said. I try to share every food that we can't eat for everyone. Sometimes they give us like soap or toothbrush. I try to make little bags and try to share because I always say that if you have so much to share, because in the future, what you receive might multiply. I don't know what the word in English is. when you put a seed in the ground and your see the fruits.



Lorna

Malachi's Client

August 23, 2023

Interview by Martha

Martha: Can you tell me a little about when and where you were born?

Lorna: Yeah. Hi. I worked in Caracas, Venezuela. I lived there 24 years, okay? Next, immigration to Argentina. I live there 10 years. Now, here in the USA. I'm happy in this moment because I am (pregnant). I have a month to go. It's a boy, oh my God, my angel

because I'm not sure I can be pregnant. Two years in this process, last choice is adoption. But this is the ultimate, ultimate, because I have my child now. Thank you (praying hands). I am so happy. I have my child now. Thank you! My family. My parents live in this moment in Venezuela. Not coming with work next year to help. My mother-in-law is coming with the birth, second month. I'm so happy for that. Too happy for life. I live great. I feel like you care.

Martha: What traditions have been passed down in your family that really enjoyed, and found that you have (or will) pass on?

Lorna: The tradition with my family always reunion on Fridays. In the evening with my grandma, grandpa but in this moment, not. But the tradition is every Friday night, (we are) all together with family, dinner together and speak everything (talk about everything). Two or three hours, not too much. But together in visitation every Friday.

Lorna continued

Martha: Can you say a little bit about what brought you to MSH/St Patrick's in the first place?

Lorna: Oh, ok, I found (MSH) because here in the USA, I use a driver service. She tells me that the food is free, is very nice place. It is new for me, not in Venezuela, not Argentina, not connected too much with the people. ... I love Argentina, is my second home. But, yeah, I found this place and I'm grateful. For this place because is like family: "thank you, sir." I feel this a lot. That hug. I feel a lot better. Thank you.

Martha: How would you say being at Malachi's has impacted you?

Lorna: Too much, too much! I feel secure, good, in this place. I live very near, 10 minutes. Every (Wednesday) is yes, please, I need to go to the church please. I go and then come back with my heart OK. Is the energy. Thank you so much.



Ida

**Malachi's Volunteer
October 25, 2023
Interview by Wayne**

Hi. This is Wayne and I'm here with Ida.

Wayne: When and where were you born, Ida?

Ida: I was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and grew up there my whole life until I came to Florida.

Wayne: So, what kind of traditions

did you have in your family that you are keeping or that you found really important to you?

Ida: Several things. My mom was a Christian and I tried to keep her faith living up in me.

And, my daughters have done the same. I have one who is a minister. So, I keep that tradition going...and, also, cooking.

Wayne: What's your favorite thing to cook?

Ida: I like seafood, especially conch, some fish and shellfish.

Wayne: So what led you to come to Malachi's in the first place?

Ida: Well, I actually lived in Florida for 30 years. I worked there as a teacher for special needs kids. I did 20 something years and I got tired. I said, "I want to get married to somebody". So I relocated to Georgia because I got married.

And, while being in Georgia, Judy G invited me to come over to Malachi's. She said she had something for me to do. I was

Ida continued

questioning about it. So, eventually, she kept calling me. I came over to Malachi's and I asked her, "what's up?" When I came over I found out what Malachi's is: distributing out clothing, food and other items. I fell into it and have been here since. So, it's such an amazing thing for me.

Wayne: And, how would you say being involved in Malachi's has impacted you?

Ida: When I first came, it was like, "what's this?" And, I liked it. I knew this is something I would love to do when I retired (and I did retire, a little young, but that's ok). So, I fell in and I liked it at Malachi's. I came and did several roles. We did this together over time. I fell in love with what I started doing here and what I'm doing now. I was most impacted by so many people coming up to me, talking to me and congratulating me. They thank me for everything we've done...how they don't have something and appreciate what's given. They thank us for coming in the morning at to prepare this food, these items, and whatever we do for them. I have my team. I have Rudy, Sophie, Michelle, myself and Conrad. We start at 5:30 in the morning on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There's so much grace into it because the clients are so grateful for what we've given them, what we're doing for them. And, I love it. Even some days it puts me to a challenge, but I love it. It keeps me more humble, peaceful, joyful.

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Malachi's Storehouse

everyone is welcome. everyone is valued. **everyone is fed.**

malachis.org