Alison (A) : Ok.So if you could please just start by saying your name and telling me a little bit about yourself.

Andrew C (AC): Uh, my name is Andrew C. I am a 24 year old male. Um, I work at the CVC as a site coordinator. Ummm, Yeah.

A: And are you from Denver?

AC: I am not from Denver. I’m from California originally. I was born in Palm Springs and I moved up all through California until I reached Redding, California and lived there oooh, since fourth grade. So, I don’t know, probably there 15, 16 years. Ummmm, then I came out here. Ummm, should I be like going into like depth on stuff right now?

A: Yeah, I mean or if you feel like you’ve said enough, I will, I will ask follow up questions. So like I’d be curious to hear why you came to Denver?

AC: Ok, ummmm..why I came to Denver? Oh, I came to Denver for rehab. Ummmmm, so leading up to that, I was living in Reno, Nevada with some friends. Ummm, uhhh, started getting into trouble with the police out there. Ummm, just cyclically going back to jail and just with horrible people. Ummm, so I decided to move home to Redding, California. Ummm, kind of escape that, and it came with me cause I was there. Ummm, then so I was living in another house with a friend in Redding and got kicked out of that house. Um, moved in with my parents and my parents like finally said, “ either you be homeless or go to treatment?” and so I chose to go to treatment and my cousin uhh is involved in sobriety and lives out here and he recommended, “ Hey, why don’t you send him out to Colorado?”. So, I jumped on a plane, ummmm, really dope sick, umm and ended up in Colorado and went up to Steamboat Springs for uh, how long was it?, uhh, three months. No phone, no tv, umm no sugar, ummm one cup of coffee a day, groups all day for thirty days. Then, uh, I got outta there and decided to come down to Denver and stay in a sober living for [ whistle ] phew, I don't know, three months. Three months was the first time I stayed in a sober living, uhh, out here, and then I left sober living. Umm, moved in with my, Oh, moved into an Oxford House. Uhh, relapsed right away, umm, once I got there and kinda held it together for I’d say, two months. Got kicked outta there. Ummm, I wanted to keep using and became homeless for, I don’t know, a month or two, until I came around and made a couple of calls, and got back into sober living. Umm, yah did sober living there for awhile. Told myself, I was gonna stay as long as it took. Stayed there for six months, umm, then I left there, moved in with my cousin and that’s where I’m at today. I’ve been with my cousin since December. It’s going good, yeah. I have a year and two, almost two months of sobriety from heroin, crack, everything, meth, everything, alcohol.

A: Congrats.

AC: No, nothing in my system today.

A: Wow.

AC: Feels good.

A: And your cousin’s the one who works in sobriety?

AC: Correct, yeah

A: That’s great. Wow. I want to back way up. You said, that Reno, you were hanging out with horrible people. Can you explain more of what you meant by that.

AC: Ummmmm. Just, I mean, I don’t even know how I met this guy. I met, so I met, I was, the way I was buying drugs in Reno, I’d go down the strip and I’d you know, look around for people who look like they were selling drugs and I’d ask them. So, I met this drug dealer, who um, I’d go to somewhat regularly and um he goes uh “ Hey I go this other friend, this other white kid who I think you might like.” I was like “ Ok. So I met this guy and he had a couple group of friends and that was the friends I chose to hang out with. We just did horrible things. Umm, just, I mean for fun, we’d just like get high at the casino and like, I don’t know, like hustle people and just I mean, it was just a horrible lifestyle. Umm, just ended up going to jail for like possession and paraphernalia,ummm, petty theft. Umm, but yeah I mean, that was probably like the worst, like most serious time in my life, where it was just like, I was like bad, like I was like just down to do whatever, down to rob, steal, hurt, whatever, just to get high.

A: Wow.

AC: Ummm, yeah its like I'm a complete different person now like its wild like I was always you know, kind of like bubbly nice, like happy but like I don't know, drugs turned me into somebody that I'm not for sure and just like stripped everything away from me.

A: Wow.

AC: But, yeah.

A: yeah, well congrats for sure.

AC: Thanks. Yeah.

A: Um, at so I 'd be curious, I guess it's just, so you have you experienced homelessness yourself. Would you are to talk a little bit about that experience? As, either, as related to as in relationship with the drug use or kind of on it's own, whatever makes...

AC: Sure. Umm the first time I experience homelessness was, I was in Southern California . Umm, similar situation you know. Umm, was in, went rehab out there, went to sober living. relapsed in sober living, got kicked out of sober living. umm, wanted to continue to use and I was on the street there for about a month too. umm, you know just, you know I pitched a tent. I bought ( laughs), I didn't have a car at that time, I bought a tent. I knew there was some other people staying down there that were in my sober living, umm so I kind of roughed it with them for awhile. Umm, but I don't know, you know eventually got tired of it, umm, just I mean it's horrible, very very low low lows I feel like. Just, I don't know and you know I feel like I didn't like truly really experience homelessness either. I don't know why, like, but I don't know , I guess just cause I wasn't like long term out there, umm.

A: Oh, interesting.

AC: yeah.

A: that's actually, yeah, I was going to ask you, how do you define homelessness?

AC: Not having a place to stay.

A: ok, just flat out.

AC: not, not having a place of habit like that's meant for habitation. umm, not having a bed, I guess is how I would define it. not having like a place to call your home that you like feel safe in and like, I don't know, feeling safe in your home, that's when I define as like, ok, like, that's, that's where you start to begin to not be homeless I guess but, yeah, I don't know, that's. that's a good question- How do you define homelessness?

A: yeah.

AC: Where you feel like you have a home.

A: yeah I like that. I like the idea of feeling safe.

AC: Yeah. Yup. I feel like that's the biggest thing that I remember is just at some times I would walk all night and just stay moving at night and then I'd sleep during the day because its sunny and more people are out. Umm, its just rough, you know, like, almost like the embarrassment of it and like just the like, the, you feel so detached from everyone, that's what I feel like.

A: Do, um, if it is not fun to talk about, you do not have to.

AC: No, I'll talk about anything.

A: but ( laughs) I'd be curious to hear you talk more about those words embarrassed and detached.

AC: I'm sure like drugs had a big part to play with it too but yeah, embarrassed and detached you know. You feel alone and even though you know I had some like some friends in quote friends out there, you still feel alone because I know I always had in the back of my mind that like you know I don't, I don't have to live like this but like this is where I'm stuck right now like it was almost like this is temporary but its like so bad, like I might not make it out you know, like (sighs) you just feel so different there. I don't even really know why. I don't know. I guess nobody cares for you out there you know. you're truly on your own, like your family doesn't want you around. You don't, you don't have friends, you know you can't trust anyone. You're just constantly like thinking about like, I don't know. How, well, where, what's the next thing? How am I gonna eat? How am I gonna get high?How am I gonna sleep, you know? Thats all you can think about. So you don't have room to think about anything else.

A: Did you ever meet anyone that you felt you could trust, living on the streets?

AC: (pause) No, no. Like truly trust,mmmmmnnnmmm. The like I knew had my back and was showing up. I mean I guess I like thought I had people that like had my back but like no. Now, knowing like that like I have people to trust today. mmm, not at all.

A: Now you’re like, oh that's trust.

AC: yeah exactly. oh that's trust. oh that's love. oh that's self confidence, you know.shit like that.

A: Wow. I'd be curious to hear, how did you get involved with SOS? With working here?

[sentence cut to respect the privacy of Andrew’s colleague]

AC: And uhh, and I remember the he got hired here. he got hired on as like an assistant. he was telling me about it you know. He kept telling me stuff that happened today " we had this one resident who, he's a great guy you know, had a really bad alcohol problem and just hurt me to see him laying on the ground and the ambulance came but it was, it was real rewarding you know, he grabbed my hand and we were able to like sit there just for a second you know and just like, we're in the moment you know." umm, I don't know. I remember him telling me (laughs) that story and that kind of like hit me, I don't know why. I was just like " wow what a cool job". you know, like I bet it's hard some days you know but like what a cool job. And then a couple of months later down the line, I was hurting for a job you know. I made 2000 dollars last year and I was just, I was trying to swing big though too. I went to a trade school and pushed myself for like six months and then got out, tried to get a job as a computer programmer and I was getting like contract positions and stuff but kinda struggling. I asked him. I said " you know you got any positions open?" He goes," yeah we do." And I go, I'd love to be a part of it. Got started on here as an assistant, moved up to night coordinator and I just moved to day coordinator.

A: Wow

AC: So, yeah it's been going good.

A: I'd love to hear about your first day at work here

AC: First day at work here. Umm, I remember coming in and I didn't know what to expect and especially at night too and at our first location was on Pearl Street and Colfax, right down by the capitol and I remember like preparing to like see some rough shit. I came in, I remember being surprised at how, I guess accepting people were that lived here. Umm and just , I don't know more civilized, I expected more crazy.

( door bell rings)

Automated Voice: someone's at the front door.

(recording paused for Andrew to greet a volunteer at the gate)

A: So you just returned from an ice delivery.

AC: yeah.

A: real quick, will you explain that?

AC: So we have coolers in there. We keep, I don't know, anything. food, um, water, that acts as our fridge, um, just because nobody has personal fridges or anything or personal coolers.

A: And by in there, is this a trailer you're talking about?

AC: Sorry, the food tent at the SOS Site.

A: Ok ( laughs a little) and someone came and delivered yes?

AC: yeah, a volunteer signed up on our volunteer sign up sheet online and she came by earlier, asked how much I needed and told her 4-5 bags. She brought me 4-5 bags and yeah.

A: Ok, so I think you were just telling us about your first day working here.

AC: oh yeah. umm, yeah pretty nervous to come in, just didn't know what I was gonna expect. I expected more crazy than I got.

A: And you started here, in Park Hill?

AC: I started at Pearl Street. Yeah, inside the tent, I was pleasantly surprised when inside of our gate was really calm, um, but outside the gate was a problem. Lots of people who you know don't have that safe space at the tents that we provide in here and I don't know you know, there's a sense of community here too, which is really cool and I feel like that like that's important too.

A: Did you see that change as y'all moved from the Pearl Street location to the Park Hill location?

AC: uh, yah. I saw definitely more of that change, um, more community and more sense of I want to help and just I don't know, you know, less, I want to give up and more I think I could try and do that today, you know.

A: Do you have some examples? Or some stories?

AC: yeah. umm, like, you know I can recall uh like the Pearl Street site, just a whole lot of negativity you know. From stealing to whether it be threats of violence or violence, to just that head space it creates you know, just that, it brings me back at least to when you're on the streets, gotta watch my back, I don't know what my neighbors doing, you know, and that mixed with drugs, you know- paranoia and everything.

A: So, even though the SOS site itself was safe on that Pearl Street location, it's kinda being embedded in the...

AC: It's right smack dab in the middle of all the chaos and when you go to sleep you hear it. You hear "hey where's my ten bucks?". You smell mace. you hear just gnarly stuff, you know and that's what we're trying to get away from. Like here, there's a hundred and ten percent difference in the mentality of people, in just, I don't know, I feel like people are safer here.

A: Can you, uh, share some examples of people being more in community and more of that hundred and ten percent difference here?

AC: yeah, um, yesterday I had a real busy day, I was just needed one place off to another. Residents see that, you know, they're observant, they step up. This one guy, I had like three people hit me at once, this one lady was real simple, she was like "oh, I'm looking for my friend." One of the residents was like " oh here, I think I know where she is" and went and helped her. I told him later, I'm like " thank you, that's awesome. I appreciate that". So like just stuff like that, you know, the little stuff that tells me where your heart’s at. So...

A: I did want to ask, and maybe this, sounds like this applies more to the 16th street location, but what, were you worried about and has it come up, if you're ok with answering, about being triggered, yourself, with your experience?

AC: Good question. Yeah, when I first started here, uh, at the Pearl Street location, when I first started there, that was a little bit rough. I'd say like the first month or two, I was also so real early in sobriety. I think I had about six months. Um but yeah, just hearing the hustle and bustle of people. Umm, seeing people high, um, gets my, it used to get my hair to stand up, you know and learned to deal with it, it put it right in my face and I, I dealt with it or didn't and thank god I learned how to deal with it by talking to people, you know, as simple as that, talk with my coworker, " hey, I feel like this, because of this" and I don't know, for me, it works, it takes the power out of it.

A: yeah, oh interesting. Do you feel like, do you have those kinds of conversations with guests too, who you know are using?

AC: yeah, I took a guy. yesterday to detox and that was awesome, you know, I got to share my experience with him. That's all I can do. Im not gonna tell you what to do, Im not gonna but hey this is what happened to me and this is what I did to get through it. I don't know, yesterday was awesome. That flipped my day around right there, being able to just like, share my life with him you know cause that's my life right now, trying to stay sober you know, just telling him, look long term, like, it sounds cheesy but I found a higher power and that's what runs my life today. (laughs)

A: Returning to the, the move here. How has Park Hill been, how have your interactions been with Park Hill neighborhood? What's your kinda take on moving into Park Hill and how people have responded?

AC: My take on moving into Park Hill. I remember when we were beginning to move over here. Our neighbors didn't like that very much. I remember they tried to take us to court over a water issue. Thankfully, they lost but they're still trying at us, they're still trying at us everyday. Yesterday, I had Denver Water come and try to turn our water off, just, it’s weird reasons too. It’s just, but, people don't like us being here, but, I mean, it's great for us. And you know, we realize that people don't like us being here and we try to, you know, show them, hey, you know, we're not evil, we're just trying to help people, we're not trying to screw anything up for anyone.

A: Why do you think they don't like you being here, in your words?

AC: I think property values rising is one, umm, but I think that's a non-argument, we're here for six months (laughs). So, but also, I hear people say " oh my daughter’s afraid to go to her car. Oh the- fear, I guess, you know, it all boils down to fear. Um

A: Have you, yourself, had interactions with, uh

AC: Neighbors?

A: Neighbors

AC: Yeah, I have. I've had good ones and I've had bad ones. I feel like the majority of our neighbors are awesome, really support us. Majority of our volunteers are neighbors who are just awesome, you know. And they know what's going on, they tell us, " I'm with you" you know. Thats awesome to hear. Umm, but the few that are against us really stir trouble for us. But I greet them with a smile and I say ," well you know, what can I do for you?" (laughs). " what can I do for ya?"

A: good morning

AC: yeah good morning

A: And you know, you mentioned this is here for six months. Um, what is it like kinda knowing that, especially when you see how good it is for the guests to be here. How does that kinda, or does it shift the way that you're like, kind of thinking ahead, with like your position here and then also supporting guests here?

AC: yeah, um, I have thought about it, um, honestly I just have faith that like you know, if we're doing, if we're doing stuff right, I feel like, we’re really helping people. I feel like this is an awesome thing. I just, I don't know, I see nothing but greatness come out of it, and I feel like, somebody has to see that too and hopefully we keep going, you know. If we don't, sucks, really does, bad, you know but, I don't know, I just don't think about it like that, I just think wow, look at all this positive stuff that's happening and I hope to keep it going and I think we will too. We gotta support.

A: And there's no plans yet of like next site or anything

AC: I know that like were, were in the workings of it. Yeah, there's plans in the working but we don't have an exact next place yet.

A: I'm curious when you leave work and you, maybe when you're in communities who don't have experience with people experiencing homelessness or who like don't know what SOS is, umm, I don't know if you've reconnected with your family?

AC: Yeah

A: Ok, that's good. I'm curious how you advocate for people who live here, if maybe you get push back?

AC: Yeah, um, my family. My close family I don't really get push back. I mean, I don't really get push back from any of my family but I can kind of get a sense of your mentality and by knowing you as a person, I, you know, I can kind of gather enough pointers, but, you know , I just, I tell them what we're doing, tell them what we're doing. How we're helping people. Why this is important for people, Hey you know, this is what the money is going towards, you know. This is, this is the results. I show them the results of this and say you know, People are getting IDs, people are getting housing, umm, people are, people are cleaning up you know. People are having a life again, we're rebuilding people I feel like and it's cool. Or getting people a place to rebuild themselves.

A: Do you have any particular stories you tend to tell your family, or like, is there one in particular you’ve…kind of leaned on?

AC: Not really, I’d say I tend to tell them my bad days more than anything. But like when they ask me, if they do “how’s work?” like if I come home on vacation or something how's work been ya know? It's been good, like this is what we've been doing. Like, last time I came home, you know, we moved into a new site, umm, hey we do have battles going on with our neighbors, hey we have a really good site right now our people in there are just awesome. So, stuff like that .

A: You’re clearly a very positive person and you told me a lot of umm really good days, you did just use the phrase bad days and I'd be curious if you'd be ok just, you don't have to go into too much detail if you don't want to

AC: I’ll give you details

A: (Laughs) So, what is a bad day? What makes you come home and be like that was a bad day?

AC: Say, so, it was weird. Yesterday, I came in and yesterday should have been a bad day but it wasn’t. I had a positive attitude. I flipped somewhere in the day to positivity but just leaving, I'd say, two days ago there just wasn't much going on the whole day, there was just lots of negativity and...

A: Among guests, you mean? Just people kind of …

AC: And I hear like, I hear like entitlement too, that really, ooooh, that irks me

A: What do you mean?

AC: Like, what was something I heard? So for instance like, we’re doing housing, housing applications. It’s free, it takes two minutes to fill out an application, granted it is to get in line to get housing, which sucks, right? But its free, its a free lottery full house, theres a big fucking prizes there ( laughs). Like big dude, take two minutes of your time, you know, be pretty cool, say you did get on it, cool, right? And then I just hear people, “I’m not doing that shit, that’s bullshit, the system is, the system’s rigged against me, I’m not gonna play the game,” and you know, I try and understand and I, “ok dude, I see where you’re coming from “ but like what’s, what are you paying for this, like you know, let’s two minutes of your time to like get in line? I get it, I get it, but it’s just, I don’t know. It just kinda irks me, like stuff like that, you know. When I hear, you wouldn’t when I hear people they don’t want to go the mile for themselves but I’m going the mile for them, and it’s like “woah dude”. I’ll help you as much as you want to help yourself but yeah

A: Yeah, that's hard. Have you found any ways to talk to people that um kind of turns that around?

AC: I , I just started like noticing that within myself that like oh that stuff irks me and so I'm thinking, ok why does that irk me? and I don't know, I'm still kinda looking at it honestly

A: yeah, yeah , I hear ya. So, SOS, as you know, stands for Safe Outdoor Spaces and I'd be curious to hear you talk about those three words and what they mean to you, and if what they mean has sort of changed the longer you've been here?

AC: yeah, safe outdoor spaces, never really looked at it. But yeah, safety that word, that's so important, so important. What that means to me, what safety means to me is, hey, I gotta place to put my stuff that I don't have to worry about it, it's not on my mind all the time and that frees my mind up in order to do other things, whatever that may look like, you know, but just one more stressor off you, umm, yeah outdoor, you know, you know we're not quite indoor, um but we're getting there, you know, we got safe, um, still outdoor but hey we'll make the best of it. Um

A: I'd be curious since you were there with the winter there too with the Pearl Street, I'd be curious to hear you talk about. We had an extreme summer and we had an extreme winter, what were those differences? What were the differences in those seasons?

AC: Snow. (both laugh).

A: Right, snow was there once and then it wasn't there

AC: Umm, yeah, umm. So, you see less...more people are inside their tents in the winter, you know it's cold, it's fricking cold. Different on my end in the Winter, umm raking snow off of rooftops all night, every ten minutes I'm whacking snow off cause we don't want our tents to collapse.

A: Wow. So you're just going around brushing snow off the tents

AC: yeah, yeah, I'd say honestly, probably like I've noticed in the mentality of people. I'd say probably calmer in the winter and more reflective, umm, more kind of like thinking back to like their life I'd say. That's a weird thing to notice but I for sure see in the winter more kind of that

A: like hibernation, almost?

AC: yeah

A: makes sense

AC: yeah

A: umm, also clearly you started working there soon after COVID came, as these camps were a response to COVID, right. I'd be curious how you think, maybe not, I guess I'm curious how you think COVID has affected your community? However, you want to define your community, where you were when that happened.

AC: Mean like my personal community?

A: yeah

AC: I was in school at the time when COVID hit and I remember hearing about it and thinking, oh it's just some bird flu or swine flu or something and then we locked down and I was in person at school. So, I had to go online and my grades took a plummet. My learning, I, the last couple weeks of it, I just don't, that's, I'm real weak in that stuff cause of covid, umm, but I mean, I'm grateful for the way that I was affected by it. I was lightly affected by it compared to other people. I wasn't, I never had it or anything. Umm, you know, I was lightly affected by it.

A: You were in a stable situation with your cousin?

AC: oh no. oh no. Where was I? So, I was in an Oxford...oooh... I was in an Oxford house, using drugs, start of covid, going to school

A: What is an Oxford house?

AC: Oxford House is a sober living house, it's generally on the cheaper end (phone dings). So you see more of a rougher clientele there. Um, lot less freedom too. Nobody's over your back, you know, pee testing you or anything..

A: oh so more freedom?

AC: A lot more freedom

A: ok, ok, so you were using then?

AC: yeah I was using and I remember the lockdowns happened and I, yeah I was still using during that and then I got kicked out and that's when they had just shut down like city park right there where the tents were. They had just like gated it up and stuff, umm, but yeah I say I was lightly affected by it. The sight, umm, the sight was also lightly affected by it too. I don't think, I umm, don't mark my words on this, but I don't think we've had anyone that's had covid. I haven't seen anyone personally who’s had Covid.

A: Well I'd be curious to hear your experience with the city putting up the fences that the park you're saying, umm, and I don't know, were you affected by any of the sweeps the city was doing?

AC: Umm. I was not. I mean, I'd been affected by like cops and stuff like coming but no not like a city wide sweep.

A: What's your perspective on ummm. How Covid was quote, unquote handled by the city cause there's some amazing things happened, I think. Umm, there's also been some criticism. So, I'm wondering if you have any stance on that or just any thoughts? You don't have to take a stance.

AC: To be honest, I'm not very knowledgeable in that. The things that I do know is yeah, the, the city has been doing sweeps and not but not giving people places to go really, you know, we're not opening up more of these. They're just kicking people out and say, good luck, find somewhere else. And, what do you think people are gonna do? Move to somewhere else or find somewhere else. No, it's just not humane. You shouldn't treat people like that in my opinion you know,or people. But yeah, I don't know. I think Denver's doing a better job than a lot of places, for sure. I'll give them that. Am I happy with what they're doing? I'd say yes, umm.

A: (laughs) Yes, question mark

AC: Can we do more? Yeah I think we can be doing more

A: Speaking of doing more, if you had power and lots of money, what would you do, more? Because you have really in-depth experience. You're really an expert in this area. What would you do?

AC:If I could change something? I'd change the amount of steps it takes to get into a place like this and I would create more places like this

A: And by changing amounts, I'm assuming you mean, decrease?

AC: So, how you get into an SOS site like this is you need to talk with an outreach coordinator. How do you find an outreach coordinator, Andrew? So glad you asked, outreach coordinators go around on the streets and find people. You don't really find them

A: pretty serendipitous

AC: You can go to a couple of places. I think there's like six places, Stout Street, Urban Peak, St. Francis,

A: Gathering Place?

AC: I..I don't know. There's a couple of places that you can go to and say " Hey, I would like to get in one of these places" what they do is they tell you, you need to get in touch with an outreach coordinator. I don't really know where it goes from there. I don't. I've got so many people, I've got so many people

A: Really? So, it's not like, give them the outreach coordinator’s number or somebody?

AC: ok, it might be, it might be that. But yeah I don't know, it just seems very complicated and complex in order to get in here

A: Based on chance a little bit

AC: It is. So, I, I hear some people "Oh I wait, I waited forever to get in here" and I hear some people " Oh it took me two days, by chance, I saw someone, and they were like, oh yeah you wanna move in here?"

A: So say you connect with the outreach coordinator, then what?

AC: Outreach coordinator directly can place you in one of these places or put you on a list. So from the outreach coordinator. Like yesterday, an outreach coordinator came here. Umm. It was my first time meeting her. I told her, you're like god to me. um she brought two people in, she goes " Can I get a tour" I'm like "Sure". So I gave her a tour, she goes these people would like to move in here. This was my first time ever seeing, you know, oh ok this is the full circle, this is full circle. So, I called somebody just to make sure, yeah they have the power to do that. So I was like, wow that's pretty cool

A: So, if you had space, then they just, you let them in. Then they stay?

AC: Yup

A: Ok, wow

AC: Yeah, that's, that's the circuit right there, from my knowledge and understanding on it.

A: Well, so was it just total luck that you had two tents open for them?

AC: mmhmm, yup, yup

A: I wonder if the outreach coordinator knew that

AC: So, well not total luck I should say. We know, we know how many tents we have open, outreach coordinator would reach out to our site, we would say hey we got three tents open, bring somebody by, I get a text and say hey these people are clear to move in and then they choose the sight, check me texts and say ok you're clear to move in, do an intake with ya, you're in

A: ok , so how would, do you have any like specific idea of how you would kinda streamline that process?

AC: that's a good idea, that's a good question, umm, have the outreach coordinators easier to get a hold of, have more places where people can just go and get on a list, umm, yeah

A: right, interesting, that's a really good observation

AC: Have better access, whatever that may look like. I haven't thought much about it but that I think is where the chain kinda breaks down, it's getting in touch that coord- that, uh, HOC coordinator is where the breakdown is, from my knowledge

A: yeah, you have the expert knowledge here, and kinda rounding out near the end here, if you, just kinda hypothetically or not, maybe you know many people like this, if two people have never experienced homelessness were discussing homelessness, what would you, what are like the key things you would want them to know, so that they could continue their conversation?

AC: hmmm (pause) I don't even know, look at it through the lens of, we’re all human and realize that not everybody is just lazy and throw them to the side, umm, realize that we're human you know and everybody is where they're at and you know, I would ask them I guess- why don't you want to help people? Is it the money? What is it? Why don't you want to help people? We’re all people, like, I don't even really know what I would say to somebody to be honest, I don't know

A: yeah

AC: Look at it through the lens were all people

A: And then, so this we've been recording this oral history, in what ways could you see this benefitting your community or the SOS community?

AC: Getting the story out there, letting people know, this is my personal experience, this is that person's personal experience, hearing it from their mouth, not through the news, not through any other, from the horse's mouth, you know

A: Then last question, if you were doing this interview, what question would you ask that I didn't ask you? And feel free to answer that question

AC: I don't know honestly, I felt comfortable with all of them.

A: I mean is there anything that you see as pretty crucial to your experience here or when you were homeless that I didn't kind of know to ask?

AC: ( pause) not really, no, you full circled, I feel like, had my mind going, that's good. Thought provoking.

A: Any last thoughts?

AC: That was awesome. That was Fun.

A: ok good