MIRIAM ACEVEDO-DAVIS
INDIANA LATINO HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW
14 DECEMBER 2016

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Contents

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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NOTES: This forms part of the Latino Oral History Project
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Miriam Acevedo-Davis was born in 1952 in Moca, Puerto Rico, to Pedro Vera Acevedo and Guadalupe Colon Acevedo. In 1953, Miriam’s father, a sugar cane farm laborer, sought work in the tomato fields of New Jersey with other family members. By 1954 the Acevedo family relocated to Brooklyn, New York. While in Brooklyn, Pedro worked in the manufacturing industry while Guadalupe was a stay-at-home mother. They had three more children while living in New York. While Miriam was in college in the early 1970s, Guadalupe, Pedro and some of Miriam’s siblings moved back to Moca, Puerto Rico. Miriam stayed on the east coast until the 1980s. She married in the early 1980s, had a daughter and lived in Midtown Manhattan, New York before relocating to Columbus, Indiana, for her husband’s employment at Cummins, Inc.

At the time of the interview, Miriam was 64 years old.

Source: Information in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a series devoted to collecting life stories from remarkable people who have been involved in Indiana Latino community. Through these stories we are able to gain a deeper sense of the diversity of the Latino community throughout the State of Indiana. We will learn what brought these individuals or their families to settle in Indiana from their respective home state or home country.

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally audio recorded interview conducted on December 14, 2016, at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, by Nicole Martinez-LeGrand, Indiana Historical Society’s (IHS) Multicultural Collections Coordinator for the project. The transcription has been lightly edited, in January 2018. The interview, which includes the audio recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

This interview recounts Miriam’s childhood experience in the Upward Bound program that shaped her pre-college expectations and her college experience. By the fall of 1970 she was a freshman at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, which at that time was an all-women’s college. Miriam talks about the transformative experiences she had during college. Those experiences were shaped by the Civil Rights, Chicano Civil Rights and Women’s Rights Movement eras.

Miriam recalls her experience working in Central Indiana and Indianapolis with the growing Latino population in Columbus and Indianapolis. She gives a detailed account of the Latino cultural, educational, social service and business advocacy groups in Indianapolis during the 1990s.
Table of Contents

Preface .................................................................................................................. i

Biography .............................................................................................................. ii

Transcript .............................................................................................................. 1

Birth, Parents and Living in Puerto Rico ................................................................. 2

Move from Puerto Rico to Brooklyn, New York ...................................................... 3

Educational Experiences: Upward Bound and Wheaton College ....................... 6-11

Working at Princeton University and Meeting Husband .................................. 12-13

Moving to Columbus, Indiana .............................................................................. 13-14

Engaging with Latino Community: Hispanic Education Center ...................... 15-16

Working for Family Services of Columbus ......................................................... 17-18

Moving to Indianapolis to work for The Villages of Indiana ......................... 19

Breakdown of Indianapolis Latino Cultural, Social Services Organizations ..... 20-24

La Plaza, Inc: Formation, Relocation and Surviving 2008 Market Crash .......... 27-28

Current List of Services and Success Stories ..................................................... 27-30

Where the Latino Population is Growing in Indianapolis ........................... 30-31

Reaction to the Latino Community post 2016 Presidential Election .......... 31-33

Personal Reflection on Challenges, Successes and Family ........................... 34-36

Conclusion of Interview ....................................................................................... 37