

Ana

*Ana discusses her work in a church-based food bank in Ravenel that provides services to diverse communities in the region. "I had traveled all over this place and I had seen the poverty, the poverty that people have, and then the Lord called upon us to give." She was born in Mendoza, Argentina and was about sixty years old at the time of this interview.*

ML: A food Bank, explain it a little bit.

A: The food bank is . . . we go and shop for the food bank, but also the government helps us since we have entered a phase where we cater to so many people; there are many poor African American people coming.

ML: Here in Ravenel?

A: Yes, there are a lot of very poor people, and they come from Hanahan to get food. We serve the people, the community, no matter where you are, whether you are American, African American, whatever. Any one that needs it gets food. It is free, and it is work that we are doing every week since we started. We started with that little place, that little room, and there we prepared . . . we started at the church, you can see it in the photos, we started just with the people in the church and then we started receiving many more people. We had the opportunity to start a project where the government would help us and then we would give it back to all the people.

ML: According to what you have told me and to the best of my knowledge, all of your work with the church, because of you background and your culture, was originally intended to serve the Hispanic community, but your work, or the work of the Lord in this church, has opened up to other people. When did you realize that "The door has to be opened to the whole world"? When did it happen?

A: Well, the Lord shows you that not only the Hispanic community has needs.

ML: How did you see it?

A: Yes, because I had traveled all over this place and I had seen the poverty, in the trailers, the poverty that people have, and then the Lord called upon us to give.

ML: How is it that the community in Ravenel knows about this program? Do you have a sign out there that says, "Cristo Viene"? I have not seen it, how has the community learned about it?

A: Because we made flyers in Spanish and English, double sided, and we distributed them to everyone. It was on Sundays, up until not very long ago, and there are photos of people waiting in line, a line that went out to the street with people waiting for food. Then there were more and more, more and more, and that's why now we run for two days. We started doing two days to

serve—and most of the people who come are African American and American families—one hundred, more than one hundred and fifty families.

Ana, Interview by Marina López, May 5, 2012