

Community Archives Center Tacoma Community House Oral History Interviews Transcript
M.P. , Interview date: 05/01/2022

dindria (00:01): Hello, we are here with an oral history at Tacoma Community House with

M.P. (00:05): M. My name is M. Is M.

dindria (00:07): M.P.. Thank you, M.P.. And then what is today's date?

M.P. (00:11): Today May fir, uh, first 2022,

dindria (00:15): And we are located at,

M.P. (00:17): At Tacoma Community House.

dindria (00:22): Question number one, where are you from? Where is your home country?

M.P. (00:26): I came from Ukraine.

dindria (00:28): All right. Can you tell us about Ukraine?

M.P. (00:30): Oh, it's so beautiful country. It's so beautiful people. I live in there for all my, uh, life and, uh, today I am here because I escaped from there because of war.

dindria (00:46): Yes. I like your choice of words. Um, people do not seem to understand what it is like to have to leave your country that you love. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, you know? Yeah. Um, we skipped this one. Who is your family? Describe them,

M.P. (01:03): Uh, in America. My family is my fiance. I'm here with him and, uh, in my, um, country in Ukraine. Um, still, um, lives my family, my father's and my older brother. Okay. Uh, they all, um, a military and, uh, he they protect Ukraine now. Yes. Oh, I would love to talk to them every day. Huh?

dindria (01:30): Do you talk to them every night?

M.P. (01:36): Yeah, every day. Yeah, every day.

dindria (01:39): How did you get to Tacoma, Washington?

M.P. (01:43): Um, I flight, um, by plane. Um, I, uh, was first in Florida and then I, um, go here.

dindria (01:59): Oh, okay. So just two stops. Yeah. <laugh>. Yeah. That's nice. Um, what did you think the United States would be like before you came?

M.P. (02:11): Oh, it's really different from Europe, from Ukraine. It's like, uh, another world. I imagine it, um, so, so big, so, so big and beautiful nature. And I, um, understand it, uh, when I come here.

dindria (02:34): Yes.

M.P. (02:34) It's really like how I imagine it.

dindria (02:38): Oh, it really is. Yeah. Were there any differences?

M.P. (02:41): Um,

dindria (02:42): Like things that surprised you?

M.P. (02:45): Yeah, I was surprised.

dindria (02:46): Like by what?

M.P. (02:49): By people. Uh, they are all smiling and, uh, <laugh>. Yeah. Uh, I was surprised, um, by nature. Yeah. Uh, this, um, state, uh, real beautiful.

dindria (03:05): I know when you, I don't know where you stopped in Florida, but you didn't get to see Florida, right?

M.P. (03:11): Miami.

dindria (03:11): Oh, Miami. Did you see a little bit of Miami?

M.P. (03:14): A little bit, yeah.

dindria (03:15): Yeah. Miami. So different from Tacoma, right? Yeah. <laugh>. Yeah. So in the United States, we forget how we have so many kinds of nature. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, right? Yeah. Yeah. That's a good point. What was your first American experience?

M.P. (03:33): I, the

dindria (03:33): First day,

M.P. (03:34): Um, I remember that we, uh, go to Costco and I was surprised. <laugh>. Oh, it can be so big. So big. Yeah.

dindria (03:47): <laugh>, that's a really...

M.P. (03:49): Good, it was good experience.

dindria (03:51): Yeah. And I mean, for that to be an American experience means that in Europe or in Ukraine, there was no Costco.

M.P. (03:59): No, no <laugh>, no Costco, no. Some big shops with foods.

dindria (04:05): Yes. Did you get the hotdog?

- M.P. (04:08) Uh, yeah.
- dindria (04:08): Yeah. Okay. Yeah. That's the, that's the number one hotdog. Yeah. Okay. Um, some people would argue with me maybe at the baseball stadium, <laugh>, I don't know. Um, now let's talk more about food. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, what is your favorite food?
- M.P. (04:23): My favorite, uh, food is Ukrainian dishes. Okay. And the main is Borsch. Oh, maybe you see? Yes.
- dindria (04:32): I love it. <laugh>. I didn't know that everyone makes it different. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, right? Yeah. So sometimes it's a little more spicy or a little more salty or a little bit more, yeah. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, but it's so good. Mhmm. <affirmative> so good. What is your favorite American food?
- M.P. (04:47): American food? Um, maybe pizza.
- dindria (04:51): Okay. American pizza is the way to go. Um, what is your favorite music or song?
- M.P. (04:59): I really love Ed Sheeran and, uh, my fav favorite song is The Shape of You.
- dindria (05:07): Oh, I love that song. Okay. Have you seen the video?
- M.P. (05:11): Yeah, of course. Course...
- dindria (05:13): Video is perfect. <laugh>. Yeah. <laugh>. Yeah. <laugh>. All right. Um, next question. Why do you want to share your story?
- M.P. (05:22): I am want to tell all people, once again, about my country, about that. Um, there is war, there is killing people and really scary things.
- dindria (05:39): Yes. That's something that in the United States, we do not really feel very much. Yes. Because we don't experience it. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, yeah. In other countries, um, we forget, you know, what it's like to be in war. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, I hope that things get better.
- M.P. (06:02): I hope too.
- dindria (06:03): And I hope that we in the United States support things getting better <laugh> instead of messing it up. <laugh>. Yeah. So I want to trust our government, but sometimes I have to speak my mind. Right? <laugh>. <laugh>. Okay. Number 10.
- M.P. (06:24): Um, what do you hope for your future?
- M.P. (06:24): Uh, I want to stop war in Ukraine and I, um, will be still living in United States. I want to become a real estate agent, so I need to know English perfect and the Tacoma Community House will help me in it. Yes.

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dindria (06:45): Yeah. And they will help you with getting that language and then also finding that job, right? Yeah. Oh, real estate. I heard that's a little bit difficult to be in. Like it's hard work.

M.P. (06:56): Yeah, I know. Yeah.

dindria (06:57): Okay. Alright. I think you can do it. <laugh>.

M.P. (07:00): Thank you.

dindria (07:02): Um, and I am really happy that you stayed after class to speak with us. Thank you for sharing your story.

M.P. (07:10): Thank you, for this opportunity. <Thank you.> Thank you.