

How did you feel when you got pregnant at 17?

I was scared. I was more scared that I did something wrong than I was scared of the enormity of what was about to happen.

What was your childhood like?

The earliest I can remember I was 3. We lived in a strawberry field because my parents picked strawberries for a living. We were surrounded by Mexican and Japanese workers. When I got to Kindergarten all I spoke was Spanish and a little bit of Japanese. The teacher told my mom to take me home and teach me the basics like my name and the words "water" and "don't feel good".

How much pressure were you under trying to raise five kids at 23?

It was difficult because the hardest parts were keeping the house clean and making sure everyone ate properly.

What year did you guys move into the Rubion house?

Cynthia was 11 do 1977

Did you have any support from anyone but your husband?

Not really, we were on our own.

Was his job in construction enough to support your whole family?

His job was only part time so we did not have a lot of money but we made do with what we did have.

Which one of your kids gave you the most trouble?

I think it would have to be Louis because nothing could get him motivated. I would tell him to go to his room and he would fall asleep because he didn't care. He had a laid back attitude.

How did your goals change after you had your kids?

I decided I was going to put five intelligent, hardworking, God fearing people on earth. We could not think about ourselves anymore.

Do you have any regrets?

Really, no. None. Everything that I have done has gotten me to this point so I would not change a thing.

What are your goals now?

I want to get in good health to live to be 100. I want to be healthy enough to travel. I want to be healthy through my nineties.

Do you think living in San Jose had any effect on your life?

Yes, I love San Jose, it's filled with all different kinds of people. It's smaller than New York or Los Angeles but bigger than Morgan Hill. The weather is warmer than San Francisco but colder than places in the south.