

**Madison Craig  
Memphis, TN**

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Location: Ms. Craig's apartment

Interviewer: Simone Delorme

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Project: Latino Memphis & Oxford

**Simone Delerme:** This is Simone Delerme with the Southern Foodways Alliance, and today's Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and today we're going to learn a little more about the Memphis experience as we discuss everything from quinceañeras and youth activism to working at La Michoacana. So to begin with, would you introduce yourself by saying your name, your age, and where you go to school?

[0:00:35.0]

**Madison Craig:** Hi. My name is Madison Craig. I go to White Station High School, I'm going into the eleventh grade, and I am sixteen.

[0:00:40.8]

**Simone Delerme:** Where were you born?

[0:00:43.1]

**Madison Craig:** I was born in Memphis, Tennessee.

[0:00:45.3]

**Simone Delerme:** Where in Memphis have you lived?

[0:00:47.4]

**Madison Craig:** I've lived several places. I've actually lived in Millington, I've lived in Atoka, which are not in Memphis. But within the actual city limits, I've lived in

Cordova, Germantown, I've lived toward East Memphis near Midtown, several different places.

[0:01:03.9]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay, okay. Have you ever lived outside of Tennessee?

[0:01:07.7]

**Madison Craig:** I have not lived outside of Tennessee.

[0:01:09.9]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay, okay. And what grade will you be going into in the fall?

[0:01:13.8]

**Madison Craig:** Into the eleventh.

[0:01:14.4]

**Simone Delorme:** Eleventh grade, okay. Eleventh grade. So how about activities at school? What activities are you involved in?

[0:01:19.6]

**Madison Craig:** At school, I am in the Latino Voices Club, which is a club centered around Latinos in our community and expanding their exposure to them and people's, awareness of the Latino community, things like that. I also participate in DECA, which

is a business club. It is where you go and compete, and you are to take the role of a manager or somebody in a higher position and you are to present yourself in front of the judge. You're given a scenario. You have ten minutes to figure it out, and it's a scenario where you have a problem and you have ten minutes to figure it out and say what you're going to do, how you're going to fix a problem, how you're going to expand the business, just different things like that, something that a real business leader in our world today would do. You present that to a judge, and you're given a score. You go from regionals to state level to nationals.

[0:02:11.4]

**Simone Delorme:** Any other in-school activities you're involved with? Then we'll get to extracurricular.

[0:02:17.6]

**Madison Craig:** No, not in-school. No other in-school activities.

[0:02:20.2]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay. So how about outside of school?

[0:02:21.4]

**Madison Craig:** Outside of school, I play soccer on Tuesdays and Thursdays and sometimes on Friday nights at Cordova Indoor in Cordova, Tennessee. It's really fun.

I've made a lot of friends there. It's like a really relaxed environment. It's not something that's really serious. That's why I really enjoyed playing.

[0:02:37.9]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay. Any other organizations that you're involved with outside of school?

[0:02:42.1]

**Madison Craig:** I'm also involved with Latino Memphis. I'm in their Abiertas Puertas program, which is a program through school, but we do a lot of things outside of school. We just recently took a flag—a flag. We recently took a trip to Six Flags, and it was like the end-of-the-year school trip with all of the schools that are involved in that program, and it's something that has allowed me to kind of prepare myself for college more and understand the process. It allows for ACT workshops, SAT workshops, making new friends, things like that. We have an award banquet as well at the end of the year to reward success and congratulate people who have had scholarships to colleges and things like that.

[0:03:26.2]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay, okay. Have you taken any other trips besides the Six Flags trip with that group?

[0:03:31.6]

**Madison Craig:** Yes, we actually went to Washington, D.C. It was about eight of us, eight students, and there were a few adults. We went to Washington, D.C. to lobby with senators and representatives for our federal government, and we just expressed our concern with the Latino community and how we want it to grow, and shared personal stories with them to kind of hit them in the heart, instead of them, you know, just hearing from other people, like, “They want this. They want that.” It really means something when you share personally with them. When you have a personal connection with somebody, it actually opens their eyes more and says, “Oh, this affects that person. What I do can affect this person that I know, that I met.”

[0:04:18.2]

**Simone Delorme:** Do you remember any of those stories, by chance, that people might have communicated or anything that struck you?

[0:04:23.4]

**Madison Craig:** Yeah, so I had a friend—or have a friend. Her name is Andrea. She goes to Kingsbury. I remember her story, her sharing with Lamar Alexander that she got hurt about a year or two ago and she had to go to the hospital. She was there for a couple nights, and hospitals are very expensive, and her family doesn’t have insurance because they’re undocumented. And after she was out of the hospital, she said that because her parents don’t have a lot of money and her mom doesn’t work, she has a job at a little tienda, like a little store on Summer Avenue, and she works almost every day of the week trying to make money, and most of that money doesn’t go to gas, doesn’t go to food, it

doesn't go for things she wants; it goes to paying off that hospital bill. And that's something that really, like, made me think, that I'm very thankful for what I have, that I have insurance and things like that, and, you know, a teenager, somebody going—she's going into the twelfth grade. She has to work every single day for that, and I'm sure that she has several other things that she would rather be working for, whether it be spending her time on—than paying a hospital bill off. So that's something that really made me think.

[0:05:35.7]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay. Were there any other experiences during that trip that stuck with you, or other experiences in Memphis when you got back, in terms of protesting or organizing that you've been involved yourself?

[0:05:48.0]

**Madison Craig:** Yeah. So in October of last year, with the Latino Voices group at school, the little club that we have, two of our leaders organized a protest. They got a permit and everything with the police department and did everything legally. We protested on Summer Avenue at the At Home store, and we walked on Summer Avenue in the lane of traffic. We had police escorts as well. We walked from At Home down to—what was the place called? It was a little taco shop. I'm not sure what it's called. I can't remember the name of it. But, yeah, we just like—we made signs and we were very peaceful. There were no worries or problems or anything. Nobody said anything ugly. Nobody drove by and flipped us off. Everybody was nice about it. We even would have

some people that were driving by honk at us and say like, “You guys go!” Yeah, so that was really nice to see the support in the community and no hateful comments or things like that. And I think when you’re protesting, it’s really important to keep things peaceful and to keep things civil, because when you destroy property or make ugly signs or do inappropriate things, that can upset other people and cause even more of a problem rather than solve the problem that you’re standing there protesting for.

[0:07:06.9]

**Simone Delorme:** Are there any other challenges that you’ve seen your Latina and Latino friends face here in Memphis?

[0:07:18.7]

**Madison Craig:** Yes. So a while back, I was really good friends with someone, and they were driving home from a store like right down the street from their house, not even five minutes, and they were on the block of their house, last turn down the street that their house was on, and they were going about 15 miles an hour, and this little girl just rode on her little bicycle right out in front of the car, and this person hit the little girl, didn’t hurt her, didn’t break her—well, break her bones or anything, she was fine, but I remember that person being very afraid and very scared because, number one, they didn’t have a license and they were driving without a license, because they couldn’t get a license because of their legal status. I remember them thinking, “I’m going to have to go to court. What if I get detained, deported? What’s going to happen to my family?” like this and that, because their whole family is not documented. And I just remember feeling for

them and feeling the fear that they had as well. I don't have to face that problem personally, but I love my friends and my family that I have here in Memphis, and I know a lot of them do face this problem, and I can't imagine the fear that they must feel.

[0:08:31.1]

**Simone Delorme:** You're very active in the Latino community. When did you start getting so involved and what made you choose to get involved?

[0:08:38.1]

**Madison Craig:** Well, back in eighth grade, I became close friends with a girl who I had a few classes with, and she introduced me to a group of her friends outside of school during the summer of eighth grade going into ninth grade, and that's where I started picking up the language. I just started listening and paying attention to different words and making connections in my brain, like, "Oh, this means that," you know, things like that.

During that summer, we would have little parties, and that was the first time I went to house parties and things like that, and I learned traditional dances like norteañas, things like that, Mexican dances, and I went to my first quinceañera that summer. Ever since then I just fell in love with the culture and with the people and the language, and I saw a need for activism in that community and for awareness and make it like, okay, what did Gandhi say? What did he say? "Be the change you want to see in the world", and, you know, if you want to change something, you have to take the first step. You have to take baby steps. Just one little thing can make a difference. So just because I'm

one person, you know, like, fighting for a community that I'm not really a part of, like, I don't have that heritage, but my heart is there with those people and I love those people. They're like family to me. Most of my friends are Hispanic and so, yeah.

[0:10:13.6]

**Simone Delorme:** Have you seen any positive changes in the Latino community since the eighth grade, or any growth in the Latino community?

[0:10:22.2]

**Madison Craig:** Yes, I have. Like I said, back in October we did a protest, and we've done other little rallies, smaller ones, since then, and I remember when I was in eighth grade versus now, Latinos have become—they've created a voice for themselves. They were quieter and, you know, more in the shadows and now they're not. They're coming—they're stepping out of the shadows. They're not as afraid to speak up anymore, and I think that's something that's really important. That is something that Latino Memphis as well as our Latino Voices Club at White Station enforces, that you have a voice and your voice matters and your voice is heard. And, you know, simply writing a letter to somebody in power or making a protest or participating in a rally or a march or just posting on your social media platforms how you feel and your concerns, it makes a difference, and people listen and people see that and people pay attention to the things, and you can share your thoughts that way.

[0:11:30.7]

**Simone Delerme:** Thank you. We're going to shift a little bit and talk about your employment history. So what jobs have you had in the Memphis area?

[0:11:39.2]

**Madison Craig:** So my first job was at La Michoacana in the Wolfchase Mall. I worked there for almost a year. It's an ice cream shop. They sell paletas, which are popsicles, and, like, elote, which is corn on the cob. They have chicarrón, which are like little snacks that you can eat, that have like mayonnaise and tomatoes and cabbage and things like that. Just a little store that sells little snacks and foods and drinks. And I started working there when I was fifteen and I stopped working there when I was sixteen, and I learned so much about the Hispanic culture and the language there. I think that that is where I really picked up the language, because I have taken Spanish classes in school because I'm required to, but I would honestly say by immersing myself in the culture and surrounding myself with music, TV shows, working in a Hispanic ice cream store, and just forcing myself to speak that language and to hear it every single day has really allowed me to grow and to learn, and it was a great experience and I'm very thankful for it.

[0:12:52.5]

**Simone Delerme:** Were most of the employees you worked with Latino as well?

[0:12:55.3]

**Madison Craig:** Yes, I was the only white person. There was a black guy that worked there. All the other were Latino.

[0:13:02.2]

**Simone Delerme:** So, was primarily Spanish spoken on the job?

[0:13:04.4]

**Madison Craig:** Yes.

[0:13:06.0]

**Simone Delerme:** Okay. So you had to learn.

[0:13:06.4]

**Madison Craig:** Yes.

[0:13:07.2]

**Simone Delerme:** Then tell me more about these popsicles. I hear about them. What kinds of flavors? Are they very unique? What are some of the things they're known for?

[0:13:14.2]

**Madison Craig:** Yes. So when people would come into our ice cream shop, we would get that question asked a lot, like, "What makes your ice cream and your popsicles unique?" And all the La Michoacanas that are in Memphis, the ice cream and things like

that, they're made in-house from fresh ingredients. It's a different recipe than, say, Baskin-Robbins ice cream. I would say like when you taste it, it's more creamy and more rich in flavor.

So you're asking about the popsicles as well. There are a variety of flavors. There's typical flavors that you would see in, like, Baskin-Robbins, like mint chocolate chip, cookies and cream, pecan, things like that, but some of my favorite flavors were actually unique to the La Michoacana store, which were gansito, which is Mexican candy. It's like a little bread cake and it's covered in chocolate. It has a strawberry cream filling. It's really good. We would chop that up and put strawberry syrup and chocolate syrup and then vanilla ice cream and mix it all together, and then that would be the ice cream, and we would put it in popsicle form.

There was also ron con pasas which is rum and raisin, and it did have a little bit of a kick to it. I don't think there was actual alcohol in it, but you could definitely taste like a little bit of like rum or something in there that was like, "Oh, this is really good." But, yeah, and I know there was a flavor in the Summer Avenue store called tequila, but I never tasted that ice cream. But just things like that, that are very unique to those stores that you can't find anywhere else that really make them unique and stand out.

[0:14:47.5]

**Simone Delorme:** Did they teach you how to make the different things?

[0:14:50.7]

**Madison Craig:** I actually never made the ice creams, it was left to the adult ladies, but we were just the people who served the ice cream and took orders and things like that. We checked people out. But I did learn how to make what are called enchilado, which is different fruits with a red sauce called chamoy that you would pour on top of the fruit, and then limon, which is lime juice, and tajine, which is like a little fruit seasoning, kind of spicy. And I learned how to make strawberries and cream and little breakfast things that would have like fruit and cream and things like that, just different desserts that I still make today at home in my own house for my mom and for myself. I make elote, corn in a cup, a lot for myself. So yeah.

[0:15:39.2]

**Simone Delorme:** How is that corn prepared? Is it unique?

[0:15:41.3]

**Madison Craig:** Yeah, so the corn on the cob is—I personally, like, don't like it off the cob because it gets stuck in my teeth, but you could eat it off the cob. When you eat it off the cob, you just take a little brush, usually, and you can take regular mayonnaise or you can take Mexican mayonnaise, and you just, like, swipe it all around the corn, and then you pour chili powder on it or tajín. I use tajín because I like the flavoring better. Then you just put, like, Mexican cheese on it. You can use different types of cheese. I know at the La Michoacana that I worked at we used queso fresco, but I prefer cotija cheese. When I make it in a cup, I just buy corn out of a can and I heat it up, I just put the corn inside of a little Styrofoam cup or a coffee mug, and then I take a scoop of mayonnaise

and I put it on top, and then I put the cotija cheese and the tajín and then I eat it. It's so good.

[0:16:37.1]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay. What were some of your most memorable experiences working there, and some of the challenges, if there were any for you?

[0:16:46.9]

**Madison Craig:** Okay. So some of my most memorable experiences were I would have several customers ask me, you know, when I would speak to them or greet them in Spanish, they would walk in the store and I'd be like, "Hola. Coma estas?" or "qué te gustaría?", which means, "What would you like?" they would kind of look at me weird. Like, they would speak back to me in Spanish, and I would take their order and then I would check them out, and as I was checking them out, typically I would get asked, "What part of Mexico are you from?" It wasn't, "Are you Latino? Are you Hispanic?" It was, "What part of Mexico are you from?" And that kind of stood out to me because there's several Latino communities—I'm sorry, Latino countries, and so I thought that was interesting. I would tell them that I was not from Mexico, that I was from Memphis. They'd say, "Oh, well, what part of Mexico are your parents from?"

And I would say, "Well, I'm fully white. I was born here. My parents were born here. We don't have any Latino heritage in us."

And they would just kind of look at me, baffled, like, "Wow, you speak so well. You speak like a Hispanic." They said, "I never would have guessed that you were

white.” And that’s weird because I don’t look Hispanic, and I just think that’s really interesting. So it kind of encouraged me to continue in my pursuit of learning the language and immersing myself in the culture.

[0:18:10.2]

**Simone Delorme:** Well, speaking about the culture, there’s a number of different traditional holidays, festivals. Can you tell us a little bit more about the celebration of quinceañera?

[0:18:21.2]

**Madison Craig:** So a quinceañera is a young girl’s fifteenth birthday. When I celebrated mine, I celebrated it a year later, so it’s my sixteenth birthday because of, you know, planning things. But typically it’s for a fifteenth birthday for a young Hispanic girl, and they usually have a big, big, big poufy dress, and it’s a huge celebration. They rent out a venue, they have what we call copas and botellas, which are like little glass cups for the quinceañera and her court, and they have botellas, which are little—they look like wine bottles, but they’re, like, the sparkling grape juice and apple juice from, like, Welch’s, and they’re decorated. They match the color of the girl’s dress, and they say feliz cumpleaños on them, typically, or they’ll have the name of the girl on it. Anyways, they’re for her and her court.

Now, a court is when the quinceañera, she will have however many girls and then however many guys, like bridesmaids and grooms, but for her, all for her, centered

around her. The girls are called damas, and they typically wear short dresses that are coordinating colors with the quinceañera girl's dress color.

Then the guys, the same thing, coordinating colors, and they are called chambelanes. What their purpose is, is at the quinceañera party they sit with the girl at her table, and when it comes time, they do the entrance dance, and then later they do a surprise dance. The entrance dance is usually a waltz or a slow dance, very classical, elegant. And then the surprise dance is usually something really fun. They change outfits. They have, like, cool, like, outfits. Sometimes they go back to traditional, like the girl will have on the long traditional skirt and do the traditional dances, and then the guys will have the sombreros and the botas and everything.

But, yeah, it's really an awesome celebration, and if you've never been to one, I would definitely recommend that you go. They're a very big party. There's always food served there.

[0:20:26.2]

**Simone Delorme:** What type of food do they usually serve there?

[0:20:28.7]

**Madison Craig:** Oh, you scared me. [laughter]

[0:20:30.6]

**Simone Delorme:** Don't worry. Don't worry.

[0:20:32.0]

**Madison Craig:** At quinceañera parties, they usually have arroz, which is rice, and beans or frijoles, with a type of meat or the hot tacos or different things like that, but usually there is always rice and beans. And they'll have drinks like water, Coke, typically have an open bar for the adults to go and enjoy themselves.

But, yeah, there's also always a father-daughter dance, and then there's something called a muñeca, which is a doll. I actually have mine right up there. I can get it. And the doll is dressed in the same dress as the girl, or a very similar dress as the quinceañera girl, and the doll is usually held in one hand while the girl has her hand on her father's shoulder, then the dad has his hand on the daughter's waist, and then his other hand on the doll. So they're dancing with the doll. And it symbolizes the last Barbie or baby doll, something like that, that a little girl has, because as a young girl you usually play with dolls and things like that, and that's, like, the last doll.

[0:21:41.3]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay. Can you tell us some more about your actual quince? How was the experience? Was it memorable? Challenges?

[0:21:50.3]

**Madison Craig:** So my experience was very challenging in numerous ways, not just with planning, because I kind of planned my own quinceañera, and I know that sounds weird because I am not Hispanic, but I'm so in love with the culture and with the people. It's amazing, you know. It means so much, and as a white person, Caucasian person, we

like—it’s kind of hard because we don’t have any, like, anything like that that we celebrate. We have a sweet sixteen and everything, but that actually has tradition behind it and meaning, like the doll, you know, things like that. To me, I value that a lot. I think it’s really important. And going to so many before mine, I just fell in love with the celebration. I wanted a big party like that. I wanted to feel like a princess and have the dress.

So I decided that I was going to have one, and I saved up a bunch of money, and my uncle and my mom helped me pay for it, and I planned it. I chose my dress, I chose the decorations, and it was awesome. But it was very challenging, not only because I planned it by myself and paid for a lot of it, but because I’m white and I faced backlash from other people, not just Hispanic people, but white people, black people, just different people at my school that I’m in school with, and they were kind of like, “That’s cultural appropriation. Why are you doing that? That’s rude. That’s disrespectful.” And I definitely had a few breakdowns, and it really hurt my feelings at some points, and it made me discouraged and not want to do it. It made me feel like that I wasn’t good enough; why am I doing this?

[interruption]

[0:24:30.5]

**Madison Craig:** You want me finish talking about the quinceañera?

[0:24:32.3]

**Simone Delerme:** Yep, and we're on.

[0:24:34.1]

**Madison Craig:** But it was very challenging overall. It was an enjoyable experience, and I'm so glad that I did it. The night itself was wonderful. A few things went wrong, as any party would. Not everything was perfect, and I think that's something I learned, too, from the experience is that when you plan a party or when you have something really big like that, you can't expect everything to be absolutely picture-perfect, because something is bound to go wrong. But it was an amazing experience. I'm glad I did it.

I didn't lose any friends over it, but I definitely had a few conflicts, and I tried to ignore those people and ignore their comments and not take it personally, but I couldn't help but feel discouraged about it because of what they said and their feelings, and I understand how they can feel that way. And I wasn't trying to be disrespectful to their culture or to anybody. It was just something that I loved, and I wanted to experience it for myself. I wanted to do it. I wanted to invite other people, because the people that I invited to my party, there were a lot of Hispanics, but there were also a lot of white people and Asian people and black people and Indian people and people of all different races that came. At typical quinceañeras, there are mostly and only Hispanics, and I'm usually one of the only non-Hispanic people at most quinceañeras, so I think when I had mine and there were so many different people there and it was like this huge cultural diffusion of people and things, it was just like—it warmed my heart because it was exposing other people and other races to something that I love, something that isn't necessarily mine, but that I'm very passionate about and that I want to share with other

people and that I think the rest of the community should want to share with other people because what they have is phenomenal.

Oh, and also the invitations. We ordered invitations from a lady, and they turned out all right, but we didn't have enough, and so, I was kind of insecure about my invitations because I wanted them to be really elegant and nice, because I was thinking these were going to set up the mood for the whole party. Like, this is what people are going to expect, what the invitation looks like. So my uncle, my mom, and I took maybe sixteen hours throughout a week and within like four days, we made almost 200 invitations. Like, we went to Michael's and stationery stores and things like that, and bought ribbon and stickers and glue and stationery paper, all type of things, and we created our personal design on, like, Windows or some website my uncle used, and we made my own thing. We hand-cut everything out, glued it down, and things like that. Yeah, it was insane. And we worked nonstop on those invitations, and I passed them out at school and sent them out. It was really fun.

[0:27:26.7]

**Simone Delorme:** How many people did you end up inviting?

[0:27:28.8]

**Madison Craig:** I invited probably 350 people, but about 200 showed up.

[0:27:34.3]

**Simone Delorme:** Where did you hold it, what location?

[0:27:36.4]

**Madison Craig:** It was hosted at the Bartlett Event Center right by the train tracks across from the Baskin-Robbins.

[0:27:42.0]

**Simone Delorme:** How about the food? What type of food did you decide to serve?

[0:27:45.0]

**Madison Craig:** Yeah, so the food. Because, as I was explaining earlier, typically a quinceañera is rice, beans, and meat or tacos or something, like a Mexican dish, and for my party, like I said, it was different because I'm not Latino or Hispanic, I'm not Mexican, and so I kind of wanted to put a little spin of my own on it, because I already had. And I had hot wings and, like, little sandwiches and chips and dip and a fondue fountain and fruit table, candy table. Like, it was just totally different than what a normal quinceañera would be, but at the same time I loved it because it was my own. It was very unique and it was something that nobody else had done.

[0:28:40.2]

**Simone Delorme:** I'm just going to ask you a little bit about growing up in Memphis. What was it like growing up in Memphis?

[0:28:46.1]

**Madison Craig:** Memphis is a very diverse place. It is somewhere that not everybody enjoys living but not everybody can live, because not everybody appreciates diversity, and that is something that I'm so thankful for. My whole life, like, I've always wanted to know about all the cities and all the countries and all the states on this planet, like, why was I born here in Memphis. And I feel there's a reason, and, you know, there's so much to be done here, there's so much that can be done, you just have to be active and you have to want to do it, and you have to take part in your community and take pride in what you do and believe in what you're doing.

Because I hear so many people say in Memphis, "Oh, there's nothing to do. Just go to the movies, go to the mall, that's it. Go bowling, skating." And, yeah, there may not be a lot of physical activities to do, but there's so much volunteer opportunity here in Memphis with all the poverty that we have. There are outreach programs; there are college readiness programs; there are school activities; there are several sports that you can get involved in; things like that. And as I've grown up, I've learned that, and I really am appreciative to my community and to my city for that. It's allowed me to expose myself to the Latino community and other cultures, not just what I grew up in and what I was taught and raised in, and it's made me better as a person, it's made me more diverse, and it's definitely changed who I am. It's changed my heart and how I feel towards other people and, most importantly, how I treat people.

[0:30:23.3]

**Simone Delorme:** Do you find any similarities between the Latino culture you've come to embrace and southern culture?

[0:30:28.6]

**Madison Craig:** Similarities, yes. This is kind of a funny similarity, but a lot of friends that I have, Hispanic friends that I have, they like country music, and it's kind of weird because, like, so many people don't. I love country music. I grew up on country music as a southern girl, and you wouldn't expect, you know, like, people who didn't grow up on that to like it, because it's very kind of an acquired taste to a lot of people, but I find that very similar to, like, some of the traditional Hispanic music. Like, for example, norteñas with their guitars and some of the sounds that their music will make, it's kind of similar, like in a weird way, not like identical, but just there are a few similarities. And just the way that they dress. Like, I grew up riding horses, so I would wear long jeans with boots and a button-up shirt for the western look when I was riding in shows and stuff like that, and when I go to quinceañeras, the guys dress like that, and it's kind of fun to see that. As well as riding horses, going back to that, they do the same thing. A lot of Hispanics and Latinos are involved in horse riding and go to shows and do things like that. So, yeah, we're not really that different when you look at it.

[0:32:07.0]

**Simone Delorme:** How about your future goals and aspirations? Can you tell us a little bit about what you hope for in the future?

[0:32:13.0]

**Madison Craig:** I have so many future goals and aspirations. I'm a very artistic person. I love makeup, modeling, acting, singing, dancing, different things like that. And totally switching gears from that, I love politics and different things like that in the community, like, being active in the community. So I've told my mom that, you know, I want to minor or major in political science in college, but I also want to major or minor in arts, and it's kind of hard to choose between the two because they're both so different, but I think there's a way to combine them, I just haven't figured it out yet, but I'm going to figure it out, because I love both of them.

But, yeah, I hope to see a difference in the Latino community when I'm older, and I plan to continue trying to make a difference and to be active in the community and to volunteer with organizations like Latino Memphis and to spread the word about who these people are, what they stand for, and that they're not, you know, these, like, people that are stealing and they're not criminals and they're not bad people. Like, I know that there's so much judgmental things towards Latinos. Like, nowadays when I hear those things, like, it hurts me as if I'm one, because that's like family to me. Like the other day, I was at Chick-fil-A and—I'm sorry. The other day I was at a restaurant and one of the managers was taking a Latino's order. I did not know this person, I did not know the Latino or the manager, and I was just observing as I was standing in line. The man did not speak a lot of English, and English is a hard language to learn, but, I mean, you know, coming to America, it is something you should learn. But I understand that he's older, he didn't have the language under his belt yet.

So he was trying to order his food. He was, like, giving signs like, "I want a number one," or whatever he was ordering. And the manager was being kind of rude to

the gentleman, and he was, like, speaking very loudly like as if the person was deaf, like that he couldn't hear him, understand him, like being rude, you know, and it's not that difficult to understand someone. I think that people exaggerate it, and when people really try to, like, do something like that, like, as a manager, you should be able to communicate with anybody. That's your job. You're over everybody. You set an example for everybody. And when I saw that, it kind of like hurt my feelings in a way because I felt bad for that man, because he had to go get his friend that was sitting down and have him come up to the counter and explain to the manager what he wanted, just to order food. You know, that's got to be difficult.

[0:35:10.7]

**Simone Delorme:** Have you witnessed a lot of cases like that?

[0:35:13.8]

**Madison Craig:** I've witnessed a lot of cases like that. As I've paid more attention and gotten more involved in the community, I've noticed discrimination towards Latinos. I've noticed prejudiced opinions. I've noticed several things that I was oblivious to before, and I think that is something that is so important, because as I've gotten more involved, my eyes have been opened to those things. So many people in our community, adults included, they don't realize what's going on around them, they don't see it, and if they do, they kind of ignore it and brush it off their shoulders because it doesn't affect them. But, you know, as a generation growing up, I've noticed that we take more interest in things like that. And you have to make it your problem. You have to concern yourself

with it because it is going to affect you in the future. These people are citizens just like us, they pay taxes, and they deserve everything that we have, and they don't get it.

[0:36:14.5]

**Simone Delorme:** Thank you. Is there anything else you'd like to add that we didn't touch upon?

[0:36:18.4]

**Madison Craig:** I don't think so.

[0:36:20.3]

**Simone Delorme:** Okay. Well, thank you so much for your time.

[0:36:22.5]

**Madison Craig:** Thank you.

[End of interview]