

# Nereyda, Mexico

**Nereyda:** I was born in Mexico, Chihuahua, Mexico. And I moved to Las Vegas when I was 8, and I grew up there until I was 18, and then I moved to Missoula.

Well, I'm a mom of three beautiful children. I will be starting nursing school the 26th of this month. I'm a psych tech currently at, um, the hospital.

I've been advocating for, for immigrants, for DACA recipients, which is a program that I am under. It was given to us in 2012 by the Obama's administration. I was undocumented for 16 years, so it allowed me to get a, a good paying job that I couldn't get before. And go to school and actually will get a driver's license, get a social security number, brought us out of the shadows. And we're fighting it right now to, um, to make it maybe a path to citizenship. And these judges keep on messing with us.

Randall: And what did you think of when you first heard about Missoula and decided to come here?

**Nereyda:** I didn't know what to expect, but when I got here, I was just too cold. Las Vegas is a desert and I was, you know, used to 125 degree weather over there. And oh my God, I couldn't stop shivering for a whole month. It was a whole month. And it was in October when I first came here so it was already getting cold.

**Randall:** What has helped you feel most at home here in Missoula?

**Nereyda:** Oh people! They've been so amazing. So supportive. Very nice. I remember going to the store and this lady was like, okay, so here's your change back. Here's your penny back. I'm like, is this lady faking it? Why's she's so nice? It was so weird.

**Randall:** So do you consider Missoula your home now?

**Nereyda:** I think I would yes, in between Vegas and here, I feel like I'm at home now.

**Randall:** What positive things are you looking forward to in the next few years?

**Nereyda:** A pathway to citizenship. I'm sorry, I know it's, but that's what I mostly desire. In a couple of years, I will be able to graduate if everything goes right in school and I can be a nurse and I'll be afraid that I won't be able to be a nurse, because I don't know when they're going to take DACA down. I have this fear all the time. Now, who's gonna try and, you know, hurt us. Who's gonna try and take away our program? Am I going to be left without my work permit? What if I have to go to Mexico? What about my kids? They'll be forced to go with me. All of those things. I just don't want to worry about that anymore and be able to go to school in peace and then be able to be a nurse.

And maybe that's, maybe it's a little selfish because I'm thinking about myself and my family, but I don't know. I wish we could just care about each other more. You know, I think in the world that we could care about each other more things would be easier and less. I don't know. It wouldn't be hard as much.