

WEBVTT

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00:00:03.120 --> 00:00:23.910

Josie Ballard (she/her): Alright okay, so my name is Josephine Ballard today is May 26th 2021 and I'm interviewing Julie Hendricks through zoom for the UCSD Race and Oral History project. For the purpose of this project, do you agree to grant the university permission to archive and publish the interview for educational purposes?

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00:00:24.480 --> 00:00:25.000

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Yes.

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00:00:25.00 --> 00:00:31:800

Josie Ballard (she/her): Alright um so to get started, why don't you tell me a little bit about your childhood and where you grew up.

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00:00:33.750 --> 00:00:41.430

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Yeah I am from a town called Natick, Massachusetts it's maybe about 15 miles west of Boston.

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00:00:43.500 --> 00:00:50.370

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um I grew up in a little neighborhood that people have described as like a Norman Rockwell painting it was really um

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00:00:51.450 --> 00:00:54.840

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Quiet all the neighbors knew each other.

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00:00:56.550 --> 00:00:57.570

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um it was really white.

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00:00:58.680 --> 00:01:03.480

Julie Hendricks (she/her): My schooling was great we had really, really good public schools so.

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00:01:04.080 --> 00:01:13.440

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um I did sports, it was like your typical what you think of as a middle class upper middle class upbringing.

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00:01:16.290 --> 00:01:16.500

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um yeah.

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00:01:17.970 --> 00:01:19.740

Josie Ballard (she/her): Nice. So could you tell me a little bit about your family?

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00:01:21.420 --> 00:01:22.440

Julie Hendricks (she/her): uh sure my um

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00:01:23.730 --> 00:01:36.690

Julie Hendricks (she/her): So my mom was a nurse. My dad did all sorts of different jobs, ranging from like grave danger to substitute teacher to IT worker.

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00:01:37.740 --> 00:01:54.360

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um he just kind of bounced around a little bit. I have one younger brother, and then we were able to, we lived real close to both sets of grandparents until they passed and um some aunts and uncles. I was pretty much surrounded by family too which was nice.

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00:01:56.010 --> 00:01:59.220

Josie Ballard (she/her): That's awesome, uh grave digger that's interesting (laughs).

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00:02:00.090 --> 00:02:06.240

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Until my mom made him quit, I think, shortly after uh my brother was born, she was like wait, this is,

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00:02:07.380 --> 00:02:08.670

Julie Hendricks (she/her): You need to get out of this business (laughs).

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00:02:09.330 --> 00:02:12.210

Julie Hendricks (she/her): He would take us to the graveyard actually it must have been after that, because

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00:02:12.510 --> 00:02:14.670

Julie Hendricks (she/her): He would we would like play in the graveyard.

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00:02:15.300 --> 00:02:17.550

Josie Ballard (she/her): Oh wow what was that like?

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00:02:18.600 --> 00:02:20.970

Julie Hendricks (she/her): It was fun. It was this big beautiful

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00:02:21.360 --> 00:02:26.370

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like graveyard full of church, um full of trees and hills and

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00:02:27.390 --> 00:02:28.380

Julie Hendricks (she/her): That's kind of morbid.

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00:02:29.700 --> 00:02:30.390

Sorry to get off track (both laugh)

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00:02:31.650 --> 00:02:38.280

Josie Ballard (she/her): um so, can you tell me a little bit more about your education uh high school and.

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00:02:39.360 --> 00:02:45.840

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah um I went like I said just public education we had really good schools in Massachusetts in our town.

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00:02:47.010 --> 00:02:51.240

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Went to Natick High and then after that I went to the Naval Academy for college.

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00:02:52.440 --> 00:03:00.180

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And then, um and then I went to flight school and then, when I got out of the Navy, I actually went to San Diego State for Grad school so.

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00:03:01.170 --> 00:03:02.640

Josie Ballard (she/her): Oh my gosh my mom went to San Diego state.

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00:03:03.630 --> 00:03:04.980

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah I love it there um

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00:03:06.450 --> 00:03:24.420

Julie Hendricks (she/her): it's real close to where I am now and i'm actually looking for job opportunities there so um yeah. So it was it's also been a little varied, for me, I guess, as far as like being in the Navy and then being out of the Navy um but yeah that was that's my education.

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00:03:24.900 --> 00:03:28.230

Josie Ballard (she/her): I'm curious what uh made you decide the Naval Academy.

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00:03:29.190 --> 00:03:37.140

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um I feel like I have a different answer every time I answer that question but um, I guess, when I was younger I was,

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00:03:37.200 --> 00:03:38.910

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I was really athletic and I um

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00:03:40.170 --> 00:03:54.900

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I knew I didn't want to have a desk job I was kind of more like a tomboy and so someone I knew when to Army, a woman who I swam with and I thought wow that's really cool and I knew we didn't have a ton of money to send me to college so i'd have to get a scholarship or figure it out so um

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00:03:56.790 --> 00:04:08.130

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I just drove down there one day. I had a neighbor connected to the Navy and he recommended to the Naval Academy, instead of West point so I went down there and um

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00:04:09.390 --> 00:04:13.470

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I just really loved it, I think I love the discipline about it, which is weird.

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00:04:14.730 --> 00:04:21.000

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um the camaraderie I guess you could feel I could kind of feel that. I did this little summer program with other high school students and

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00:04:22.290 --> 00:04:25.920

Julie Hendricks (she/her): it was a beautiful campus and I knew i'd be able to make the swim team so.

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00:04:26.760 --> 00:04:27.660

Julie Hendricks (she/her): It was decided.

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00:04:30.180 --> 00:04:31.920

Josie Ballard (she/her): So you swam in high school then too?

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00:04:32.220 --> 00:04:33.000

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah yep.

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00:04:33.180 --> 00:04:42.870

Josie Ballard (she/her): Well, very cool. Um so I guess uh was there anyone who like was advising you against the decision to go to the Naval Academy?

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00:04:44.730 --> 00:04:55.680

Julie Hendricks (she/her): No that's, no one's ever asked me that. But no one advised me against it um my dad has said, after the fact, he never thought I

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00:04:56.880 --> 00:05:04.320

Julie Hendricks (she/her): never thought that I would get in and so he, like he, like went along with it, and then I got in and he's like oh crap

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00:05:05.640 --> 00:05:19.440

Julie Hendricks (she/her): we're not going to see you again um but yeah no everyone was pretty encouraging like no one in my town knew anything about it really except that one neighbor and his brother was an Admiral in the Navy and so he was like go go go.

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00:05:21.240 --> 00:05:25.710

Josie Ballard (she/her): That's cool. Do you remember your first day at bootcamp?

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00:05:25.980 --> 00:05:31.650

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um I remember some things like I definitely remember being really scared and thinking like

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00:05:33.120 --> 00:05:37.050

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Oh God like I can't leave what did I do?

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00:05:38.460 --> 00:05:48.420

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And then I remember meeting my roommate she was my roommate for four years and we're still very good friends, and so I remember very distinctly like the first time I met her.

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00:05:50.910 --> 00:05:53.190

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um and then I remember like saying goodbye to my parents (laughs)

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00:05:54.630 --> 00:05:56.190

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And being like okay, this is it see ya.

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00:05:57.480 --> 00:06:13.530

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But yeah it was kind of a whirlwind that that first two months they call it a plebe summer at the Naval Academy and it's two months of just like Oh, I remember thinking how mean everyone was, these people are so mean why are they being so mean to me, that was of course (shrugs shoulders).

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00:06:14.100 --> 00:06:17.340

Josie Ballard (she/her): Was it a shock to have all of that structure and discipline?

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00:06:19.980 --> 00:06:28.740

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um it wasn't such a shock for the structure so much, but um just I was like

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00:06:30.450 --> 00:06:34.590

Julie Hendricks (she/her): A good Goody two shoes, so it was a shock to get yelled at so much.

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00:06:36.300 --> 00:06:48.690

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like I had a pretty structured with swimming my schedule and stuff. I was a pretty good student that part wasn't so bad it's, just like the yeah always getting in trouble for the stupidest things that was a shock.

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00:06:49.560 --> 00:06:51.960

Josie Ballard (she/her): What was the craziest thing you guys got in trouble for?

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00:06:56.220 --> 00:06:57.090

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um gosh.

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00:07:00.990 --> 00:07:07.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um sorry for the long pause. We got like fake made in trouble, because there were three of us um,

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00:07:08.850 --> 00:07:13.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Three girls who are still my close close friends and someone put us in the wrong room that the seniors wanted.

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00:07:14.400 --> 00:07:28.170

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And so they busted in there and were like look at this dirty room blah blah like it was like a movie and we're like what and they're like you get sent to the other, we got sent to like really crappy rooms and we got split up be put with other girls and we're like we didn't do anything (both laugh).

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00:07:31.200 --> 00:07:47.610

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But um yeah so I don't know i'm trying to you, just get in trouble for like wearing your hat wrong, saluting inside. As you're learning all the military stuff like you just of course mess it up, you have to recite all this stuff and you get in trouble if you don't remember it, stupid.

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00:07:50.820 --> 00:07:54.750

Josie Ballard (she/her): Uh what would you say is like the biggest thing that you learned from your time at the Naval Academy?

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00:08:00.270 --> 00:08:06.450

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Uh well, I guess, I learned that I could do things that I didn't think I could do.

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00:08:08.220 --> 00:08:13.350

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um it's an engineering school and I majored in English, and so a lot of the engineering courses were,

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00:08:14.490 --> 00:08:17.850

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um like I took the dumbed down ones, but they are still really difficult. And then

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00:08:19.650 --> 00:08:28.860

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like I really, really learned to lean on my teammates and the people you live with what are called your company and the kind of trust your.

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00:08:29.430 --> 00:08:36.390

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I guess I learned a lot of trust that I didn't necessarily have before and that's carried on into adult life like you meet

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00:08:37.380 --> 00:08:51.060

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Someone for the first day and you're like can I use you as an emergency contact for my chip to pick up my children because, like I don't know if it's necessarily correct that you just kind of form this bond and this trust with people who have gone through it.

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00:08:51.300 --> 00:08:52.500

Josie Ballard (she/her): wow that's cool.

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00:08:52.500 --> 00:08:52.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah.

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00:08:53.310 --> 00:08:55.530

Josie Ballard (she/her): What was it like to be a woman in the navy?

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00:08:57.000 --> 00:09:08.160

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um so honestly if you had asked me that when I was in the navy, I would say it's it's no different like it was different at the Naval Academy in a little bit there was still a lot of um

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00:09:10.170 --> 00:09:18.900

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like they said, if you dated a woman midshipman that you were on the dark side because women started like when Star Wars was really big and it just carried over.

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00:09:21.420 --> 00:09:29.820

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And so I remember thinking that first year, like you, couldn't really be a girl, but you weren't one of the guys so that part was kind of tough in the beginning.

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00:09:30.510 --> 00:09:38.130

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And then, when I graduated um I was a helicopter pilot and I was the only girl on my Squadron for a long time, or the only woman pilot and

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00:09:39.720 --> 00:09:43.440

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I just went along with it like it fit my personality.

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00:09:45.030 --> 00:09:54.660

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And it was fine and the guys treated me like a sister they really did, but looking back there was a lot now as a 41 year old mom that I'd be like,

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00:09:55.830 --> 00:10:02.100

Julie Hendricks (she/her): You are sexually harassing me stop you know, like some of the dirty jokes and that kind of stuff I just.

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00:10:02.880 --> 00:10:21.600

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I probably sacrificed a lot, as far as like my feminism that i've found since getting out to be one of the guys but, overall I did have a good experience you know, I was, I was lucky because I've heard a lot of stories where women haven't had great experiences so.

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00:10:22.200 --> 00:10:28.020

Josie Ballard (she/her): If there was one piece of advice you could give like a high school girl who's going into the Naval Academy what would it be?

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00:10:29.700 --> 00:10:30.540

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um.

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00:10:32.430 --> 00:10:34.110

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I guess it would be like,

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00:10:35.280 --> 00:10:41.640

Julie Hendricks (she/her): See this sounds so cliché and awful but like stay true to yourself, you know, like don't let anybody

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00:10:44.010 --> 00:10:55.770

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um like change the way you act. Like you don't have to try to conform because you're there for a reason for your talents and you know, like you, don't need other people's

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00:10:58.350 --> 00:11:01.740

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um approval I guess to fit in so.

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00:11:02.040 --> 00:11:04.080

Josie Ballard (she/her): That's good clichés are there for a reason. (Laughs)

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00:11:06.840 --> 00:11:07.740

Julie Hendricks (she/her): (laughs) It sounds so corny.

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00:11:10.080 --> 00:11:13.800

Josie Ballard (she/her): So how do you think you've grown or changed since leaving the Navy?

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00:11:15.420 --> 00:11:16.140

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um.

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00:11:17.640 --> 00:11:21.090

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Well, I think a little bit about what I said, you know i'm definitely much more

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00:11:22.710 --> 00:11:24.870

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um ready to say something if

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00:11:26.400 --> 00:11:39.900

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um someone says something offensive or does something offensive i'm not like scared to speak up. Um and and also when I left the navy that coincided with becoming a mom so there are a lot of

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00:11:43.320 --> 00:11:46.260

Julie Hendricks (she/her): uh I have changed a lot, I guess, as far as um

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00:11:47.310 --> 00:11:48.150

Julie Hendricks (she/her): My priorities.

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00:11:50.880 --> 00:11:58.770

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Uh but yeah I mean it's hard to separate the two it was like I became a helicopter pilot and then I became a mom.

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00:12:02.640 --> 00:12:06.960

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um and I said I changed a lot, but maybe maybe my personality hasn't changed that much just uh

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00:12:08.310 --> 00:12:10.680

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Just my day to day activities (both laugh)

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00:12:12.450 --> 00:12:13.530

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Have changed quite a bit.

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00:12:15.330 --> 00:12:23.280

Josie Ballard (she/her): Yeah i'm curious about the helicopter thing, how did you uh was that something you always wanted to do or did you find that later when you were at the Academy?

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00:12:24.660 --> 00:12:27.660

Julie Hendricks (she/her): No, I found it out later I always thought that I would go on a ship and

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00:12:28.860 --> 00:12:35.760

Julie Hendricks (she/her): When you're there every summer you get to go and kind of see a different, you get to be on a ship and so

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00:12:36.570 --> 00:12:43.380

Julie Hendricks (she/her): The summer before my senior year I got to be with a Squadron and I ended up uh here in San Diego and spent a month

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00:12:43.920 --> 00:12:58.320

Julie Hendricks (she/her): With these like 26 year old dudes going to the bars every, every week and that was legitimately I was like oh my God, I want to move to San Diego and fly helicopters like it had nothing to do with a mission.

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00:12:59.850 --> 00:13:15.960

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Well, search and rescue appealed to me actually. I kind of wanted to kind of be that I didn't want anything to do with like weapons, which is so silly when you're in the navy, I was like yeah I wanna be a search and rescue pilot and live in San Diego and Pacific beach and life will be good.

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00:13:17.970 --> 00:13:22.590

Julie Hendricks (she/her): So it really is as simple as that, like I had fun with the squadron.

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00:13:23.640 --> 00:13:25.530

Josie Ballard (she/her): What kind of stuff did you do?

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00:13:26.610 --> 00:13:31.260

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um I deployed on an aircraft carrier so um

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00:13:32.310 --> 00:13:43.710

Julie Hendricks (she/her): We did train, there are a couple of different like helicopter variants that I trained on and so most of what we did was flying around in case one of the jets crashed, and so we would rescue them.

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00:13:44.940 --> 00:13:52.290

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um one time a person fell off the ship and I got, I was the Co pilot when we pulled him out of the water that was pretty cool.

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00:13:54.000 --> 00:13:57.420

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And then we would like do patrols near um

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00:13:59.190 --> 00:14:04.620

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Iraq's oil platforms, we would just kind of like show a presence, so no one would

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00:14:05.850 --> 00:14:07.560

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Try to attack the oil platforms.

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00:14:07.890 --> 00:14:09.630

Josie Ballard (she/her): Wow.

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00:14:10.950 --> 00:14:17.760

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um yeah and then we did a lot of training for stuff that like we never actually flew like overland combat rescue and stuff like that.

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00:14:19.200 --> 00:14:20.340

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Mostly just flying around.

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00:14:22.980 --> 00:14:25.980

Josie Ballard (she/her): That's so cool. Where is the coolest place that you flew over?

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00:14:30.300 --> 00:14:31.500

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um that's a good question.

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00:14:33.000 --> 00:14:34.080

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um.

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00:14:36.570 --> 00:14:42.720

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I'll tell you, the one thing I miss about flying is flying over the Coronado bridge at sunset (laughs).

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00:14:43.740 --> 00:14:46.380

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like San Diego is honestly, like the most beautiful place (clears throat).

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00:14:48.240 --> 00:14:57.840

Julie Hendricks (she/her): To be up in the air and seeing all of San Diego it's very cool um but we flew through like the Straits of Malacca.

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00:14:59.310 --> 00:15:09.690

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like next to Spain and some other straits which I can't remember, and we did some cool flights over the country of Albania which I had never

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00:15:12.000 --> 00:15:13.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um have since never thought about so um.
(Both laugh)

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00:15:16.290 --> 00:15:18.210

Josie Ballard (she/her): I haven't heard that country in a long time.

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00:15:20.130 --> 00:15:27.780

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Yeah (inaudible) and did some training there so mostly we got excited about the port visits, though

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00:15:29.850 --> 00:15:30.990

Julie Hendricks (she/her): So flying like eh.

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00:15:32.400 --> 00:15:43.860

Josie Ballard (she/her): Oh my gosh wow. So I guess transitioning a little bit to the organization that you work with, We All We Got San Diego, uh could you tell me a little bit about the organization and how it got started.

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00:15:44.940 --> 00:15:53.310

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Yeah so the organization is a mutual aid which I before I got involved with it, I didn't know what a mutual aid was but um.

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00:15:53.820 --> 00:16:03.210

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Christina Griffin Jones and DJ Kuttin Kandi both two really prominent activists in San Diego who also I had never I had not known of them.

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00:16:03.690 --> 00:16:22.500

Julie Hendricks (she/her): They just knew that with COVID that people were going to be hurting you know people were going to not have enough food by or money to buy food and so they're like well let's just start a mutual aid and, and so they did they um got together with some other folks

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00:16:23.880 --> 00:16:30.930

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um and created a system, basically, where uh people who could volunteer their time would um

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00:16:33.060 --> 00:16:43.860

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Take requests from people who needed groceries and then they'd um coordinate with other volunteers to go to the grocery store buy people what they needed and it was really um.

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00:16:45.660 --> 00:16:51.450

Julie Hendricks (she/her): It there were a little bit of growing pains, because a lot of the people who had the capacity to help out like people like me

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00:16:53.490 --> 00:17:05.880

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um didn't quite understand a mutual aid and so like when someone says, I need X, Y and Z we were not questioning X, Y and Z we we tried to stay on budget because we were accepting like.

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00:17:06.390 --> 00:17:13.650

Julie Hendricks (she/her): It was all donation based everybody was just um asking their friends for money and posting and doing all sorts of individual fundraising.

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00:17:15.780 --> 00:17:28.680

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um and so it was neat to kind of see to be able to fulfill people's requests and to be able to um find new volunteers who were excited about doing it and got to meet you know other people in San Diego.

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00:17:30.690 --> 00:17:34.350

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um so that's that's kind of how it started it was basically almost like a

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00:17:35.490 --> 00:17:44.430

Julie Hendricks (she/her): acute need for grocery delivery in the in the beginning, and then we sort of tried to we've definitely tried to evolve we're still trying to evolve as far as um

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00:17:46.770 --> 00:17:57.150

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like not just political education, but the way we distribute foods that's more accessible for more people, so we basically stopped doing the grocery delivery and now we do um

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00:17:57.480 --> 00:18:08.910

Julie Hendricks (she/her): We still deliver but we make like food packs that are just more economical to make and buy and then we do food distribution. We have a couple different sources that we get for free.

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00:18:09.510 --> 00:18:20.010

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And we distribute on Thursday and Friday in City Heights um and neighbors can just drive up and whatever we have we put in packs and we give to them and then um

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00:18:21.300 --> 00:18:32.940

Julie Hendricks (she/her): On Saturday, as we do, hygiene packs too, so if people need like toilet paper and deodorant and and that type of stuff baby diapers, formula, wipes that type of stuff so it's still like

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00:18:34.080 --> 00:18:38.130

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um still evolving and we're still figuring out the best way to

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00:18:39.810 --> 00:18:40.770

Julie Hendricks (she/her): be able to

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00:18:42.690 --> 00:18:48.330

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um like empower our neighbors and empower Community Members to be able to be a part of the system.

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00:18:49.410 --> 00:18:52.320

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But um I kind of went off there so that's (laughs)

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00:18:53.820 --> 00:18:56.100

Julie Hendricks (she/her): How it started and that's what we're doing now.

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00:18:57.930 --> 00:19:07.320

Josie Ballard (she/her): For anyone who doesn't know, I guess, could you explain a little bit what mutual how mutual aid is different from like a typical food distribution or a volunteer organization?

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00:19:07.710 --> 00:19:14.820

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah yeah yeah so mutual aid is the concept of like meeting people where they are and um

152

00:19:16.680 --> 00:19:22.230

Julie Hendricks (she/her): it's basically solidarity not charity, we say that a lot, but what it really you know what it means is like

153

00:19:23.070 --> 00:19:36.060

Julie Hendricks (she/her): it's not a bunch of people who have money being like you're good enough to get this but don't come back for another month because you've gotten your portion for this week, or like it's not making people feel bad about the fact that they don't

154

00:19:37.200 --> 00:19:41.700

Julie Hendricks (she/her): You know they can't meet their needs it's like showing up for each other and treating

155

00:19:42.120 --> 00:19:55.920

Julie Hendricks (she/her): A stranger the way you would treat your sister or brother like yes, yes, if you need please ask me if you need more, and like doing what we can to actually like take care of each other and so we're all kind of like

156

00:19:59.610 --> 00:20:00.660

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um how do I want to put it?

157

00:20:01.770 --> 00:20:10.470

Julie Hendricks (she/her): it's like living in a world where like we all deserve to be living in and that we want to live in, but that we can't because of rules and capitalism and

158

00:20:11.430 --> 00:20:18.870

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And, like the way our country is it's kind of fighting against that, in a way into showing up for your neighbors and not judging.

159

00:20:19.530 --> 00:20:32.490

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um like I said, trying to empower people so it's not just a one way right it's not just people with resources and money, giving to other people, which sometimes it does look like that

honestly um.

160

00:20:33.570 --> 00:20:34.080

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But it's,

161

00:20:35.160 --> 00:20:44.820

Julie Hendricks (she/her): it's not to make us feel better you know it's like we're all kind of learning and unlearning and and trying to figure out how to make it better for everybody.

162

00:20:45.990 --> 00:21:03.000

Josie Ballard (she/her): Yeah I mean for sure that's kind of what drew me to this organization.. I didn't know much about mutual aid either when I uh started working with you guys so it's been cool to learn, um could you talk a little bit about what you do like for the organization and on a day to day basis?

163

00:21:04.050 --> 00:21:08.280

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Yes, so in the beginning, I was someone who

164

00:21:09.930 --> 00:21:18.540

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um was I forget what we were called in the beginning, but basically someone who was like an operations person like taking in the request matching the volunteers.

165

00:21:18.960 --> 00:21:31.920

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And i've done that, throughout the whole time I I do, that a little bit less now and, and that includes like people will text message us and email us and so responding to people and.

166

00:21:33.540 --> 00:21:42.540

Julie Hendricks (she/her): That part is actually it's really difficult because when you realize how hard it is for someone to admit that they're like experiencing

167

00:21:43.110 --> 00:21:54.210

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um food insecurity and then oftentimes I shouldn't say oftentimes but yeah oftentimes we can't get them exactly what they need because we just don't have the funding or whatever, and so.

168

00:21:54.750 --> 00:22:02.250

Julie Hendricks (she/her): A lot of it is just kind of like communicating to people and figuring out well we can't do this for you but, but what else can we do so it's

169

00:22:03.660 --> 00:22:06.570

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I've done a lot of that and then

170

00:22:08.460 --> 00:22:10.110

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Now we,

171

00:22:12.060 --> 00:22:16.020

Julie Hendricks (she/her): We try not to be hierarchical, but we have roles called um

172

00:22:17.100 --> 00:22:22.320

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Harmonizers who are these mostly just people who are out like local activists.

173

00:22:23.850 --> 00:22:30.090

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I literally read about them in the paper i'm like oh my gosh I was just on a call with them oh my gosh wow

174

00:22:31.350 --> 00:22:43.470

Julie Hendricks (she/her): fangirl girl (laughs) um and so they have experienced doing the work persay, and then the navigators are the people who kind of like have been doing this for a while and know how it goes and so now i'm kind of a navigator and I help um,

175

00:22:45.540 --> 00:22:46.110

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I help um

176

00:22:47.760 --> 00:22:49.830

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like make sure the roles are filled every week um.

177

00:22:51.660 --> 00:23:03.570

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Talk you know talk to people um and ask people if they can, if they can be there and then, when i'm able to i'll go to the food distribution or i'll push do the bulk shopping or

make deliveries.

178

00:23:05.790 --> 00:23:08.280

Josie Ballard (she/her): yeah i've done a little bit of driving myself.

179

00:23:09.660 --> 00:23:10.290

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah it's.

180

00:23:11.520 --> 00:23:14.610

Julie Hendricks (she/her): That was something that struck me as far as.

181

00:23:17.490 --> 00:23:22.230

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like I always thought San Diego was so white like I lived in Coronado,

182

00:23:22.770 --> 00:23:39.750

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Little Italy, North Park, and now I live in Del Cerro and so being able to actually get out into San Diego and like meeting people and you're not really having a conversation necessarily, it is as much as we try it is a little bit of like you know, like when you drop off it's it's you

183

00:23:40.920 --> 00:23:45.000

Julie Hendricks (she/her): You make a little bit of small talk, sometimes, but it is just nice to like

184

00:23:46.380 --> 00:23:49.350

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Be in other neighborhoods and and see

185

00:23:50.400 --> 00:23:57.870

Julie Hendricks (she/her): uh like I would say the vibrancy of some of the other neighborhoods that I just kind of took for granted, before before being able to be a part of this.

186

00:23:58.590 --> 00:24:06.810

Josie Ballard (she/her): yeah definitely I mean I grew up in San Diego my whole life too so well I I lived in mostly La Jolla so.

187

00:24:07.470 --> 00:24:15.540

Josie Ballard (she/her): I understand, like going in and I think that was my favorite part about doing the driving is getting to see other parts of San Diego and.

188

00:24:16.350 --> 00:24:19.050

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah and just appreciating the fact that, like

189

00:24:20.490 --> 00:24:32.130

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Not all of San Diego is rich and this is a problem and, like, I was just so naive, I guess, and being a part of this organization has really opened up my eyes about like

190

00:24:34.800 --> 00:24:37.890

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um yes, some of the problems we have in the city.

191

00:24:38.940 --> 00:24:46.230

Josie Ballard (she/her): Yeah definitely is there a conversation or a memory from working with the organization that's left an impact on you?

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00:24:57.090 --> 00:24:58.230

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Um I, hmm I will say that um

193

00:25:00.210 --> 00:25:19.740

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Christina Griffin Jones uh who was one on the founders she has really called me in and just called the group in as far as like centering black and people of color and indigenous and all the people who we say that we're centering and um

194

00:25:21.540 --> 00:25:22.320

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I mean I

195

00:25:23.970 --> 00:25:27.510

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I don't want to get into anything specific other than she

196

00:25:28.860 --> 00:25:34.830

Julie Hendricks (she/her): has really educated me about like my own

privilege and um.

197

00:25:36.000 --> 00:25:43.440

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And like I said, some of the ways that people are mistreated and how certain things are not okay to even say

198

00:25:44.790 --> 00:25:49.800

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um because it's harmful so just any conversation i've had with her basically um.

199

00:25:51.570 --> 00:25:58.470

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And then i'm trying to think of any other specific conversations like with neighbors.

200

00:25:59.760 --> 00:26:00.510

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um.

201

00:26:01.680 --> 00:26:15.450

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I mean, I guess it just goes back to like it impacted me greatly to talk to people who are being so vulnerable about their own position or food insecurity and it's really changed like um uh

202

00:26:20.070 --> 00:26:28.110

Julie Hendricks (she/her): For someone who has never experienced food insecurity myself it's just changed like my view of our system.

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00:26:30.000 --> 00:26:31.680

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um how messed up, it is and how,

204

00:26:35.700 --> 00:26:48.420

Julie Hendricks (she/her): How i'll never be able to just like comfortably live without thinking about the fact that there are so many people who are not comfortably living and what am I doing about it personally, you know like it's the whole thing has really just changed

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00:26:50.550 --> 00:26:55.710

Julie Hendricks (she/her): How I try to live it's definitely still trying, you know it's very it's like,

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00:26:56.760 --> 00:26:58.290

Julie Hendricks (she/her): No one's going to be perfect at this.

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00:26:59.640 --> 00:27:00.300

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But um,

208

00:27:01.380 --> 00:27:06.780

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But yeah I'll never just be like comfortable and satisfied, again I don't think I hope not.

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00:27:07.860 --> 00:27:20.220

Josie Ballard (she/her): yeah it definitely yeah it was a big shocker to me to to see how how different mutual aid is too, would you say like would you ever go back to working with something that wasn't mutual aid?

210

00:27:21.540 --> 00:27:22.170

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um.

211

00:27:23.250 --> 00:27:26.370

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah well yeah I think I would in that.

212

00:27:27.690 --> 00:27:30.090

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Because I need to get paid I need to find a job (laughs).

213

00:27:30.960 --> 00:27:31.260

Josie Ballard (she/her): yeah that's fair (laughs).

214

00:27:32.340 --> 00:27:35.370

Julie Hendricks (she/her): The not for profit they've taught me a lot about why not for profit

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00:27:35.400 --> 00:27:44.460

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Is sucky as far as like the limits, because the government is mostly doing a lot of the funding and the rules and so like I like I mentioned before, well

216

00:27:44.940 --> 00:27:56.580

Julie Hendricks (she/her): you've already gotten your food for the week or for this month, so you can't come back like different rules like that I think I would, if only to maybe try to push back a little bit.

217

00:27:58.920 --> 00:28:08.280

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um but I don't think i'd ever give any of my time or money to like a big nonprofit like if I have extra money now it goes to We All We Got not um.

218

00:28:09.990 --> 00:28:15.600

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I guess there's still some organizations that I donate to but as far as like food banks.

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00:28:18.600 --> 00:28:20.130

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um yeah I don't think I would

220

00:28:21.180 --> 00:28:26.400

Julie Hendricks (she/her): want to give my capacity to them or energy to other orgs.

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00:28:28.530 --> 00:28:29.700

Josie Ballard (she/her): So I

222

00:28:30.180 --> 00:28:30.900

Josie Ballard (she/her): heard that.

223

00:28:32.340 --> 00:28:34.380

Josie Ballard (she/her): You guys were doing vaccines (COVID-19 vaccines) too.

224

00:28:34.800 --> 00:28:35.430

For.

225

00:28:36.480 --> 00:28:37.140

Josie Ballard (she/her): Could you tell me about that?

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00:28:37.530 --> 00:28:49.410

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um I don't know exactly how the contact was made, but one of our volunteers, who has done so much um Jennifer

Frost Marino she,

227

00:28:51.810 --> 00:29:03.180

Julie Hendricks (she/her): ah I don't know how she had this contact but it's um it's like an indigenous nurses organization i'm going to mess up the organization, we can look it up later perhaps, but she

228

00:29:03.660 --> 00:29:13.350

Julie Hendricks (she/her): reached out to this woman who I think she goes around and does Community clinics and um they so a couple of nurses came we just.

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00:29:14.010 --> 00:29:29.190

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Basically, when neighbors came to get their groceries and I wasn't a part of this, but I believe it was just a verbal conversation hey Have you had a COVID shot, would you like one, and so we took down all their numbers, we call them to confirm and then uh.

230

00:29:30.870 --> 00:29:34.230

Julie Hendricks (she/her): A few of them did not quite a few didn't show up.

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00:29:34.650 --> 00:29:40.590

Julie Hendricks (she/her): But the nurses didn't care, and I think is one of them is really quite an activist and they were just happy to like they,

232

00:29:40.830 --> 00:29:48.150

Julie Hendricks (she/her): It was cool to be in City Heights and then, as people started showing up for the food distro we were able to give vaccines to some people who were just waiting in line.

233

00:29:49.650 --> 00:29:55.650

Julie Hendricks (she/her): So I think they're going to try to do that, a few more times, but I don't have all the details um.

234

00:29:58.950 --> 00:30:13.200

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Though yeah the goal is like hey if you're undocumented that's Okay, like you, don't need an ID you don't need insurance these these women have vaccines and they want to give them to people and so like it was like a safe place to come get the vaccine

which was really cool.

235

00:30:13.680 --> 00:30:18.810

Josie Ballard (she/her): yeah I think that makes a huge difference too coming from an organization that's trying to help and.

236

00:30:19.230 --> 00:30:21.840

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah yeah yeah and who's never gonna um

237

00:30:22.920 --> 00:30:26.130

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Again, like no ID necessary just come and

238

00:30:27.840 --> 00:30:28.920

Julie Hendricks (she/her): you're not gonna get in trouble,

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00:30:30.090 --> 00:30:32.460

Julie Hendricks (she/her): not going to get a big bill, you know.

240

00:30:33.000 --> 00:30:44.280

Josie Ballard (she/her): Yeah, so COVID has obviously been a big thing this year, how would you say it's influenced the Community that uh We All We Got has been working with and your decision to become a volunteer?

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00:30:49.050 --> 00:30:54.960

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Well um I guess truly honestly I didn't interact with

242

00:30:56.190 --> 00:30:57.090

Julie Hendricks (she/her): People

243

00:30:58.530 --> 00:31:04.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Other than like my circle before COVID, so I don't know if I feel comfortable necessarily like

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00:31:06.210 --> 00:31:13.890

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um answering how has it affected the the larger Community I mean.

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00:31:15.840 --> 00:31:32.430

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I have talked to people who yeah have definitely like lost their job or they're starting to have just started up a business and couldn't get it started and that type of stuff um but I couldn't pinpoint one thing necessarily that's changed,

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00:31:35.280 --> 00:31:38.610

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um for like the underserved community, which is what we're trying to help.

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00:31:39.810 --> 00:31:41.940

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um what was the second part of the question.

248

00:31:43.260 --> 00:31:45.870

Josie Ballard (she/her): How did it influence your decision to volunteer?

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00:31:46.500 --> 00:31:58.740

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Oh um yeah, so I am really lucky my so my husband is still in the military so like job security was not a thing when this started and.

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00:31:59.190 --> 00:32:10.800

Julie Hendricks (she/her): We had just moved back to San Diego so I didn't have a job yet I was going to start looking and so here, I was just kind of sitting around, and so I was like what can I do to help and so

251

00:32:11.400 --> 00:32:19.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): I was asking a group of friends does anyone know of any organizations that need any help and um a woman, I know

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00:32:21.030 --> 00:32:24.300

Julie Hendricks (she/her): knows Christina Griffin Jones and she

253

00:32:25.380 --> 00:32:39.840

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Just pointed me in that direction, and so I got in touch and I signed up for this zoom meeting thinking there'd be all these people and there were like six people we're like all right we're doing this actually Rudy was one of them.

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00:32:40.380 --> 00:32:41.310

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And we were like um,

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00:32:43.380 --> 00:32:57.990

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Okay tomorrow I'll start matching drivers that I have we were all every day we're like I have no idea what i'm doing but i'm just going to do this and it just became like like I said it changed me it just not only the work, but the people who um

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00:33:00.210 --> 00:33:17.070

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Like Jen and her partner, uh they are people who dedicate their lives they literally just their lives are about helping other people and so just being able to

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00:33:18.360 --> 00:33:23.460

Julie Hendricks (she/her): uh talk to those people and learn from them and just start understanding um

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00:33:24.930 --> 00:33:26.250

Julie Hendricks (she/her): A lot of the stuff

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00:33:27.450 --> 00:33:32.250

Julie Hendricks (she/her): That I had just ignored previously um mostly about like

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00:33:33.270 --> 00:33:35.370

Julie Hendricks (she/her): My own privilege and um

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00:33:37.020 --> 00:33:50.370

Julie Hendricks (she/her): You know the mistakes i've made. So within a month I just started thinking a little bit differently, and I was like oh well, this is something that I want to keep doing no matter what, and so honestly, it is like um.

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00:33:51.450 --> 00:33:58.110

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Sometimes it's it's, it is hard as far as like the mental load of sometimes um.

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00:33:59.310 --> 00:34:03.060

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Especially talking to folks who are being

really vulnerable.

264

00:34:04.200 --> 00:34:16.290

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um so it like I I sometimes have to take breaks, recently I took a three week break and I just didn't do anything for the organization, but then it's it's really cool because everyone needs that and so

265

00:34:17.190 --> 00:34:29.430

Julie Hendricks (she/her): You get welcomed back in, and you can kind of nobody holds you to certain things you know we like honoring each other's capacity and honor each other's ability to ability or not ability to

266

00:34:30.570 --> 00:34:36.420

Julie Hendricks (she/her): To do what we can so it's everything about it is different and I've just really learned so much.

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00:34:37.590 --> 00:34:37.860

Julie Hendricks (she/her): So.

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00:34:38.220 --> 00:34:43.620

Josie Ballard (she/her): It's probably the most welcoming community too it was my first time walking up to the Brown Building and

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00:34:43.920 --> 00:34:48.600

Josie Ballard (she/her): Everyone came up to me and was like what do you need, how can I help you I was like whoa nice to meet all of you.

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00:34:49.650 --> 00:34:50.520

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Yeah.

271

00:34:50.550 --> 00:34:52.020

Josie Ballard (she/her): It's very nice.

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00:34:52.500 --> 00:34:54.060

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Very non judging.

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00:34:55.320 --> 00:35:00.720

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Unless unless someone kind of is saying

something that is problematic, as far as like

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00:35:02.130 --> 00:35:02.610

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um

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00:35:04.350 --> 00:35:21.180

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Exempting any type of anti black or you know anti LGBTQ, you know, then, but, but at the same time I've kind of learned to techniques to like call people in so you're not afraid to confront someone about it, but at the same time, like we kind of talk about

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00:35:22.710 --> 00:35:29.070

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Assuming good right so you're assuming the person is not trying to cause harm, so how can you talk to that person and just

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00:35:30.360 --> 00:35:38.940

Julie Hendricks (she/her): In a non judgmental way like as as I've been learning like I said I've said certain things that I've been kind of called in about and it's just

278

00:35:40.410 --> 00:35:40.950

Julie Hendricks (she/her): liberating

279

00:35:42.930 --> 00:35:43.830

Julie Hendricks (she/her): truthfully.

280

00:35:45.540 --> 00:35:47.370

Josie Ballard (she/her): Sometimes it's hard to have those conversations, but it's important.

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00:35:48.060 --> 00:35:55.890

Julie Hendricks (she/her): It is, and so, when everyone like you said, are so are so kind from the get go it kind of lets people realize that you don't have to

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00:35:58.170 --> 00:36:06.600

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um you don't have to try to be perfect you just have to come from a place of actually wanting to to help change the way things are yeah.

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00:36:06.990 --> 00:36:15.810

Josie Ballard (she/her): If there was uh someone out there, thinking about volunteering or getting involved with mutual aid what is like one piece of advice or encouragement that you'd give them?

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00:36:19.980 --> 00:36:23.550

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um let's see I guess it would be um,

285

00:36:24.840 --> 00:36:30.300

Julie Hendricks (she/her): don't be scared if you have never done it before like don't feel

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00:36:35.340 --> 00:36:46.590

Julie Hendricks (she/her): um like you'll learn as you go I guess that would be my advice. If this type of work is new to you that's okay um just kind of do what you can to embrace,

287

00:36:48.030 --> 00:37:05.400

Julie Hendricks (she/her): embrace the unlearning because it really is like very anti capitalist anti like patriarchy or you know anti all the things that we as well, you and I, as like white Americans have grown up and so just like it's okay to not um

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00:37:08.670 --> 00:37:15.210

Julie Hendricks (she/her): Understand 100% because the people least this has been my experience, people will teach you.

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00:37:17.880 --> 00:37:18.870

Julie Hendricks (she/her): And you will transform.

290

00:37:21.630 --> 00:37:23.520

Josie Ballard (she/her): Always growing and always learning right.

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00:37:23.880 --> 00:37:24.870

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah for sure.

292

00:37:25.920 --> 00:37:35.430

Josie Ballard (she/her): Well, thank you so much for your time, and you know I, this is a great conversation I really appreciate it is

there anything else that you want to add.

293

00:37:36.960 --> 00:37:46.980

Julie Hendricks (she/her): No, I don't think so um thank you Josie I feel like I talked so much, especially about myself, which is like um I guess that's okay, but.

294

00:37:47.550 --> 00:37:48.090

Josie Ballard (she/her): that's okay that's the point (laughs).

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00:37:49.980 --> 00:37:53.640

Josie Ballard (she/her): We got to learn about you about the organization and that was great thank you.

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00:37:54.060 --> 00:37:55.140

Julie Hendricks (she/her): yeah you're welcome.

297

00:37:55.500 --> 00:37:55.770

Josie Ballard (she/her): (inaudible)

298

00:37:56.610 --> 00:38:02.100

Josie Ballard (she/her): That concludes our interview, oh sorry, with Julie Hendricks, thank you so much um,

299

00:38:05.370 --> 00:38:06.120

Josie Ballard (she/her): (inaudible) stop the recording.