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Title: Geri Handa Interview
Narrator: Geri Handa
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 2>

NW: What do you see as, um, challenges working with people who are from different backgrounds. And I'm sure sometimes, there would be different kinds of priorities, or different kinds of interests involved in that. How do you see those challenges in this work?

GH: Well, I think one of the things that, you know, especially with the medical visit, it's, it's something that is, you know, a defined, um, a period of time. So, preparing for it, working on it, and then afterwards, doing the follow up for it is, you know, already predetermined.

NW: Right.

GH: So, we already know how much time possibly it's going to take, and it's not, and it's—even though it's ongoing, it's something that you, you know, your time and your commitment is only for a short period.

NW: Right, right.

GH: So, I think that makes it a lot more easier to involve more people. And, um, and everybody knows their role.

NW: Right, right.

GH: Everybody has a role, and they know what they're supposed to be—to do.

NW: Yeah.

GH: And so, I think that makes it so much easier: it's clearly defined. And I think when it's clearly defined, then you know, well, whether you have the time or you don't have the time. You can actually say beforehand.

NW: Right, right. Yeah.

GH: And you can either commit yourself or not. And I think that's what makes everything work. Yeah.

NW: Yeah.

GH: And I, and I think for those people who, like, some of the volunteers and organizations they've been involved for years. It's, it's also because the people who have been involved are still involved. From the very beginning was . . . some people have changed, but basically, it's the same people. It's, there's been that consistency over time. And I think for, like, the volunteers and the survivors, when they, when they see each other, it's, it's like a luh-li – mini-reunion, you know?

NW: Right. Sure. That's the impression I got as well.

GH: 'Cause you've come to know each other.

NW: Yeah, yeah.

GH: And then, for the survivors, it's really important for them to see other survivors. And it's a time for them to just kind of, you know, see that "Oh, gee, you're still around!" you know? "It's nice to see you."

NW: Yeah, yeah.

GH: And, and I think for the, for the, volunteers themselves too, they've come to know each other and then also they've come to know the survivors. So, it's something that I think every two years, we have a chance to do that. To reconnect.

NW: Yeah. So that's something that you can look forward to, even though, it's a lot of, you know, work to do. But, I, I see what you mean when you said that, you know, there are certainly clearly defined roles for everybody. So, everybody knows what they're expected of doing.

GH: They know what to expect . . .

NW: Yeah.

GH: . . . and what they're going to be doing and what their participation is. And, so that's what I think has made it easier, easier.

NW: Yeah.

GH: And so when it comes to a kind of adjusting in case something were to happen that's kind of unusual, whatever . . .

NW: Yeah, like a urine examination.

GH: . . . it's, yeah. It's yeah, it's yeah. It's, you know, okay.

NW: So, miscommunication might take place, but because people are used to doing it, that can be taken care of as well.

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