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Jarma Wrihten: Welcome, Olmar, and we're happy to have you here today. I'm always excited to see my dads...

Olmar Elgoroni: Thank you.

Jarma: ...being involved in their child's life. As we learned earlier, that fathers play a very unique role in the lives of their children and being very active in -- in what you do and creating a sound family environment. You really, truly bring a unique perspective, and we'd like to hear your point of view today. So I'd like to get started with you telling me a little bit about your interest in Head Start and how you got involved.

Olmar: Well, first of all, I have seven kids. And a while back, you know, I did not, you know, believe that kids -- they go early out of the house and all that. I, you know, like protect my kids and -- but when one of my kids, I send it to the Head Start and I see the world different between the one who didn't go to the Head Start and the one went. She is now -- she is a A honor roll. She come there for -- from the Head Start school.

She is totally act different, and my previous kids, they did not go. And she's very smart, very known -- she learn a lots of hygiene and that's -- they don't -- you don't hear that in the schools. She learn a lots of different things and that's what, you know, I felt this is really very important for my kids to be -- you know, for the coming years education, prepare her for everything. So I involve in Head Start really from the beginning. I see how it changed people to -- to -- how it changed the kids, I mean, and not only kids, parent too.

A lots of single, young mother that get help and education through the -- the Head Start. And I -- I think it's -- is -- is wonderful to have a program like that for our kids, and I wish there would be more funds to that and expend to the school system because would take not only the children -- the children and the parent -- and the school doesn't do that. And we -- we help them to go further in education and hopefully everyone will -- will -- will -- will see that and be involved for the Head Start -- with the Head Start.

Jarma: So, Olmar, you said so many great things about the involvement in -- and seeing that as very important for, you know, the world to know that Head Start exists, and just getting more increased awareness about Head Start -- the Head Start program and the benefits of Head Start. You're there now in the Head Start program. Are you a part of Policy Council, father involvement? What's your role there?

Olmar: Well, I start from the bottom. I start, you know, Policy Council. They vote me a parent Policy Council, and I see the program and I see -- I'm involved with my time. I see it make a different for my community, my kids, my family, even make a different for me. The -- the way I think to devote my child, even the meeting I come -- I come to, you know, to the -- to the convention, I learned a lots of thing I didn't know before.

And how to deal with my kids, how to deal with other people kids to help them, and -- and -- and just change the program, not change only the child, change the whole family. And I see -- when I see it help my community and other people need -- need help, like single mom or single dad, and -- and the -- the -- they talk to them and they try to -- to see what -- what I can help you. But the school system doesn't do that.

The school system will, if the child have problem, they send them home or they get them the police to take care of. Head Start doesn't do that. They -- they get somebody to talk to the child and family and see what we can help you, not... Jarma: So you see a real connection between... Olmar: Yes, yes. Jarma: ...Head Start being a support system as well as for families.

Olmar: For families, yes. Jarma: As well as being a foundation to really get a good start. Olmar: Yes, ma'am. Jarma: Okay. You would give fathers what kind of advice for helping their children, being a part of Head Start? What kind of

advice would you give to other fathers?

Olmar: I -- I think young fathers need to be involved and I hope they -- they -- they will be involved for the -- the sake of their child better life. If, you know, that's free help and free is and when then -- when the young people or father -- when they're involved is ...yes sir? Unknown male: You're sweating pretty good, so I want to catch that. (wipes sweat from Olmar's face) Olmar: Yes sir, thanks.

Jarma: We need a fan, huh? That light. Unknown Male: Look back over at her, please. Olmar: Yes, sir: Unknown Male: That's good.

Olmar: Can I have one? Thank you. Unknown Male: Are we still rolling? Jarma: Okay. Olmar: Sorry.

Jarma: That's okay. You're doing good, though, because you're excited about it. Okay, so you're saying young fathers -- you would want to see young fathers...

Olmar: I -- I would like to see young fathers involved with their kids not only at -- particularly in a -- in a -- in general the life kids and outside at home and especially the Head Start. He will learn a lot and know how to deal with the kids. And it's -- it's fun for him and the kids, and he will feel good about himself. And he will see the different happen to the -- the child life. I see my child life, you know, I -- I see not only my child. I watch people go -- children go to the Head Start, when they go to school, they -- they are doing very well.

They already train hygiene, they don't have to -- there's no bully, the children they behave. They A honor roll. Most of the children come from the Head Start, they well behaved when they go to school because they train them with love and -- and they -- they -- they -- they show them how to have the tools. And -- and -- and I -- I think that they nourish -- they nourish the -- the child brain from that age to prepare them to school.

And I wish that system will instead, you know, to send the child to punish them to try to -- to help like the Head Start even though that program to -- to -- to continue to school system to be passionate and -- and look at the -- the child different prospect. Jarma: Okay, so what would be your one last message... Olmar: Yes, ma'am.

Jarma: ...that you would send to, you know, the Head Start community in terms of making connections? Because what you -- what you said earlier, and it sounds really of interest to you, to make sure that the -- the Head Start programs and the school systems have a way to connect with each other so that there's no punitive issues around how the supports are given to the children because your child is gonna transition from Head Start to the public schools.

And so what's the key message you want to send, you know, so that when your child does get ready to transition and go on to the public schools, that you all can work together -- 'cause we want to see hand-in-hand when the kids get ready to transition on and move from Head Start to the next step.

Olmar: Yeah, I -- I -- I would like to see my child instead -- everybody's kids -- instead if they have, you know, problem in school, they handle it different way, not harsh. Or -- or by if the child -- they find out what the problem, what's wrong with the child, you know, something going on at home or the child have, you know, a -- a psychological -- need help, not harshly to call, you know, police on them or -- or -- or punish them or so -- so with -- with love and passion 'cause that's our new generation. Jarma: That's right.

Olmar: And I would like also to -- the President, Barack Obama, to work more fund for -- because that's the best thing for our child -- children and he know that. He know because he was also one of the young people and -- and he have a great life. He was president of [Inaudible] before President of the United States. So he -- he was very successful and he know this will help a lots of kids to -- if he really put more fund to that system, it's gonna help our kids and our nation. Jarma: Okay, okay.

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