

Community Leader Corps Video Transcript – UCS Student Making a Difference

A lot of times in the North End we're forgotten when it comes to resources or funding.

But, you know what? That's okay. It has made us stronger. We're the experts of our community and we know what needs to be done in order to actually address the issues we're facing.

My name is Yahaira Escribano and I'm a member of the Community Leadership Corps and I'm from the North End of Hartford, Connecticut.

I grew up in a community where poverty was very concentrated. I was directly impacted by food insecurity, violence, drugs, and incarceration.

At night, gunshots were my lullaby. That's the norm for a lot of us in the North End of Hartford.

In the North End specifically, we don't have a grocery store. All you have is the bodega and the Dollar General, where produce is awful or expensive.

You know, often you have to choose between paying your gas bill or going to the grocery store and it's a real issue.

And, because of that I was inspired to do the work that I'm doing today at Foodshare, the food bank for the Hartford and Tolland County here in Connecticut.

I'm a Partner Program Coordinator. I'm working directly with our community members to make sure that we're providing food so they don't have to choose between paying your gas bill, your electric bill, and having to go to the grocery store and have some food.

The best part about my job is that I aim in my own community, talking to our community members to make sure that they have what they need so we continue tackling this issue of food insecurity.

You know, no city is perfect. No place is perfect. And Hartford is not an exception to that, especially the North End.

I hope people start to believe in themselves, to know that they're not alone, that we're not forgotten. And we're going change the community together.

Source: Obama Foundation Community Leadership Corps / Youtube Video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LkrrAkQcZc>)