Alison (A): Okay so if you could please just begin by stating your name and telling me a little bit about yourself.

Psycho Security Guard (PSG): I am Psycho Security Guard.

A:[laughs].

PSG: If I catch you on a property and you don't belong there, I will tell you to leave. And if you don't leave Lakewood Police will respond, within ten, fifteen minutes.

A: And his face looks very menacing right now.

[both laugh]

A: Were you born in Denver?

PSG: Uh no.

A: Okay where were you born and how did you get here?

PSG: I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A: Okay.

PSG: But I spent 20 + years in Cleveland OH. And then a couple years ago I went to Buffalo and then I ended up going to New York City, spending two years.

A: Wow.

PSG: And then I was looking on Craigslist in NY and I came out to Denver for a job that I that I already had.

A: Yeah.

PSG: I knew I was gonna be starting when I got here.

A: Okay.

PSG: And I went from New York to Denver.

A: Wow and when was that?

PSG: Um 2020.

A: Okay oh so you're pretty new here.

PSG: August of 2020

A: Wow okay so you came right in the thick of things.

PSG: My uh my father… My father passed away.

A: Mmhmm.

PSG: March 18th of 2020.

A: Wow.

PSG: And I've always wanted to stay close to my father because you know he was in Pittsburg all his life. And I've always said if anything happens to my father I want to experience life out West.

A: Wow, why do you think West was calling?

PSG: Uhh just because I never lived out West.

A: Yeah.

PSG: I've always did things you know over on the East Coast.

A: Hmm!

PSG: Whether it was living in Cleveland for 20 years, living in Buffalo, or New York you know.

A: Yeah, yeah. And any kind of first impressions since now you've been here a year, almost exactly a year.

PSG: Yes. Ah, it's been totally good.

A: Yeah yeah, okay good.

PSG: Although what I'm fascinated is…

A: Yeah?

PSG: Is now over in Cleveland Ohio and Pittsburg PA, the counties are like huge.

A: Okay.

PSG: You know the county goes from like Allegheny county in Pittsburg and Cagha (??) county in Cleveland they're like huge, they go for like ten miles.

[02:26]

A: Hmm.

PSG: Now what I've noticed about Denver is the counties are small. You go so far up West Colfax downtown you cross Sheridan, you're in Jefferson County.

A: [laughs] Right.

PSG: You go down Federal and you go so far up Federal like the 60 something you're in I think Arapahoe or something like that?

A: Yeah I get pretty confused. Interesting so the states are big but the counties are small. Hmm, good observation. Have you, so we're here in the SOS camp, before you moved to Denver had you experienced homelessness in other places before?

PSG: Off and on yes.

A: Would you like to talk a little bit about that or…

PSG: Uh yes my homelessness actually began when I was a teenager. My mother and father got a divorce and I got shipped back and forth to my mothers, my fathers.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And I was like okay if you guys are gonna ship me back and forth I'm going to manipulate you guys.

A: [laughs] Yeah, like I don't like this.

PSG: And I became rebellion. I became a rebellion teenager.

A: Hmmm.

PSG: And that put me in group homes.

A: Yeah.

PSG: That put me in juvenile detention centers. Not for doing any crimes or anything.

A: Yeah.

PSG: But for you know just being a teenager, being out in the street.

A: Okay.

PSG: Being out all night long.

A: Okay okay yeah. And then from there…

PSG: From there I had my good points and my bad points.

A: Yeah.

PSG: Umm luckily I never got into any drugs.

A: Yeah.

PSG: You know.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And then in the early 90s, well it actually started back in ’86/’87.

A: Okay.

PSG: And I was watching the AFC championship games and the one was in Cleveland and was against the Broncos.

A: Oh! Go figure.

PSG: And the other one was in Denver and it was the Browns and the Broncos.

A: Wow.

PSG: And now I like the Broncos.

A: Okay [laughs].

PSG: You know I was cheering for the Broncos and John Elway 'cause he was my favorite, but the aerial shots that NBC was showing of Cleveland got my eye.

A: Hmm.

PSG: You know 'cause you got that huge lake up there.

A: Ohh.

PSG: And, couple of years I would take round trip Greyhound bus tickets from Pittsburg to Cleveland back to Pittsburg.

A: Wow.

PSG: And in the early 90's I'm like well, I'm gonna go for a fresh start you know because in downtown Pittsburg, they had, when you were homeless in downtown Pittsburg and um and you were young it was easy to get involved in like say male prostitution and stuff like that.

A: Oh wow.

PSG: Which I never got involved in I mean 'cause you had these adult bookstores downtown Pittsburg.

A: Wow.

PSG: You had these gay bars downtown Pittsburg and that brings everybody out you know you have like say these places where you can go in and watch dirty videos and you have booths you close them.

A: Wow.

PSG: And I'm like well, Cleveland don't have that downtown.

A: Hmm.

PSG: So, '92 or '93 I’m like I'm going to Cleveland, I'm gonna stay here for awhile.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And first thing I did when I got to Cleveland I went to a Monday night football game.

A: [laughs].

PSG: Umm 49ers Browns.

A: Wow, what a big deal.

PSG: And ended up staying up all night and somebody told me about a place called Saint Herman's hospitality.

A: Hmm.

PSG: And so I find out where that was and I end up staying there.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And I and then a couple months I ended up getting a sleeping room down the street.

A: Wow. And what do you mean by sleeping room?

PSG: Uh like a room at somebody's house say about this size, maybe a little bit smaller.

A: Okay so kind of like renting a room?

07:07

PSG: Right yeah.

A: Gotcha. Wow. So would you say a lot of your time during that time in your life was kind of based on like, it seems kind of lucky that you found someone after you stayed up all night. Like was it kind of based on chance a little bit?

PSG: Yes.

A: Yeah and like I love your story of you seeing Cleveland on TV and being like I want to go there.

PSG: Yep.

A: Yeah, it's neat. Given those experiences and maybe since then, I'd be curious, how do you define homelessness?

PSG: How do I define homelessness. I define homelessness as anybody can become homeless for any reason.

A: Yeah.

PSG: Most people, most people they stereotype homeless and while a lot of it is because of it, not all of it is.

A: Right.

PSG: You know some people stereotype homeless because of drugs or alcohol and that's not the case all the time you know.

A: Yeah. Yeah. I'd be curious how you found this SOS site, and I'd be curious to hear your process of becoming a resident here.

PSG: I've been waiting for months to be able to get into a place like this.

A: Yeah.

PSG: I've been working with uh, he works for the street team, it's associated with St. Francis.

A: Okay

PSG: And his name is Grayden.

A: Okay.

PSG: I started working with Grayden and he started working on like say stuff for me like the Coolburn (??) apartment building.

08:48

A: Okay.

PSG: He's working with me on the tiny homes project.

A: Wow.

PSG: Yes. And when I heard that this became available and that they were gonna set this up I was like put me on the list.

A: Yeah, cool.

PSG: And next thing you know I get a call from Ian saying there's a tenement.

A: Wow. And was that right when this site opened or were you on the Pearl St. site too?

PSG: No no this is the first SOS.

A: This one, okay, and you came right at the beginning, so in June?

PSG: Not at the beginning I came around middle part to the end of July.

A: Okay okay. And do you mind describing your first day here? Like how many walked in and

PSG: My first day I was kind of a little scared. But because I get panicky during like say severe weather and like say lightening and stuff like that.

A: (mumbles ??) just there in a tent.

09:53

PSG: I kept looking around at the tents like are these secure you know?

A: Yeah.

PSG: and as it went on I'm not scared anymore

A: Wow interesting!

PSG: Yeah.

A: Do you care to talk a little bit about why you think?

PSG: Well yeah because there's other people here.

A: Right.

PSG: And in extreme weather emergency I do believe that people would assist other people.

A: Wow that's cool.

PSG: As well as I would too you know if there was an extreme weather emergency I would assist other people too.

A: Right. I'm wondering does that have to do with particularly this site or do you think any group of people living together would assist each other?

PSG: I think any group of people would.

A: Yeah yeah yeah. And I'd be curious to hear more about you said you're a psycho security guard [laughs] would you care to talk a little bit about work and your job?

PSG: Sure Sure. Although I'm because of the contract…

A: For sure.

PSG: I'm not allowed to say the specific place.

A: Yeah, no problem, you don't have to say company or place or anything, just more of like experience of what it's like.

PSG: Oh okay.

A: Yeah.

PSG: I've been a security guard for 20 + years working for different companies over the years. And being a security guard is a great, it's never the same thing every day.

A: Oh okay, yeah.

PSG: And it's never the same thing throughout an eight hour shift.

A: Wow.

PSG: You could have a car parked somewhere that don't belong there on one patrol, then on the next patrol you could have someone sitting on the property that don't belong there.

A: Okay right right.

PSG: Or, or you could be assisting a visitor coming in.

A: Okay, yeah

PSG: And they might have to sign in or get checked, get their temperature checked because of Covid, stuff like that you know.

A: Yeah, and is that the same job you came here for? You said you had a job lined up?

PSG: No this is a different security guard job. Unfortunately the first security guard job I had here in Denver, he ended up closing his doors because of Covid.

A: Oh man.

PSG: He did a lot of bars and restaurants.

A: Yeah, that's tough.

PSG: And when that second round of Covid hit in November some of the bars and restaurants they closed their doors again and there was people working there before me, so he had to take of those people first, and my hours went from like, I was getting like 68 to 80 hours.

A: Oh my gosh.

PSG: I was staying in a motel you know on West Colfax, this is like August through January.

A: Okay.

PSG: And I was paidlike 650 every two weeks.

12:42

A: Wow.

PSG: And all of a sudden he closed his doors 'cause he couldn't operate anymore.

A: Wow. Geez. And then did you stay in that hotel for awhile?

PSG: Well no because the way motels are set up if you don't have the rent money you gotta check out.

A: Right. And then kind of returning to work and here, I'm just curious I guess I'm wondering about your typical day here at SOS and just thinking about leaving for work, coming back from work, what that's like to kind of leave the camp and return to the camp working full time, or is it full time?

PSG: Umm, let's see 8 16 20 32 a week. So.

A: Wow yeah that's a lot.

PSG: Now we got, nowadays they say anything over 30 hours is full time

A: [laughs] Right there's a cultural shift happening.

PSG: Yeah. And another thing I'm surprised is about Colorado employers don't have to pay holiday pay.

A: Oh, and they do out East?

PSG: Yep

A: I thought they did here

PSG: No

A: That's a bummer. So you work a lot of holidays?

PSG: Yep. Yeah

A: Yeah. I forgot to ask do you have any family around here?

PSG: No

A: Okay okay, yeah. But so when you leave and return to the camp from working, I don't know do you have anything to comment about that? Like when you leave are people up and around? When you come back are people out and about?

PSG: When I come back, [mumbles or stutters] when I come back and that's just because of my shift I work 9 at night to 5 in the morning

A: Oh wow

PSG: When I get back um everybody's mostly in bed.

A: Wow

PSG: When I leave out there's you know there's some people up, there's some people sleeping, you know.

A: Yeah. Do you find it hard to sleep during the day?

14:41

PSG: Umm, yes but only because of the temperature.

A: Yeah. Geez. Have you found ways to adapt to that?

PSG: Uh yes I got myself a little fan.

A: Nice.

PSG: and the more you sweat the more you get cooled off

A: Right, it's your body protecting you. Yeah so you kind of just let it sweat kinda? I learned that too, just let yourself get sweaty. And then have you had any action, or excuse me, interactions with this neighborhood, and how do you like living in this neighborhood?

PSG: Oh I like this neighborhood, yes

A: Yeah.

PSG: You got the Good Times over there, you got the Burger King down the street, you got you choice of one, two, three gas stations.

A: Right, true, lot's of convenience. I heard there's a Bodega somewhere nearby too.

PSG: Bodega...

A: Like the small kind of grocery store?

PSG: There might be.

A: Okay, someone was mentioning that the other day. And have you had just positive reactions with people living around here, or…

PSG: It's been, it's been all positive.

A: Yeah, great.

PSG: Then again I should tell you myself

A: Mmhm

PSG: I generally don't speak unless I'm spoken to.

A: Okay, yeah, have you, is that just kinda how you roll?

PSG: That's just how I that's just how I do things everywhere I go

A: Yeah, that seems like good security guard personality [laughs]. And have you, even though you don't speak to people unless they speak to you, do you feel like you've made relationships here?

16:22

PSG: I really can't say one way or another.

A: Yeah, yeah.

PSG: If I did that's great, if I didn't that's fine too.

A: Yeah, yeah.

PSG: I'm here to kind of, I'm here to kind of wait it out for that next step.

A: Oh okay, do you care to say more about that?

PSG: Uh that next step to go from the tent to an apartment.

A: Okay

PSG: Or, or to a rooming house somewhere

A: Yeah so it's sort of saving, yeah. That makes sense.

PSG: And it's kind of, this here gets you kinda geared up to that you know, versus other shelters.

A: Oh

PSG: other shelters, you're like, in a dorm. Let me use the Denver Coliseum for example. I don't know if you ever heard of that shelter.

A: Yeah I have.

PSG: You got 300, 350 people in one dorm in that and no privacy whatsoever.

A: Right

PSG: Now, here you can go into your tent.

A: Right

PSG: If you want to like say at nighttime you can close your flaps.

A: Yeah

PSG: You know and it's it's like going into your own house.

A: Yeah

PSG: This here, in my opinion, it gets you prepared for living on your own.

A: Wow. And is it, so there's that privacy. I'd love to hear you say a little bit more about how that privacy prepares you to live on your own.

PSG: Well, well when you get your own place you're gonna want privacy too, you know.

A: Right. Yeah, yeah. Are there also other resources here that help like I don't know like I know there's caseworkers and things like that. I guess a better way to ask it is are there other ways that SOS helps to prepare residents here for living on their own?

18:38

PSG: Uh yes some, if you're not working or something like that and you have to do your laundry they assist you with doing your laundry, they give you a laundry card you can take it right over to the laundromat.

A: Oh that's cool

PSG: And do your laundry

A: Yeah

PSG: They have a microwave, you know if some if somebody's on food stamps or something like that or even if they're working, if they choose to go out and buy their own stuff and come back and cook it and stuff like that they're allowed to.

A: Yeah, which that can be a big deal 'cause a lot of shelters don't have microwaves right?

PSG: Right. And and then further down the street, I'm just talking about in here

A: Yeah

PSG: You know where the tents are I call them streets.

A: Oh okay [laughs] I like that.

PSG: There's like a little library room.

A: Right.

PSG: They got games and stuff in there you know if somebody wants to they they can go in the evening or whenever they want to and sit there and play a game like scrabble or boggle or something like that.

A: Yeah. Do you ever do that?

PSG: Uhh. Actually no, because I haven't saw I haven't saw anybody utilizing the (game cube???)

19:51

A: I guess it's probably tough with your schedule.

PSG: Right.

A: It might be happening when you're at work.

PSG: It could be.

A: Yeah, I do love that room, those bookshelves with the books, it looks really nice, yeah it's a nice space.

PSG: And I get the feel when I'm here, I get the feel that this is like an RV park.

A: Oh okay.

PSG: But instead of using RVs and trailers, we're using tents.

A: Oh, can you say more about that feeling of an RV park?

PSG: Well the community sense.

A: Okay.

PSG: When when you're in an RV park you know sometimes all the trailers are bunched in, you know, and you're gonna be living within, I'd say five feet walking distance of somebody.

A: True [laughs].

PSG: And that's the same thing here.

A: Oh interesting. And you can kind of hear when people are out and about, but you don't necessarily have to see them 'cause you can close the flap, oh.

PSG: Right.

A: That's a cool comparison. And so SOS stands for Safe Outdoor Spaces, I'd love to hear your thoughts on that kind of title for this space, either with the word "safe", "outdoor" or "spaces", or all of it.

PSG: I think that title, I think that title fits perfectly.

A: Yeah.

PSG: Because when I'm here I'm safe, and when I'm here I'm also outdoors.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And also when I'm here I have the space that I need.

A: Right. Do you mind describing what safety means to you? Like when you say when I'm here I'm safe, what does that mean?

PSG: Safe from bodily harm, safe that you got staff that's looking out for you in case of one of those weather emergencies.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And safe that I can go back to my tent after work, versus going to Lakewood to that say table bench I was sleeping on.

A: Oh wow, right, right. So it sounds like you've stayed at the Coliseum and just outdoors a bit?

PSG: Yes. Yes.

A: Yeah, do you want to…

PSG: And and I've also stayed with the Denver Rescue Mission, but I don't like how they do things.

A: Yeah.

PSG: They, they put people in their like say (mumbles??).

22:22

PSG: and stuff like that, and then they ship people to other places. You know?

A: Yeah, yeah, and you don't have a lot of say, right? So if you're working suddenly you're across the city, it's like thanks a lot.

PSG: right, and you never know what you're doing, you never know where you're going from day to day with the Denver Rescue Mission.

A: Really?

PSG: You could be one day you could be going to Holly, one day you could be going somewhere else.

A: So you just show, like when you arrive they just tell you which bus to get on basically? Or how does that work?

PSG: Last time I was down there they give you these color-coded tickets.

A: Wow.

PSG: And that's how they decide where you're going.

A: And you have no say?

PSG: You have, well, in a way you have a say if you like say if you want to go to a specific place, you can wait it out.

A: wow, and see if there's still spots there?

PSG: Right.

A: Wow. So I can see how this stability, or you said a sense of groundedness, I think you used the word grounded, in SOS…

PSG: Yes.

A: is very huge.

PSG: And stability too, you know. when I go to work I know when I get off work I'm going to be able to come back here, you know.

A: Right, yeah.

PSG: They're not gonna come back, you know I'm not gonna come back and find them putting people on buses and taking them to different you know.

A: Oh my gosh, and so that's what it would be, you would get off from work, go there and not know where you were going for that night?

PSG: Right.

A: Wow. Sounds exhausting.

PSG: Yes it is.

A: Yeah. So kind of returning to Covid, which I think came up near the beginning 'cause that's how you lost your first job here, I'd be just curious to hear you talk a little bit about how you see Covid affecting either this community or your community or just your life in general?

PSG: It really, besides that first security guard job, Covid really didn't affect me too much.

A: Okay, yeah. Do you feel like you've seen it affect, like for example I think SOS is a response to Covid, like it didn't exist before Covid. So have you seen it kind of affect other systems in that way?

PSG: Right.

A: Or like the way rules are created or taken away?

PSG: I, you know I, I saw it with rules, you know rules being created. Even now you know some businesses they require you to have a mask, some businesses don't.

A: Right.

PSG: Now like RTD, it says on the screens and stuff like that that you gotta wear a mask.

A: Right.

PSG: And there's people that don't wear a mask and they don't enforce it, you know.

A: I know, yeah. I find RTD a very confusing place right now. [laughs]. Yeah. And then so it sounds like you were out east a bit at the beginning of Covid.

PSG: Yes

A: And then you moved to Denver partway through. Did you notice any differences between kind of how people or governments were responding to Covid out east versus here in Denver?

PSG: Back when I was in NY Covid had just started.

A: Right.

PSG: And they were just getting through, it was that guy that got shot and riots started.

A: George Floyd?

PSG: Yes. Uh they were protesting and looting and I was like in the heart of all that.

A: Wow.

26:04

PSG: I actually saw a group, where I was at in NY, they actually broke windows and they took stuff out of there. NYPD was chasing them everywhere.

A: Wow, were you working security during that time?

PSG: Not in NY.

A: Okay, that probably would be an intense time to work security. So then when you came here did it seem different?

PSG: It seemed much much different.

A: Hmm.

PSG: And what I mean by different, a much slower pace.

A: Wow.

PSG: You know.

A: And you could notice that right away?

PSG: Yes. like for instance, when you go into a bodega in NY, it's fast paced.

A: Right, okay.

PSG: It's almost like you gotta have your money ready.

A: [laughs] Right, know what you want.

PSG: Right right. Don't spend a lot of time looking through your wallet or looking through your pants you know.

A: Right [laughs].

PSG: Because you know you don't know who's gonna be behind you.

A: Right, and that's not it here?

PSG: No, uh uh, it's a much slower pace here you know. You can take your time, go through your wallet, get your card out, get your money out.

A: Hmm, that's such an interesting observation.

PSG: And especially when you use those food carts in NY that's really fast paced there.

A: The food carts? What do you mean?

PSG: Uh the like, hot dog stand.

A: Oh gotcha yeah like food carts, gotcha, that's like no messing around, know your order, have your money.

PSG: Right.

A: That sounds stressful [laughs].

PSG: And don't spend a whole lot of time putting it back in your wallet, just put the change back in your pocket and go somewhere else and count it you know [laughs].

A: [laughs] I totally understand that stress, I get stressed out by that too.

PSG: And it's, it's like that all over the east coast you know be it NY or Philadelphia or Boston.

A: Yeah, it's just kind of a fast-paced-ness is a generous way to put it [laughs].

PSG: Now when you get past Philadelphia going West…

A: Mmhmm, yeah.

PSG: it kind of starts to get you know slower.

A: Slowed down a little bit. And are you liking the slower pace?

PSG: Yes.

A: yeah. Sounds more peaceful.

PSG: Very much more peaceful.

28:20

PSG: Although you have to be, although here though you have to be careful when you cross the street.

A: Oh, say more about that? [laughs].

PSG: Colorado and Ohio is too, is more or less a driving state to where more people drive instead of take the bus, and the streets are more wider.

A: Okay.

PSG: So you really have to be careful when you cross the street.

A: Those wide ones are particularly scary, when it takes like 30 seconds to cross.

PSG: Yes yes. And sometimes you could be in the middle.

A: Right.

PSG: And the crosswalk changes.

A: Right, what do I do? True. Good point.

If you had the power or political power or just through your observations, what ways do you think the government, or corporations or whomever could make changes to better support people experiencing homelessness right now in Denver.

PSG: Make the landlords lower rents.

A: Hmm, yeah. Just make housing more affordable, basically.

PSG: Right

A: That's a pretty good idea. Um and if…

PSG: And and maybe there's a lot of them going up and down West Colfax. Maybe eliminate some of the problem motels.

A: What do you mean by problem motels?

PSG: Motels with a lot of drugs.

A: Gotcha.

PSG: A lot of prostitution. You know?

A: Yeah.

PSG: You know shut them down.

A: Hmm.

PSG: And let homeless organizations take over that hotel.

A: Hmm, staff them, yeah.

PSG: For for like a low cost. And then they can place people you know.

A: Hmm that's interesting. Yeah.

PSG: If if somebody's working, you could charge them a percentage of their income. And if somebody isn't working you know.

A: Yeah.

PSG: They could help them find job.

A: Right.

PSG: And then once they find a job take a percentage of their income. You know.

A: Yeah. Not to get too nitty gritty, I'm just curious about your expert advice, what do you think a fair percentage would be of someone's income?

PSG: 30%.

A: 30. Yeah, yeah. I like that. And if you I don't know if you've ever had an experience where maybe you're sitting on the bus or maybe when you're at work, hearing people talk about homelessness who have not had the experience of homelessness? And if you haven't ever overheard that, maybe if we imagine two people were talking about homelessness who haven't experienced it, what would you want them to know? Or a few key things you'd want them to know, kind of so that they could have a better or a more informed conversation?

PSG: Be cautious when you go to any shelter. Because not everybody at a shelter has good intentions. You know?

A: Yeah.

PSG: There could be somebody in there casing (??)

31:44

PSG: Everybody to see who has what.

A: Hmmm.

PSG: You know there could be somebody in there waiting to take your cell phone.

A: Yeah.

PSG: There could be somebody in there waiting to take your clothes.

A: Yeah, have you had any of those experiences?

PSG: Luckily no.

A: Wow, good.

PSG: Some people they go into a shelter and they're advertising I got this I got this I got you know.

A: Wow.

PSG: You know just to be show off. You know.

A: Yeah, interesting.

PSG: And that's that's that's what kinda happens. You know.

A: Then they don't have that in the morning.

PSG: Right.

A: Yeah, that's a good tip. Any other kind of information you would want to give to those hypothetical people?

PSG: When you're at a shelter and you're in the shower, some guys in shelters, they came from prisons, so when you're in one of those showers to where like there's multiple people in 'em, try not to look at nobody else in the shower you know?

A: Yeah.

PSG: Just concentrate on your shower because like I said there is some guys that come fresh out of prison into the shelter and some of those guys might might get offended, you know.

A: Gotcha. So get angry and think you're like checking them out sort of?

PSG: Right right right.

A: Wow so you really sounds like you really need to just keep to yourself.

PSG: Right.

A: And then, kind of rounding up here just a few more questions. So this oral history project, you telling your story, do you, how do you see your story in the way you're telling it now, how do you see it benefitting your community?

PSG: Hopefully somebody can hear my story and get to know that not everybody that's homeless has an alcohol or drug problem.

A: Yeah, yeah.

PSG: You know?

A: Yeah, I think that's a really good perspective.

PSG: You know like those like those street teams and stuff like that you know those volunteer groups they go out into the streets and actually look for people sleeping outside.

A: Yeah.

PSG: Don't assume that they're like that because of drugs or because of alcohol. Get to know, get to know a homeless person on an individual basis.

A: Yeah, yeah. Have you found that you have encountered many people like yourself who have never been addicted or?

PSG: That I can't say you know because I'm always staying to myself.

A: Yeah you're not Chatty Charlie'n all over the place.

PSG: Right. That's another thing you know sometimes people will go into a shelter and they'll open up right away and not even know who they're opening up to you know?

A: Yeah. Do you have any ideas as to, I mean is that just how some people are? Or is there something about being in a shelter that makes people want to do that? Or…

PSG: Just principal fact that some people came out of prison when they go into a shelter.

A: And so what's the connection between prison and kind of wanting to talk like that?

PSG: If they're, if you go into a shelter.

A: Mmhmm.

PSG: They're eventually gonna be back out in the street like, 'cause some shelters you can't stay in them all day long.

A: Right.

PSG: Some shelters you gotta leave out at 8 o'clock in the morning, come back at four, five o'clock in the afternoon and who knows what they might encounter out in the street?

A: Right.

PSG: They might get back into that same lifestyle that they had when they were in the prison.

A; Yeah. So it the talking, the kind of loud talking do you think that's kind of in preparation for being back in the streets?

PSG: Yes yes yes.

A: Okay.

PSG: And especially the Denver Rescue Mission and the Denver Coliseum. When people go out during a day, and I say it's about 70%…

A: Okay.

PSG: People look for that booze and stuff like that, or they look for that you know.

A: Yeah, yeah.

PSG: But not everybody. But it's it's tough to sit there and say okay this person's not, this person is, this person's not, this person is.

A: Right.

36:37

PSG: You know. When you go into a shelter place you just gotta try and focus on what you're there for, what led you there. You know?

A: Yeah. And does this just, apologies if this is a very personal question, but does that, do you ever feel lonely kind of keeping to yourself like that as a sort of self-protection?

PSG: Uh no huh uh.

A: Yeah.

PSG: And just just because I stay to myself doesn't mean I don't conversate with people.

A: Right, when I came in you were chatting with people.

PSG: But I'm not going to go into basics, of you know I'm not going to go into basics about me.

A: Yeah.

PSG: Like you know I'll conversate with somebody about you know like the weather, or, or…

A: Last night's dinner or something…

PSG:  Right. Right, or like we were just talking about the Broncos and then the Washington football team.

A: Okay.

PSG: They have a press conference this afternoon one o'clock about their new name.

A: Oh.

PSG: So.

A: Oh what is their new name?

PSG: We don't know yet.

A : Oh that's what the conference is.

PSG: Yes.

A: Oooh that's kind of exciting.

PSG: And if if I could go off the beaten path a little bit I got something to say…

A: Yes please, please

PSG: 'bout that. They want Washington to change their name you know because of the Native Americans, the Cleveland Indians, the Atlanta Braves

A: Mmhmm.

PSG: You know they're pro teams.

A: Yeah.

PSG: Why, why do they say nothing or making the Florida State Seminoles change their name?

A: Yeah.

PSG: That's a native American (??? mumbles)

38:12

A: Yeah, I think that's a good point, I hope that's in line, honestly. Yeah, it's a good point.

And then actually this is the last question, if you were doing this interview what would you ask you [laughs] or someone else  that i didn't ask.

PSG: I would ask what do you plan to do when you leave?

A: Mmm. Yeah. Would you like to answer that question?

PSG: Sure, sure. I plan to keep doing what I'm doing now you know.

A: But you were saying earlier but be in an apartment or in a different space maybe?

PSG: Yeah like a being in an apartment or a sleeping room or something like that.

A: Yeah. But you would love to keep your same job and…

PSG: Yes, yes.

A: And do you, would you like to keep the night shift or someday would you like to shift to day?

PSG: I like to keep the night shift.

A: You like night.

PSG: Yeah, yeah.

A: Wow.

PSG: Because that's when of the people are home sleeping and…

A: Right.

PSG: And night shift is well I'm talking about years ago.

A: Okay…

PSG: This was the old thing.

A: Yeah.

PSG: The only people who should be out on night shift is emergency vehicles and dogs.

A: And dogs?

PSG: And dogs

A: Oh [laughs]. Dogs are just struttin’ around at night?

PSG: I mean not in the street you know but like if I see in your yard.

A: Oh I see I see.

PSG: Or like in your house you know.

A: Yeah yeah. Yeah. So it's just calmer.

PSG: Right, right.

A: Yeah. Hmm lovely.

PSG: And and I like the fact when I'm gettin off at five o'clock in the morning I'm on the way, and you know I call this home now.

A: Yeah yeah, yeah.

PSG: I’m on the way home to go to bed to sleep during the day when most of the working America is just getting up and getting their day started.

A: [laughs] And it's kind of a good feeling?

PSG: Yes.

A: [laughs] I appreciate that. And you get to see the sunrise, which is nice.

PSG:  Yes. Yes.

A: Lovely. Anything else you'd like to add?

PSG: Let me see. Yes.

A: Yeah?

PSG:  I just want to say one thing. Please do not stereotype homeless.

A: Final Word?

PSG: Right.