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Employee Spotlight – Annette Erazo

(Opening)

(Description: Travelers employee Annette Erazo sits with a general workspace in the background.)

(Speech begins)

My name is Annette Erazo. I am the AVP of workers comp in the Southern Claim Center.

(Description: Annette is walking down a hallway at Travelers and smiling, sits down to continue speech.)

(Speech continues)

I joined the Hispanic Latino and Allies Diversity Network, and we have an Affinity Month. And for the Affinity Month, we always pick and choose a theme. The theme for this year was bridging cultures serving our communities. Conectando culturas sirviendo la comunidades.

I wanted to give back those opportunities to others to see them grow, to be as much of a change that I can within the company and outside of the company. So, the Happy Hope organization is an organization that provides several volunteer opportunities for children that are either hospitalized or may be homeless across our country. So what resonated with me personally about this organization in particular is about giving back to the community. They provide different ranges of opportunities to volunteer to help them.

(Description: Annette is sitting down at a workspace, looking through a children's book, *The Ugly Duckling*.)

(Speech continues)

So you can record yourself reading a book in English or in Spanish to them. Our parents always said, the best thing we can give you is knowledge and studies and education.

(Description: Speech continues and moves over to a shot of two Travelers employees going through a children's book.)

Reading is knowledge. Reading provides imagination. It helps the soul, it helps the heart, and it takes me back kind of to my roots with my parents. And to be able to do it in my first language, which is Spanish, that was the first step for me to be like, I definitely want to sign up.

(Description: Speech continues over a shot of Annette sitting with colleagues going over children's books).

My hope for the children that see these videos and see the notes also that we wrote them, they understand that even though they might be going through difficult times, that they see that their community cares for them and has not forgotten them.

(Description: Annette talks about the below notes, which are shown on the screen. The notes are hand written by employees with stickers and colorful pens.)

So, the Happy Hope notes were personalized messages for children, because we know sometimes in your darkest moments or in some sad moments, you might not feel it. But when you hear someone else and you have the support of that other person rooting you on and being a cheerleader, those Happy Hope notes were that it's us being the cheerleader for all these children.

(Description: Annette continues speaking while shot of her laughing with coworkers.)

(Description: Annette sits for the rest of the video with general workplace background.)

(Speech continues)

There were so many offices that just sent submissions of notes. There were about 50 videos that were sent of readings in English and in Spanish for children. So, being a Travelers employee has really helped in regards to giving back to the community. That's something that's pivotal to just my moral being, of who I am, of being a leader within Travelers. So, by volunteering through Travelers, you can also log your volunteer hours. So, logging your volunteer hours is not just something you need to do. It's something that you can also give back by logging your volunteer hours. So, you can log your hours, say that it's two or three hours that you spent recording a video or doing a Happy Hope note or any other activity that you did. And then those hours turn into a percentage that you can use towards another foundation that you might be passionate about.

You're not just giving back to the organization you worked with. You can also give back to other organizations that you also maybe feel passionate about. So, I volunteered in Happy Hope because I am very proud to be who I am and where I'm from, and being able to share my language with other children that are Spanish speaking, that for me was everything. It brought me back to the moments with my mom reading books to me.

It brought me hope, it brought love to my heart, just thinking of my mom and what she would do for me and that I was doing this for some child. That I might not see them, but I know it might bring hope and light to them.

(Ending)

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