

## MAMADOU

My life is a normal life, you know. What I stand for is right is right, wrong is wrong. I was born in West Africa, country of Senegal. I was born, raised, grew up in Senegal, and I came to the US in 1996. I had a friend who used to live here in Kansas City. My first time in Kansas was 2007. I came here for like 40 days. I liked it. So I decide to move to Kansas.

I was a fisherman. I worked mostly in Alaska. In 2011, I went to my country and when I came back, they put me on a standby. So I'd been waiting to get a job back for almost two years. I didn't get no job because I was collecting unemployment. After I run out of unemployment, I became homeless for two years, but I think it was a good thing for me because I saw a lot of things. The good thing about being homeless, I walk away from a lot of things. Things like smoking cigarettes, weed, and drinking.

Ten years, I don't smoke, I don't drink alcohol. That was a blessing for me. I learned how to sew while being homeless. I started making my own clothes. I thank God for being homeless. I mean, being homeless, you're not a loser. You can be homeless for any reason. If you're jobless first, you don't have a place to live. If you don't have a place to live, you may end up in the shelter. A lot of people would be under shelter and go back to the right track, get a job, get a place and go on. Some people give up, some people don't give up. It can happen to anyone. You just don't have a right to give up. You just gotta put it in your mind.

I've been to a couple of shelters. I've been to Union Mission and Hope and Faith. That's where I learned how to sew clothes. Now, I've been living with reStart for two years. They offered me a job in the kitchen. Since I've been here, they're helping me get my place, pay my rent, pay all my bills, and give me anything I need to move on.

The hardest thing to being homeless is you got to deal with, you know, someone your partner, someone are homeless people. But some of them did wrong. Some of them just do whatever they want to do. But some of them they like cause I'm in this like a lot of situation met people being homeless. Some people just give up, just people they never going to make it easier on people who try to make it. So that's the only hard part. But we saw some people. They're nice people, very polite people, you know, try to echo work their way around. But some people that don't. Some people who give up the homeless cause it probably will cause trouble 24/7 and you got to deal with and you got to walk away from the drama.

I mean, the good way to live is to have respect. You know, respect everybody. I have to give you respect. I think everybody should respect everyone. You won't be a headache in this world, but I cannot give you respect and you disrespect me. I will disrupt a district, somebody else. And that's not the right thing to do, right? I mean, we came here like a

lack of people, but we don't have to act like animals.

I mean, even the dog you wanna raise in your house, you gotta teach them good manners. You don't let the dog in your house doing his own thing. That's like us. You cannot come in this world. I mean, do whatever you want to do. I mean, that's wrong, because you're going to hurt some people. Your freedom is somewhere where somebody has freedom is inside. I mean, I don't have to disrespect you. You don't have to disrespect me. That's how you can live. I may be wrong, but that's what I'm thinking.

My dream is peace around the world. That's the only dream I got.

Home? A home mean to me is like a that there's no place like home, right? But home is the world. That's the world for the man, for people. We all belong to this world. His world being met by God. So I don't care where. Wherever I'm going to be a part of it. That's what I believe. Since I was a kid. And I feel wherever I put my feet, I think God want me to be there. So if I put my feet anywhere, I've got to represent. I got to be who I am. I respect everybody. I don't believe I. I don't believe WICKER one day disrespect people. That's not me. I mean, I believe respect people will be very polite to people helping people because I want it back.

What goes around always come back around. I mean, if you respect people, that's how you're going to end up. Somebody's going to do this to you. But I mean, life is easy, but you make it easy. That's earth. That's natural. You want to buy a house and you got to build your own house the way you want it. That's how life is. You want to make it easy. He can be easier. You want to make it hard. He going to be hard.

Love. I mean, I'm a believer. I'm a muslim for God. So wherever he met is his word. He meant he loved the human rights better. He didn't have no caller. So if I believe in God, then that's what I'm signed up for. Of course, God made people. So I love people. I got to love people. If I love God, I've got to love people. That's what love means to me. I've got to give love to everybody. I wish everybody give me love. But that's not the way it is. You know, you love somebody. Somebody hate you. You're going to end up hate somebody. All the fight in this war, you see people dying for no reason. There's a lot of killing for no reason. We need love, peace. We love. You cannot have peace.