Michael Kunkel ([13:43:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Gi8j9B1egk-HjZjJCYr-HuxFoGeQefziGXhiEeCblOvNxE_fakC_9Tw3Y9xzzzao_Sch5Sb9vQuJvx5sUfLqVKbDFTQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=0.06)):

Okay. Michael C. Kunkel, M-I-C-H-A-E-L, middle initial C. with the dots, Kunkel, K-U-N-K-E-L. I do have an academic title of PhD, I usually put behind that if that matters.

Preston ([13:43:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Q7df9zKvy3VQ7Ov7EhxRIjyq-VHa42gufm3WzTpDpxslW3nlSs8LOr1glztiIuqHyDdDqXKMgLxgIfveyv4t8GnDv-8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=15.33)):

Sure.

Michael Kunkel ([13:43:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/G77cwA8e3p8jWFI529p8pqn2EhxMpviQMrEVebpGavbOdldDVot9QOSFH8PgRWnbSG64mzQAjvm7haz9SGvb00TU4-M?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=16.02)):

Okay.

Preston ([13:43:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/S2BRLbIOSaAB8U0nqU3VkGo616COf9O13cTP1pbOxrp4RBIpdCoPnJyWGg8H1Bppnm8U5qhMeNauZ9fVpcmKrPKiyqI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=17.46)):

Last time we had a conversation like this, we were in Chicago together at the build. Just take me back to that day and tell me what that scene looked like and just explain it a little bit for me.

Michael Kunkel ([13:43:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MUQzrsggpAegJAfjedWQVtMpaUVEJc61PU2xVTGxSu0QK42ZhR2QVrXeLqxMOVoY_AGXvncwQvR5i5QzaZ0rzIb2GJU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=28.2)):

From waking up to going to bed?

Preston ([13:43:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1VRpsFYONn3E5dY7JmV0sgpKJLwd3p5L0uKsmalyGTZEncixUKzlSxezMUMu3MqaNtBApK7l2hZaaRQ2Z-vNPvxMZIw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=31.23)):

Really the build part of it. Once everybody had descended upon OneFamily and started building the playground-

Michael Kunkel ([13:43:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/i47yY7yG_sm7tEZWAiBNdCMQk4HyYR5DzbOk6_i6yqE1Z2KFsC5CXGkUbz4KE18MCDJQ6_o73rlglRbrj0tUZIWj3aM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=37.38)):

Oh, right.

Preston ([13:43:46](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_r7PhW3jYMyHMPUFXbGJr1o-yF7XemVfOlhLSc6eSqFSFD1fKqHE0jVMnibHCI6SnFB6UPgFTbmrFkMx5oeTXDFK_V4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=37.71)):

... [inaudible 13:43:47].

Michael Kunkel ([13:43:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/sWeeAHppsT6KHwcUT5UPqYvQQz_pNEW_A7hBgQIwM5b0XgBQmw2PQJpGE1N11jNaDzWWLAcavgDAg13eOzQlLWhnfe0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=38.85)):

I had mulch duty. That was great, just watching everyone focused on making a very, very large pile of mulch go from one place to another place where the children were going to play at, and knowing that that was going to be their cushion and their safety net, that mulch, and just watching everyone just get that done. I was, how are we going to get this done in just eight hours? It was massive. We did it. It was a feat. I got to say. It was an impressive feat that we did.

Preston ([13:44:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QwSPGQq4eNskPmLsq7-dduu0gkeFL-XkbnzzEbVgPZSmfDdVKT0LHC8zPw2XeaQFSaykv6vTEBXU-V2H9IwFt7MvLJI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=72.48)):

It was six hours actually.

Michael Kunkel ([13:44:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QbgBz9SBAx-w1PKbcZpba6XnDKJrrei6bg1L8gonamKVVzt20qnoxnrN8QXigp8Xc8I8Ue-A-erTqjqrM6KBIR0B32I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=77.76)):

Was it?

Preston ([13:44:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-nFaoqrFYEBXFrMsg3e_gFupn0eYfeVqlx5suzEcmai7CcogzAwj9HIsPTMYK-eclRjTpgAmw790p8Bv5kXhj9yXXwI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=77.88)):

I think so. 8:00 to 2:00 was [inaudible 13:44:27].,

Michael Kunkel ([13:44:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QPUq2bFcbrdDagIcs5TWCrr4XeGtz1qaSFIm_rXcaNbWJ2r-kxXPTucVVjmF7uigxH-9Y3Ivt8wzrcboRV9rxaWSUKE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=78)):

Oh, you're right.

Preston ([13:44:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/O7uO8oGmQ0PY4pld1xzZ8W2MZqR-cPhaSHwG6NwaCh1UylYLQoODvJkRfj_1LqpnCZFlAqTC4HVaUXdcpnTO61uISpE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=81.09)):

I've been to several of those builds and it's always impressive to see the pile-

Michael Kunkel ([13:44:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1rsfQyeufmOaskPjgX8Yt0fA-JXVXj_9wIg86Ic1fgvaQTNmUNfLm2p_sFgNnlrJq0Ah8RKSfky4ZVYPaH4XPzss_ao?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=86.31)):

Just dwindle down, right?

Preston ([13:44:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wtHUr1YuL3GoS6h0aJlIY49OsHuam87_fsccTC0sgsGbyJECrbPYE5KW6ejponqCxUtqtIa2pWCqUqAaUteiX1sipB8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=87.66)):

... oof mulch in the time-lapse go away.

Michael Kunkel ([13:44:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-_-X3VMyfCPVeDLKT3DQSB5nGKM4ha7UzcYbSGRdJYuHyafKMrYbQKom9LN9jV-iwi1xH7iIccLa_CAmjogngBKig_8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=90.18)):

Do we have a time-lapse of it?

Preston ([13:44:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JhyXtXHiwDHmKBZ4VX9r9F41UDupkf9QegPMG5aUZB288cAxSxXkWD-J8naoI0CG0dvV09bnARk9NyHlsRR30Ftvw6A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=91.11)):

We have a time-lapse of the build where the mulch piles are in the background, but we have had the shot where you can really see the mulch well. But what was it like to be rubbing elbows with your coworkers and different members of the community there as you guys were coming together to make this project happen for the children of OneFamily?

Michael Kunkel ([13:44:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Bqcjw6aExVPzIoEilt-YxxWlFLteIH_Niw2ORUSn7PiCAhiyy8FaPZ3cy8oIhOhubLmcIJHylBEUiuDoHGGlT1Fnr8Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=110.7)):

Watching the participation from coworkers was great, just seeing that they were there to... I don't even know if anyone knew the meaning that it had to me, but just watching them help build and knowing what they were building and who they were building it for was very appreciative of me. Someone could have asked me to cook them a 12 course dinner, anyone, and I would be like, "Absolutely, you have it. I'm so appreciative of you doing this for the children." I just found it very appreciative of my coworkers doing that.

Preston ([13:45:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/fLclaJt2x7SuIETKPZvykVN6CpE_JrcUcmquiR6VDSHcp-YVZszTxI-JvPdTJYI3OkHBsbGb6SysVgDE99JsVYyisN4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=145.59)):

Along those lines, did it really give you a sense of community that all of these people were coming around you to work on something that was so impactful for you?

Michael Kunkel ([13:45:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QdAHajP1KDpKszLZ8VNqO1FYSF77RlflkfYqIlMIGBePOYKTEM_KPC78avetyidyg45fAlNhE_8NYU3avIMktvuY-JE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=155.82)):

When I've joined Travelers, I was always wondering where do I fit in? And I always thought that I fit in as that gray sheep in the Travelers family, not quite the black sheep, but not really the poster child. But watching all of them contribute to something that was so near and dear to me, made me feel like that white sheep, made me feel like I belonged finally to a community that helped something that I so much believe in. And I know that we... Sorry. It was just a great experience.

Preston ([13:46:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Y0XArwdH6vStA-g4LYre0Jlcm18TKUmLPQ1opUOm0HdovtFq33QL4VPo81SgqmIKGTItRdH5maJY3ZlWs3SygweK1MQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=192.72)):

And so let's just wrap up the comment that you were making. It helped you feel like you belonged. Can you tell me a little bit more about that?

Michael Kunkel ([13:46:29](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/c0j14fQaAcpoZqxyvZ5L1nItopDO49fyyL6B3aHjEBQZZ0aHC12kwZO2rBYu4P8LoMOf_9IQoZ0BCh2y5n6B_w15z0c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=200.61)):

About how I feel like I belong or I felt like I don't belong,

Preston ([13:46:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/T_k4p-ijetKNxN3yrlzt8hgSM3yRf9WWKYwPd93zbD8htbzaThO2Iu5xfqXAKrOQLHPvbrMNDxoX6DAYCpG7IqO7bsw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=205.14)):

But you felt like it gave you a sense of belonging, right-

Michael Kunkel ([13:46:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Ab_Fu-BJy8AIEJkpdztXnOO_7g8o1YbYuO_RYf-NtAgufsIuxWjaMfhLQMGc_GGv_JKiGzAoMS8mr--C3ZON1_IgIUY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=208.65)):

It did.

Preston ([13:46:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/M2nE7v5WjAr6OkKBMyMtRfPiHreQ0-lygsiOA8djo9lg6-kw6vB1z2V1YnRUPhgD0PFrGF9y2Ay0hPLhgYdVtkhRLKo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=209.01)):

... to the Travelers family? Can you just tell me a little bit about how that project that day gave you that? And tell me that and why that made you feel that way?

Michael Kunkel ([13:46:48](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/iLFxC6m16xsQDDn6JkzP29gk3MyQ-CU2GQMP8PwxBWU8h_4_2EJ9ywiWwjPQ8u9IZclIiIer7VXQUTCSiv6e0KtsmdU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=219)):

I'm a former foster child. As the reason why I felt that that was a project near and dear to my heart was I was always on a playground as a foster child. It was a place where... I couldn't take friends home because it was obvious the people taking care of me weren't my parents. And so how do I get to play with other children was on the playground. And so from a very early age, I always felt disassociated from the rest of the world. And that pursued with me throughout most of my career. Usually your misfits go to the Marine Corps. They jokingly name it, Uncle Sam's misguided children or misfitted children. And then even in academia going all the way up to be a PhD doctorate in particle nuclear physics, I've always felt like that outcast of never really quite fitting in.

([13:47:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/HrI0BuPKeCGhfukMEcOBR7MU2fRPNdvZRFi9xiiaYcYHzqmbpZ8B6UjHTFF7_KDgioiDbP3cL1Axj9Sph61tHW_HaLw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=271.8)):

And I came to corporate America and watch in the way that people act and people do things and always never felt like I fit in, but at least here there was alignment. And then when we did the project and I just saw the motivation, it didn't seem like anyone was there just to be there. It didn't feel like a political agendas. I felt like people were there, just be there. They were there to do the common good. When I went to sleep that night, I had a really good night's sleep, one of the best night's sleeps I've had in probably over 20 years. And it was because of that sense of belonging that completing that project brought to me.

Preston ([13:48:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/oF3jx4Cwdkg_w_H0oHP_ucgu9Lx9PrBCrTDlaHAfcrONiOlD-KW-AMZ0Ih6EcxPyonqurB5aiJA84ouEF0CHddS9xOw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=314.67)):

If you could give me the statement again that I grew up in the foster care system, just in a way that if somebody was watching and they haven't heard before. If you could give a statement like that, and then if you wouldn't mind just telling me to whatever degree you're comfortable, just a little bit of your backstory and what you remember about that.

Michael Kunkel ([13:48:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1dPARZNiLPlFA6Xbk4GWV4UN-3UVaGls1QMQo38xai_ApUKC9ZITP-jtQsC7JAeC-lgPQqtcrqHGFuXGEZ2dFAT8yig?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=333.33)):

I remember everything. That's my curse.

Preston ([13:48:42](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qdiEmqi7sAbMdcHXLNCjsidJXodJtCotdwir0R9jwBAFmi6g7PwhRE9gF7TRX2mXqtp7sBf6sPicRfx0dEGVbDzw0FU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=333.75)):

Okay. Well, first of all, if you could just give me the statement that, I grew up in the foster system.

Michael Kunkel ([13:48:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1g-Z1TUPjqXPCGoIUNNhq6tu4iwYU9klrgfSKOJZZlVVJnMDGelfjuIx1t7mn8KhXmn4kKG9ensJU8xMXt7nb0imgYk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=343.56)):

Okay.

Preston ([13:48:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Q50FNr3pseHNFhbqcsTbNCmQbGFT5e9cY0KXknhkqhr1PJMM0RB7aa0x2YXb29-A2MriO1mc-mhOYLiRnezIdpNl7Jw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=343.59)):

Could you speak to the challenges that a child in that situation faces, being taken away from everything that they know and love? To whatever degree you're comfortable, if you could just speak to the challenges that the children in the foster system face.

Michael Kunkel ([13:49:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EJNTM8GGaSaFjb9s8t2hA9Um_ZeadPOA_ZiuJJkDVIULvubsrp-4xkuRIuwJJ6Tnt33HHxKa55salPunOVDjhFRXi54?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=362.67)):

I am a former foster child.

Preston ([13:49:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/DCEiZYPYMSz628H0yswMTxp9oFf-BfqBm1oJIIPvkn-KxBk6QnjxTbE_LqGUvUlmCwbb9_ZcfePA8Us2Xx_JykKPKU4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=364.65)):

Okay. Do you mind just starting that again?

Michael Kunkel ([13:49:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/XMUsUAHnZT5mb1wJu2zH6SuUN-D9ueHwyqjJYSXWXjqGDOAPzN0NAZ8K4CoUh06KaxUM7OfjgnQ_khLR8yIecOAw0A8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=367.17)):

I am a former foster child. I grew up most of my early life to teenage years in the foster system until I was eventually emancipated out of the system. It was quite tough for me because I actually bounced from foster home to foster home so I never really stayed in one place for a while because of how I felt people would misunderstood me. The playgrounds are where I resided most of my childhood days. Looking up at the stars, playing with other children, sometimes feeling like a sense of community because I had children there, sometimes feeling totally isolated, even in a crowd of children just because of the fact that when I would go home that night, it wouldn't be my home. It would be some people that could easily discard me for whatever thing I said or did as a child.

([13:50:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/eyJ5-OFPaf-E-lxkAHT2R3J91Bw-3p_U3Fmj6t_QrbI7vBGqxheqOdOtN1o_6p59Sc33lZrac4PejhP7eR3k81lzFIY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=430.11)):

It was hard. It was hard not being like everybody else, but it taught me some valuable things. It made me realize that there's a lot to life than just feeling like you need to belong. Sometimes you don't need to belong. Sometimes it's okay not to fit in. Sometimes it's okay to not go with the status quo. Sometimes it's really okay to just teach yourself to know that it just is what it is.

Preston ([13:50:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/AP8d4bmX6PcZI-m-7uwjKxsOtbXEusXdib4dJUhbnQOw06moPsKk9eQLutgu-27Wj5d68EM_BrgdOc0W_UD9iEPGFLw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=466.89)):

To some degree, it feels like you're expressing this pressure that a child would feel to feel "normal", and I use air quotes with that. Can you just speak to the challenge of that as a foster child, to know that you might be different than the kids that are living in the neighborhood around you, and with some of the stigmas that might come with foster care?

Michael Kunkel ([13:51:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/hiBpp6Twvaaigu0mg4iILeRK2tmBieY83J1MrHyRpZCBUcyolRtDUv8T3bdZsbWD4lIHSubneIcUyTrQXZoubmPe-rI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=487.53)):

There's so many stigmas was coming as a foster child. People think that something's wrong with you, it's your fault. And so people don't want to associate with you because somehow you're the reason why you don't live with your parents or you're dumb. And when you're just really just being shy because you're moving around from place to place. There's a lot of pressure on a child or maybe me as a foster child who bounced around and couldn't really make those really deep connections to be considered like that quiet child, that strange child, that child that causes problems.

([13:52:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/RsowBOh5QHjZNXLpXOEfSgAjiVhNkqgKMR_Yc6s66_aUy8JYd85k_xz7sn1OnA72TsLD2Bhb6mEsnUkaVCgI--4CKak?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=533.04)):

I was always ace in classes, so I don't know where this is actually coming from, but it was just foster care was good because I had somebody to take care of me, but it brought so many insecurities thinking I'm dumb even though I A-plussed every course. And because it's the societal pressure of just trying to fit in, of being a child, being a kid, being able to play, being able to communicate. "Oh yeah, my dad did the exact same thing." or, "Oh, my mom does the exact..." I've never had those alliances, those similarities with other children. "Oh, my brothers do this." I never had those similarities because we were split out of the system and I never had that sense of family. And so it's a lot of pressure to put, I think, on a child.

Preston ([13:53:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/fmQCupliz8cPAMwMT8uILAaBxkS5oDuNryU434nBsPtEg6mYFjGlyknLr0woCmLBZ8HCKAfoeCndC9PDcl9MN3E6vZI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=591.69)):

What anxieties would you say were present in your mind as you were growing up and going through that?

Michael Kunkel ([13:53:09](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wdObTDFUNcatrEMzF295TrijwlzX30NVUSqAAw01a-T1OZk5y57aSnlgLkxEflDI_mESKpZ_UHH6IEAbKzUdypfxz08?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=600.93)):

Do we have enough time to go through? The anxieties of fitting in was a big thing. The anxiety of knowing if I was going to wake up the next day and they're just going to say, "Pack your bags, you're going somewhere else," or "They found you somewhere else." And then not being able to ask the question, "Why?" Or, "I thought we were good," or "What did I do?" Maybe some of the anxieties of attachment issues, and I even suffer from that today.

([13:53:39](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VyPWl0o33vB4J8i_DcIAQfVMLemfbZcJnPVx4ikSNLzcBOPMgbrjzp49yUuiRKFm-N2U0rE0R6lKj5JGDZyK-OAEgU8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=630.21)):

I could never be a foster parent, because if I was, I would never want to give them up because I know the stress that they're under, and I know that the care that they would need. And foster care is supposed to be a transient system. You're supposed to go there, get the care you need, so the people who are really supposed to be taking care of you can find the help that they need. But it brought attachment issues up or attachment issues up with me and all types of other stigmatas and stigmas and mental things that I deal with every day, but I do manage to deal with them functionally.

Preston ([13:54:19](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/8PhVbsuvbWJxjjhDmrXQKSOqqc7FIAPi0kf-NlhUGAUGe5FVvvgQvkTkpqFFI130ezAXK-Yu2iahjUN-Ccr7eMzL1kw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=670.26)):

I'd love to talk a little bit, you've already touched on the whole playground and what a playground meant to you when you were a kid, but I'd love to just touch on that again. Can you just explain to me what a playground meant to you, thinking about where your mind and your heart were at that age?

Michael Kunkel ([13:54:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/evZIrbaO4C2_QWI7e0_J0WOdfVfvOTOJDz8qHdlmOE1XQRyaQCtB--EMeqn8pknO6rZk1d0jQoDAlNRPcdnUQzgl8Sw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=686.37)):

The playground to me, as a child, was a common ground, not just to try to play and try to have a sense of community, but it was also a place where I could think, a place where you could just swing on a swing. Or I had just this tower that you could climb, and it wasn't that high, as a child it was enormous, but you can climb and you can actually lay at the top of it, watch the stars, think about things. Whether those things were a why me kind of thing, or what do I do next kind of thing. The playground meant a lot to me. An enormous amount of my childhood was on the playground because it was the only place I could go, because if I went to the place where I was supposed to sleep, they weren't the people that I might be waking up with the next day or the next night. I trusted the playground. It was my blankets.

Preston ([13:55:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/iElHshXnEfHZ_bMgj1DmzsFqELWmJaHZlQAJkPTecpLiS-_L0Dmhz4hL9MpCM8WpH6cX_LhW0z6CWFcX4t0oV5AzvlY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=744.39)):

You had told us before that it was the place where you felt like a normal kid and that it allowed you to dream dreams and fulfill dreams.

Michael Kunkel ([13:55:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/xhRYtEsAql1kQOzd0d8x7_krfIvbtCPHGRSz2iSsnmQqFtjv36w86TaAKDqQxmRyNxzrEMCBCVtiYwWh39ZEJQKNnmI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=751.5)):

That's right.

Preston ([13:55:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/-0fKRhGtKM-ITTcvsO2dnmgGmst9ea4kl2o0w6exR96IwzI9i7rRYfE6DSic5gh2z00RiVDyx0wXOU7M5eOE6DYnV8s?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=751.92)):

Just tell me that again in your words.

Michael Kunkel ([13:55:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/AKORWqmoEIXmj3CUZZIu3YV7JrNP1AIsrD1xoRmQ4m2giMkA8ROEu6LZpyMp094vGrMINjkhBKF1d40X8XmrWVyA6h0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=756.03)):

Absolutely. No matter if you are that weird child, there's always an extra person they need to play kickball. There's always that extra person they need to play tag. And so even though you might not fit in, you still got to play. You still got that escape. And then every once in a while, well, more than once in a while, probably more times I can actually count, it was a place where I learned to think ahead, the place where I learned to imagine. And I really learned how to imagine. I really have a good grasp of a lot of concepts, scientific concepts today because of my imagination and it's the imagination I built at on my playground as a child.

([13:56:28](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Mn_k4Lel4zIyhFVw8PAbu40e5L1FI4jTPr0REydhaORNjSyhRouCxZPlZD0XNVlgUVpJH5cFpS-pmY-Y5GxXCjP0Oqc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=799.5)):

And so without the playgrounds, I don't know what I would be today. I don't know what imagination, what ways I could think of better futures, because that's what the playground gave to me. It gave me the ability to think of better futures and understand that it was like it's just one day at a time, and eventually you'll be at an age or be at a time where things will be okay. And looking back on it, at my age now as an adult, everything did, in my opinion, turn out to be okay. Better than okay.

Preston ([13:57:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/tud1nfDf4ig0DXI3XksJAfvqk2DFGfWiF70vpDBqQPxoa4w0b_PID8gBivNwJYgQsuKTX3JbOnsG1l0_wqY3mOIR_rw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=841.59)):

Do you need to take-

Michael Kunkel ([13:57:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4D8DRHIdoTuqI9dCMyBXJ8uZvb2ErRZrunEUxBZaJWYtFqPYe1FcIjf6kjrzW-hkZ60CvRooAZQAg3Awm-opsr96oxw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=841.98)):

Yeah, just one second.

Preston ([13:57:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ArfoqMgmp9qHKJlAgdiItkmQRi4bPyRyb9cvallm-Wse0jBaT1KzynLAn0ezlR3fIyM7SbskxraPmXK8TjYHwa_xjhY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=842.85)):

Yeah, go ahead.

Michael Kunkel ([13:57:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/rxBJWiNQ_CZQ5sfGMn0qsr9Q4-zgQ6NJdgk_cUD9dy4U8xIdnlrDlSYI_UVXXqhReAocdbXcMk7jF33D_pM2ngLubv4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=842.85)):

Sorry. Okay.

Preston ([13:57:17](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/uj4KP7PkZfqp0T5SaHazCLGQnEoygwUgjpPYMYGJf8gD_WB8esALbW2sYYtAAMvD5QClDK4cn_vbw6J9saSOKdWtEAg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=848.34)):

If you wouldn't mind, take me back to when you first heard about the service project. Tell me about that, and then tell me a little bit about what was going on in your mind and then what you did from there that led out to you making a trip to Chicago.

Michael Kunkel ([13:57:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FqrrmUYAVBgqlsU7SUT14uTAbOeho9lveo0VsS86S-f8dIHVrZi_BDFOZG_RAmzonXygaKayw1HaU2nHMr92mX_NIzg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=865.47)):

I was sitting at an all hands employee meeting in 3GS and Alan put up on the screen what he was going to do for charity.

Preston ([13:57:49](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/7lvKKCLzEbMEQjZYZfob3Km1Gu3Y30QxqFbHAQqoNKrntIdpqaCskVgtOIZKrnJGI8e4QPnd6w_IftCeCzqdDReezII?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=880.74)):

If you want to go ahead, let's just go ahead and start.

Michael Kunkel ([13:57:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qnjup6cCUzJnDlb4gmwd65Rsd15m1UewCXjChO-TgGICqnBX6XGY5szAlgwAB5CCidYOjv7LphfNkH-7JuhV462WHvg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=882.63)):

I was sitting in 3GS at an all employees meeting, and Alan, our CEO, explained what he wanted to do for charity. And I was taken back to a time where I promised myself that if there's anything I could ever do for the community, like the foster system, that I would. Because even though I had troubles, it still gave me the opportunities that I needed. And so I immediately, as soon as I got back to my desk, I emailed Alan and I told him exactly how I felt and asked to be included if he wanted to include me because of the near and dearness that his charity and charitable event was to me. And he wrote back to me very quickly. I was very surprised I didn't get lost in the shuffle. And he invited me out to the build, and I was very happy about that. More than happy about it that day.

Preston ([13:59:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/J66MPID-4ro4_jxChW9GilqKB0h82VYgVhAtdP4FiuXKu3UTW_6IWagachp0GdwHQes_i9KiQa_yeLjS8iXea6zQyDk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=953.73)):

I would love to get a second version of that just for editing options. And so instead of pre-presenting the charity, if we could call it the service project.

Michael Kunkel ([13:59:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/9t3j4MgSoQhZr2HTWOGwMe2exHx4WpWgbuypUEOS9PC7odmCSc9MlDNKA1a1ijiO9-da4ThXpzzYUJsX0KO3wtT96tk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=963.9)):

so I'm sorry.

Preston ([13:59:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/pK5ohSxxhy6pwanHpZgKLFvszGaJaYWodbWWzx6GK1SH0cVGVEykOH-lV2VvaxkB54RB6u565IWGEhrK65gXziTEy1U?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=965.19)):

It's okay. I was at an all-employee meeting, and the annual service project was presented. It it struck me. If you could give me another version of that story.

Michael Kunkel ([13:59:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qKHzr8Pgb9MSBeCjkN6-FGrd0SQBDTJWTYVo1oDAJXlCs-fTzfUF56xDrGgsO2e0uXuZ8ZDrHJB7IrSEDqHpAl24g3A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=977.7)):

I was at an all-employees meeting and Alan presented the service project that he wanted to do. And I immediately remembered the time when I said that if I could ever give back to the community, the foster community, that I would. And I immediately, when I got back to my desk after that meeting, I emailed Alan and I told him what it meant to me to be a part, if I could be a part of such an event. And surprisingly, very quickly, Alan emailed me back and invited me to the build. And I was more than happy to just say yes and start planning from there.

Preston ([14:00:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/I5SwJeXjXaytL6z5TysEuCj-uzkIunE6pntL7-6eFV-KscYrtjD-SSDmGmuXRLdF9GVo01JUqv6mRjPCcAP8Q5bxK9U?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1023.63)):

Just to build onto that, what did it mean to you when you realized in your mind that you were going to be able to... I think you had expressed it to me last time as you, "Were fulfilling a promise that you had made to yourself." Can you just take me through what that meant to you that you would be able to check off something so near and dear to your heart?

Michael Kunkel ([14:00:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/I4ebOuOzG7G_c0iUhtEJRzsP8HctoOdpFs7lFMiOVmIyzmHXwXm3EgS-Vedhaqz7LN4ByrFbbe_lKWBX5JWQLFFtInc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1043.97)):

The foster system helped me become what I am today. And when I was younger out of the foster system, I made a promise to myself. I made a lot of promises to myself, but I made... That one I remember saying that if I was ever able to give back to such a system in a positive way, that I would do everything I can to do so. And I think I did that. I'm a former military individual, so me jumping ranks like I did in order to just go straight to Allen was very, very out of character for me. But I did it because I had to uphold a promise that I made to my younger self, just to be able to give myself the opportunity to fulfill that promise.

Preston ([14:01:26](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/zElIBOXflHMBi14ylnorxamTSt2J03LB-alXzybpKSJuNZwJqwPtljDXCRI-rOPZpDdJ1L58f5Ls2NDCNFXPDuUtjfg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1097.1)):

Let's talk a little bit about OneFamily. And you had said in another correspondence that their model really resonated with you, this idea that they keep siblings together because you said that that was something that was extra challenging in your situation. Again, to whatever degree you're comfortable, can you just tell me a little bit about your situation with your siblings when you were younger, and why that model that OneFamily subscribes to is really so impactful?

Michael Kunkel ([14:02:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jYmYtkpAzQrPLsNCx1638RgBS8BvQ1s_-SF8Y7JSpDYoym_paFEg6vGS4EIlAD9QAZPeJFF9BIT9dXwR1swKPwMnS7E?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1132.98)):

I have three siblings, biological siblings, that we all got placed into the system at the exact same time. And at the time the system split us up. They try to keep pairs together and shuffle pairs, but eventually, for whatever reason it may be, that we actually each ended up individual in a home. And so there are people, individuals, grownups out there that share a biological attachment to me that I have no contact with. And so when I heard that the model that they have out there, they try their best to keep the families together, I know how much that would've meant to me, and I know how much that would probably have meant to a lot of other children at the time to just try to keep the family together because we need that. That's something I see now that is needed.

Preston ([14:03:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QbgrUeDestfFerdDDVEEa2OAtv8IlTKd6juwbEngTd6U9mqYhe6L2eZESl7F-yq7AlLySLK4vsw_lBkKtTZpjZZn2rE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1197.18)):

And so just to piggyback on that, what is it about, so you're being removed from your home, you're being removed from your parents, those things are traumatic enough. What does it do for a child to at least have that one point of connection to a sibling? How important is it to, at the very least, have that?

Michael Kunkel ([14:03:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/YWTbuakW2lTVxG1igQKYWjogk8Op2RLUWnFw94LXYMM557Pz21ZjRb_lCazp_gf1u_2EJF6VTQ2sJmbg4X37unk8W1c?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1216.98)):

I can only speculate because I don't know because I don't have it. And I think this is the sad part, is that I can only speculate, but I could imagine that me being able to share my doubts or share my trepidations about the situation that we were in, or just having just somebody next to me knowing that they're going through the same thing that I'm going through, probably would've allowed me to feel better as a child. And it might have given me the support that I needed in order to maybe not have grown up to have such things. Maybe I could be a foster parent now if I would've been able to have that because I wouldn't have my detachment issues or my attachment issues, however you want to approach it. I think it would've been really important for me to have that just to lean on, not feel alone, not feel abandoned. And so their model of trying to keep children together in the family would alleviate this abandonment that I felt.

Preston ([14:04:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/jXyo9-CYfvXeQ_DXB6MUidzsmLIPzfjMsjHCJYCVy9O7USegYaLCsw2i9UfpltviBbIjubGOPOc_oCCLk8JLKwKbfPI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1292.67)):

And can you give me a version of that statement? If you could just use the name OneFamily.

Michael Kunkel ([14:04:44](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/e2-3pO4rxY1jv7bdqjABronAE5-AeXpfFuqFPw1ovhlKm4KEWf6A49mFBCtRZH-B59n8Eu4hdzHt_GvAlKOtV63fTVQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1295.73)):

OneFamily. Okay.

Preston ([14:04:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/sT-bpJ6vsV_fPCTUoaJhXIelE5LSBhleLMR317RaCnY36xXltETt61kzBvw7113sudIp5Xsv4dWbBFwXcGY0ZOjle4I?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1298.1)):

That's okay. I just want to make sure because when you say they, we might need a little bit of context-

Michael Kunkel ([14:04:51](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/zH4Hts889sD0Uo_KcbKF9dcCUDLhL3Xnmhqg55ekS4ZGANu8nzfkL-4nbK-Bz4-RQzczBmaUgu4-_Ke1QWbp9mfdTWY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1302.36)):

I understand. Sorry.

Preston ([14:04:52](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/QX7uraqe8zAOfg0EfTbaFULenaSRQZLL2SRiOwaIa2G3gBg9Ox75rj6gv0WwgyGEZaXsb34aXzPxVP4EfnrTH3KAojQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1303.23)):

... in the video. No, you're doing great by the way. And I'm going back for certain things.

Michael Kunkel ([14:04:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Q431XclhyIoGLHhW1G3fq_lBXpRqJnT-xPD20nGXCVr-ENtlF0QBKUfPctSh3EoNiqDx8BUHtW0zlLZfSNBNaXjPLqY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1308.72)):

I understand.

Preston ([14:04:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/91nn3whe7G9B6R2mGBTj3z7CQNR08wMgRnOr9nDPaGpwie_fk2ja-cHwCu1y9n4rTqKWZvJ4fXYJdH0FAhn3Iak804Q?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1309.26)):

I'm putting all these things in my mind that I can't wait to put together. Tell me a little bit about OneFamily's model of keeping siblings together and why you feel that's important.

Michael Kunkel ([14:05:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/HmvbdW83fCCwdYvr5UriOWjfERhkJV-I50-rwOGyPoNjgtxwfw9amEBNPmg6BA_p3Z81ZtvDUfDVEYRyyHlllia5R2w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1317.57)):

I love OneFamily's idea of keeping families together. I can remember-

Preston ([14:05:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/4q04YEZJyQwl1-3jOA4-qyshs2jcx9Yfx2SGC8Ge82tCMXv7WUIK-yUalGPlMkeMOpa-_CfJib4USB6ZuburiPsnG1g?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1327.53)):

I'm sorry, can we start that again? Just say siblings together so we can... You said families, if we could say siblings.

Michael Kunkel ([14:05:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/qy_XMvnjqknt2Crha-SURj0lzzJz5AatvXNY3aIBWQokL0toNyOlKzfMc4EziiXTVtRhAjeoiaPvH1zWW0YCyC-7WUg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1333.68)):

I'm sorry. Siblings together.

Preston ([14:05:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ngEvu2mBXJ8O9_faDoV6sEZYNiAE_m2SuKVRL5sqf6zW5AHZYoWA8y1FF5PVjdNQSiPHCaOc2F0Mg8_q0rHzvjhqdUQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1334.1)):

No, that's okay. That's okay. That is keeping families together so you're not wrong, but I just want to make sure that we really hone in on that-

Michael Kunkel ([14:05:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/xP26C6RCabBt2seQotpMnwK1XBPh6RgXERvTw82Q_Np-r4RCb6fkn7qIl65AtmUy3I3E9j1UKSoHGTEl3rN5nUO_eBU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1341.24)):

Siblings, siblings. Siblings, siblings.

Preston ([14:05:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/LJiATIYMjFyA1EruSJshayKpIttGZ7m06BoBeBMVmt0i8cLNG734bjfK1gzDHr575e4i2QWRtEh7UtRhE_yHxeI8uNg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1344.48)):

... [inaudible 14:05:32]. If you want me to ask it again, I can, or if you want me to-

Michael Kunkel ([14:05:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cU0zfWpUfCrNKyfonshPqlBcO1TCoXCrVrcqmYUu5v3bof-J_klK2SXJ-_wJEsVlbfkdVV970vGjYlYvRwynqgmh8Kg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1346.49)):

I got it. I got it, I think. I love the idea of OneFamily keeping siblings together. I can remember times where when I was a foster child needing that other person that was going through the same thing that I was going through, that maybe they were feeling the same thing I was or wasn't. But at least I would have that person that I could connect with that was a person like that like I should have had a connection with that maybe would've helped me not have maybe some of the abandonment issues that I have today. Because I would've known that my sibling was there, I had a sibling. I would've had somebody who at least could have come close to understanding how I felt. I wouldn't have felt so abandoned when I was eventually split from all of my siblings.

Peggy ([14:06:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/VQZaj-U607T3OvqLwrHEQNyGRDCT92lgl8BKsuHcBUNfrR6hhr4_uxccpCITYwX3hWY7tSNMQS-tv4rR5fUTR3AhPDg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1407.72)):

Preston, I'm sorry. Can we do that question one more time? Michael, can you reference it as your siblings? Because in the prior few minutes you explained that you did have siblings, and I think the way you answered it you made it sound a little bit more like the possibility of it.

Michael Kunkel ([14:06:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/pT6kd5M4ij5mBmGxqS-SMIVRDGzOHvGN3XxwdKOqPE7BGSaQ-l5iQvCPG8UCx-ZOioMX_f0QH2EqjOIZtzGq39x026A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1424.1)):

I understand. Okay.

Preston ([14:06:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/EBsQGrlw4c_2qyN1-8XG5sSsVl8JRbtEnvTmcRFIfjzlj77U70A3G9StkH5h3XTZ2W_vCr5sRrCEiowc1fLxqugnhK8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1426.53)):

As opposed to a hypothetical.

Peggy ([14:06:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/y7ULUdHpfoC-rzEZOizC2KErbAgxYtKg1lO6gYyAxroZuQWTerF1dIdVcpw0ZvYDljCoSsW1UpPu9MAgZ0PbnR0eNzU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1428.15)):

As opposed to, I didn't have my siblings. Can you see the difference?

Michael Kunkel ([14:06:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1dBCLeSnmVvyqbjuPDT_GKv78-_ffiWRsZEMbB1IL0sCARUsj-L6VNiekdPNKQRHVNlu0R5NcvLkviskRLJK5AhsGV8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1430.16)):

I do.

Preston ([14:06:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/vhdTVkcIXZ3ZAZWzsojt0fyvcOif6z_i8AwX1CZQUiD1Ze7C2CfV1Os6yU2KtANLG2Yg-cUD1Hpeq1NCJATTM6qLDcE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1430.16)):

Sure.

Michael Kunkel ([14:06:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/90FtMSTUJi5DqbTlNaas7RAvb96OVffBqXI-Wc8JcQVvmPtaUsTWnYTzbz99cb9gDPlV8zy5FRLFbAOTTs5eSDPfmtQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1430.16)):

Okay.

Preston ([14:07:03](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/awpJY2iMLKOHn5H2XQzwkHgTVQLDW6RzPJ2_M0dIW3rgkOkTfrdmDDJF_V1ZosD4v5SRFK530mYc2CjccikB54vq-bk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1434.75)):

Let's go ahead and just start again with you appreciate the OneFamily's model of keeping siblings together and how that ties back to the fact that you could have benefited from being with your siblings.

Michael Kunkel ([14:07:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1ZrZuPBvikHq4fAZQ0WI-Mj4reQ2TmWl7hPFCa6Lg0dmawWdypIsubYIndCqkhv9IEFAOKic0zDD2CrP4NoxEsf2QUQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1447.11)):

I really appreciated the OneFamily's model of keeping siblings together. I'm one of four siblings, so I have three other siblings that the foster system tried to keep together at first, but for whatever reason it failed and I ended up alone, feeling abandoned and not having anyone to share my grief with. And I truly believe that OneFamily's vision to keep siblings together is great because I would've greatly benefited from having a sibling who would've understood what I was going through or how I felt. And maybe I would've grown up with a lot less issues on abandonment and attachment than I do have today.

Preston ([14:08:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/pNWPdEeuM6K_oD2kFHhjyL6cmumXbQGgsOWytgc2Mqz_lAzLL9QRBpzxdgtJlq1aVoRR5s0AlpbxmyA_QsOF6JkmNac?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1507.56)):

I'd love to just take you back to the build again. And we've already covered this, but I'd love to just hear more about it. One of the things that I felt like this seemed like it was so powerful when we were there, is this idea that you've talked about kids feeling stigmas, kids feeling alone, kids feeling different, kids feeling all of these things that these foster children feel, but they are now seeing a community of people outside of just their immediate community at the villages at OneFamily. They're seeing all of these people come in and not only say that they're important, that they're cared for, that they're loved, but people are actually showing it by building a playground. Can you just take me through that day? What was going through your mind in terms of what these kids were feeling when they saw all of you come in and build a playground for them? That sense of community.

Michael Kunkel ([14:09:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/D2w75IPp3osD1vErKJmmWUcNrv3f3CwIqZVgQreXjRoK-LJOJQxTxRmEg5tP0iV1oZiiu6soFbFUn9ZDkT9ucU6jSjI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1563.72)):

I could tell you that I almost broke down because I saw two brothers talking and watching us build and asking the person whom was taking care of them, "What are we doing?" And they said, "Building a playground." And the children asked, "For who?" And they said, "For you, silly." And it really was, yeah, we are. This is for you. Almost right there I almost dropped my big bag of mulch because I got so emotionally filled with the fact that it will be for them, that will be the place that they play, and that they see the fact that other people are caring about their situation and caring and trying to make them happy and give them some kind of normalcy in life. That there are other people out there that care other than just the family who's taking care of them.

Preston ([14:10:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/cxl69_X-FmzBQWO9cHVqWlBMDN2qZmJaep09URqKkG8PweoQe1oXl5TYE4xyJWoRLgac3yPGDXicBCzSyEqsD13SN1w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1623.45)):

Why is any of this important? Why is it important for children to have a sense of belonging and to feel like they have a place and to feel cared for, and to feel loved? Why is any of this work that's being done for these children important?

Michael Kunkel ([14:10:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/CPIslzGxVYnKUU1UXj6SFwoCbKdlCNSvW-cxIpcGgh797eKS44Zy-TVfBlq4Fyq9viSPCaYg9CHNz_2cSoWjGmvGncI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1643.19)):

I can only speak from personal experience. It's important because I think when I look at my own children and I look at the way that I love them, I don't see the callous in their lives that I feel. And I think people who don't feel love at an early age grow up to be callous and hardened in life. And I don't really think that's maybe a good thing. It's something I'm willing to change and I try to change. I love as much as I can, but eventually you grow up with a lot of guards, a lot of walls. And for children to see that there are people out there that do care about them, maybe those walls and those barriers to life, to the sense of joy, they won't form them. I think that's important to grow up with joy so that way you can experience joy later in life or even know what it means.

Preston ([14:11:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/YdAvX5z7UuAJdWFFqQavL2fgQRvH1h-HG3ilJLfg8zQuQdszw0ySqySe_MzCRkCReodZYKOkbMfe7eO-2fPM9FsYO1g?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1704.84)):

You said that you were feeling emotion all day at the build. You said you had one of the best nights of sleep that you had ever had. What was the sense of accomplishment in your mind and your heart that day when you left that build, knowing that you had finished what you had set out to do or that you had made good on a promise?

Michael Kunkel ([14:12:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MB_Ap0fKZ0XcJeCqGF-dmZJBDGhN0RyLVjfxQrwoHaLdRDETv882pb2je2ftYhCILHVfCxEJdaK1GH59XjtwuH_oUEY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1731.12)):

It was the entire day. It was knowing that I was there because Travelers, as an organization, invited me to the build and that people really seem to want to be there, really seemed to want to help. And then being able to see the children watch us do what we were doing for them and understanding that we were doing it for them. And then I stayed a little bit later because I needed a little bit more help and the job wasn't done yet so I stayed a little bit later. And then when I got back to my hotel room that night, I believe I ate a big bowl of pasta and I went to sleep. And it wasn't the bed, it was the fact that I know that I accomplished something, that throughout the day I saw the accomplishment, I saw the joy in the children's eyes. I saw the camaraderie from my community, my Traveler's community, and that it helped me fulfill that promise that I made to myself. And so I slept one of the best night's sleeps I've had in about 20 years.

Preston ([14:13:32](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/1Oz44LpPKlmmeznDwOfxw8cISdDFKz3yPLX4Ple5bgdsrwCN5_6Uo5FORCZay60Oe5AAaFbTi8Dk5dpsmp79sGb6hOo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1823.4)):

Let's see. Let me just see where we want to move on from here. Stepping back to thinking about Travelers and the annual service project, why is social engagement so important in building community? Why is it important for Travelers to be investing in the people that they serve and in the communities that you live and work in?

Michael Kunkel ([14:14:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/aPnZAEi-Ol5UgN5o4WM7Uxvwc2fP4oPVK6qEvOtudzGtAeIYqhA_967bUZDXSWvJ9HeVMh5zVYx6q-MriMG1szpPJRQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1851.63)):

I think corporations have this stigmata of being for themselves and being only for their own profit margins. And although maybe that's true, I can say that it's not true for Travelers, because we do do a lot of this to community outreach. And it just shows that it's not the bottom dollar that defines our bottom line, it's the community and our involvement in the community that really drives a lot of things and a lot of the ways that we look at our business. And so I think it's important. I think we should, not that we should, I think that what we're doing is very honorable and admirable, and I wish I saw more companies do it. I probably won't be leaving Travelers anytime soon because of its participation in the community. That's very big to me to see that in an organization.

Preston ([14:15:05](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/PWcxKi9bhn_ONKgL6GgQtMf1VjH-2vUgBK6QnIE8jfXU-iQ6peVTPqJewQ7KXVtEc9jffJbI1NNgC4vAx0_Yyhf5hbk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1916.88)):

How old were you when you were moved into the foster community?

Michael Kunkel ([14:15:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/bjrlh3InTKvMzZ3J2s8XEDzOKfNDbTWr1IgOqag2HJCu_dYnXeLPFrptLsRUfqFUxq5vpbuMNLwdXfF7YtMuHGXgqsQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1922.82)):

Eight years old.

Preston ([14:15:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FtBfvIrUH-ca8D2hCsT-jq9-AKEERoqX-XXpqB_YDNXDlWaUV8ybjdRjV3XOzWm6Qpp1v7dfF3N8xaw3Nl6vLkxpsBA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1923.75)):

Eight years old. I'd love to actually... Let's back up. And I'd love to get one more version of introducing yourself as somebody who was a foster child, and then the brief description of how you decided that you wanted to be involved in this project and what this project means to you. And I'm really sorry for the repetition-

Michael Kunkel ([14:15:34](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MYAq20jaQqU7OLyH-3qIMqZNcNih8DqxHLJ4KxXnkuM_N2nXDMpgpU8TqSBm6cshhMYTRSRJVu9Zn_u7iop-l9Rzg4U?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1945.71)):

That's fine.

Preston ([14:15:35](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/gxg4yGIbPq_dhqaeQUWrgMeUUraRIcUc_DU4-dCdHJIhJQV41JKK1OCyZeNtQ7US4-wfYt7o5P7yiFjF8KjN2BjFYnA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1946.22)):

... but it's just all editing stuff that I'm-

Michael Kunkel ([14:15:36](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Q7Btwz3WHauSoqZQUDhyaj71WqHClLD6qjPYbvPCSM2QEiKt8n6p_AIA-lcUs1mtOxb-4aeLTLMWx8oqufaZGe_BrhE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1947.33)):

I understand.

Preston ([14:15:37](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/fz-_GGg8s2HsxbnoZGsL4l-9JLt6IW4sk7r7ZeeH7HAkjD-I1ddSVYCQVXUHL_Q4K8KilX091bd_vHyoXlQRIpZMcNk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1948.38)):

... that I'm thinking through in my mind. But it's such a powerful angle to this story that I just want to make sure that we get it. If you wouldn't mind, again, just describing that you were a foster child and that this project means a lot to you and that you reached out and were invited to go.

Michael Kunkel ([14:15:53](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/KSuJ2V8oNAJFPfAi-gYrmaFu5AbFZ5a7kcw-X8y826r5vpRbiDx270oLoFuyE28TgJkR8nFDFe0Sc1j7mFeGspapJnE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1964.22)):

Just quickly, briefly hit that?

Preston ([14:15:55](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2uiLLN9u9tTavOSgeLatVoQBNKNxWcMBqxfiG9l3rHyh4Yy09UnIrS605aXSYjeltfZAgDUx_zF15t8vHui8d3Wau1A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1966.29)):

If you wouldn't mind giving us the high level.

Michael Kunkel ([14:16:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/OwSBkSzDVbDizZ3LeesUWqV-hyLGOH-a4qBujt9-ZGyTEqSZEDPqkAJGMeR7733gV4BqE71xa7u_0cPM_v14knpDSxU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=1971.57)):

I'm a Traveler's employee. I am also a former foster child. And being able to do this service project and build a playground for foster children meant the world to me because it helped me fulfill a promise that I made to myself when I was very young. And so I am very honored that our CEO accepted me into the build, and I couldn't express any more joy than I can currently for being an employee here at Travelers. Does that help?

Preston ([14:16:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ynTbnE9UpYGPI4nnks2-b9TB3ZsgHWL-ByAcqU_G7rsqp-AsYvqpd_MMYxGmcEJMPdUB1-8PFYNXrD1oUAmiQAuDy4A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2011.35)):

Yeah. Is there anything else about this project or about foster care that I haven't asked you about or I haven't touched on? Anything else that leading up to the build and then as you've had some time to reflect on it, is there anything else that's been impactful in your mind as you process these things?

Michael Kunkel ([14:17:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/7l89z59ptXGXzWVL5bB8NiNoaC9MmJ3IVxY-CfJJeHpuJvMH2k1etDDfZHNmwNHZXsSPU7xbxX5LiOKM4InKFxUFJ84?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2031.96)):

I think the statement that I gave to Alan when he asked me if I had any advice for the administrators of OneFamily where I said, "Keep a good lookout for that diamond in the rough." Because I'm not tooting my horn saying I am a diamond in a rough, but I think there's a lot of people who fall out of the foster system because they get overlooked. And I think reflecting back on that day and on that build and all my life experiences, I think that knowing what OneFamily has to offer now to siblings and children, that I feel that they will be looking out for that diamond and rough, making sure that children don't fall out of the system in a negative way. And I did reflect a lot upon that, thinking about what OneFamily's motto is and what they were doing in the Chicago community. And reflecting back upon my own situation when I was young, I think it's a much better foster system now than it was back 30 years ago when I was in the system. And so I applaud the system now for it.

Preston ([14:18:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UUv9rwD1EWuoVem8jKldQXK_PoW9Q09H4ozEydGPrR5dXtdNpaymdJA8WZVoZu_T9R4c_hf07yPa1ByporTPgQfFJwY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2122.44)):

That diamond in the rough. All the kids can be diamonds in the rough.

Michael Kunkel ([14:18:38](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2ZSfntmS5ClgXRp8NNZmWdjqAl-soCOw-AoBxLqB7QqgLVYUfPHR0G_jy1mWnp3ivpmpZOz9PmdxT8QSjANM48u7VpI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2129.04)):

Right.

Preston ([14:18:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/FdF8q7yJqQDHaP_8JF-a6dAXsfo4oRX2g6qC_Jj9atLCyW5ERK_DcDwINaOtjo7Y00lY7lHTET-aNB86_VfT37GPsfE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2132.07)):

One of the vehicle of that playground is to give these children an escape, allow them to have fun, allow them to be kids again, but it also has a therapeutic and a healing aspect to it. Do you feel like by being part of this project, has there been some healing for you?

Michael Kunkel ([14:19:02](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/YCq2seJms3L4YvIx0HW-zBVkTbdLJ4GfBJEZGj_5OMZ6-VyU12Z_dbkeIozwre50XWcpGd4QKpV7x5wRch2ORSRoDgQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2153.4)):

Yeah, I think part of my inner child feels peace because I know that children, other foster children, have a place that they can call their home or their playground outside of their home. Yeah, I think so.

Preston ([14:19:27](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/reqDvpUTYI96l3wi01oO3R7BAid8dd4WL9TDDD1ZgoOTCdig4_UXh4gZjt5h1Y5J1kYERWoVkFSh0SUQijYKKpnqXN4?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2178.48)):

And just for context's sake, just explain to me that you feel like you've had some healing.

Michael Kunkel ([14:19:33](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UxQUg4x2if0fFH1_ftBtTR3JbiqzTefbT3hDmp_1sfC7lrwHhd3lsCp4jjZzGIgOrYycjIzTq0RGnIG2x-pbhy815wQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2184.03)):

Oh, I see. I think the inner child in me has had some healing. My inner child is a part of me that I guard very well. And so by my inner child having that healing, I guess I have also have healed. That's overexposed on that one, sorry.

Preston ([14:19:59](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/NaLhVI0ZYpKUWU_UbNvrHTDvDG1vVbP1rGfyjLOOwrmy1vB0NSsH0BucEQD9lrwcw0Hw2gvw3d_MXo5z3sdrRAV6BOI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2210.64)):

That's okay. Tell me a little bit about your path. We haven't really touched on it in this interview, but you were in the Marine Corps, right?

Michael Kunkel ([14:20:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/slwA_eBQ6tfB8aRMeFP8eH_0goMwIQGm_ONvdI2Ad7iUbjha_xvFMBLVktUX6AXTYIFRjXIlmto6Cxy25N9kNJBSQU8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2221.86)):

Yeah, I've-

Preston ([14:20:11](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/MAx64H9HyN0v3FyBBsG4usuALbDxVs60rm_FvXJ0VtGxc6-eZH_Lr856WOOzkpJIGQosNkCWA1k8__zZlcXRpK84gns?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2222.58)):

Tell me a little bit about what life has looked like for you since the foster system.

Michael Kunkel ([14:20:21](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/TpQTYHrKEkp1ajBQ59LhGURHO77_aSsy3cgfjZGBkJtdt0xGb_jlCBW5QxQ9LEuZgN2zRpQk5Up5NiS5kX_h0X02Koo?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2232.24)):

Before I was placed into the foster system, I knew two things in life. I knew the commercial for the Marine Corps, and I knew a sci-fi show. And I was, man, it'll be so great to be a scientist and also to be a Marine. A lot of times when I was in... And it was right after those things hit my brain that I got put into the system, and I imagined that a lot. It's like that's what stuck with me. That was what I brought with me from home, my home home. I took that with me into the foster system and what I imagined a lot, what it would mean to be a scientist, what would it mean to be a Marine. And then I joined the Marine Corps upon completing high school in 1998, and my tenure as a Marine was until 2003, so September 11th happened in the middle of my enlistment.

([14:21:25](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ANXOm-6MXe_YMDvRimOjzvTVvvxH6zruiv3v95WHgXH61pOafA-C-n-HYB2YfjTKfvFNlrTnVsN9fK-Q1I0Oau3I5CQ?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2296.14)):

Upon getting out in 2003, I decided that I wanted to make good on my promise to myself to become a scientist and so I went to school. I received a double bachelor's in four years, and then I went to get my master's and eventually my doctorate in particle nuclear physics. And then eventually I moved on a little bit on from that, and I had a postdoc group in Germany where I was one of the first ones to embed AI into particle detectors. Now I'm certified in quantum computing from MIT, and I've learned most of these skills from being a child and being able to put these things together and imagine how these things do go together. Because, again, it was that playground where I learned how to imagine. And so all of those skills that I have now are because I have a very well-groomed imagination.

Preston ([14:22:30](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/BQ7Fu_6DJN0LbEtDiWDDczZjAcQhqNnXYo6V9fO7Po4lj0Wq07nYp-YxMHnWjtM4bI2mqnNZBIJfgyJCvm2AcjmUKMg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2361.24)):

You've already touched on this a little bit, but how proud are you to work at Travelers, working for a company that not only talks the talk, but they walk the walk and they walk it in a very meaningful way for you?

Michael Kunkel ([14:22:43](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_ubVtxufiYRphxNa5RcWyz0H3gSbw0VqFTjX0wk1jgft6WzBfOUJZRzJ-RiwBBNr1tMuaW7r5f88xTHWhJ12pyQCK6U?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2374.68)):

I think they strut, they don't walk. It has a certain style to their walk that will keep a person like me very satisfied with working at an organization, a company, like this. It means a lot that they really go out of their way to give back to the community, and it really, really meant a lot that they give back to a community that I hold so near and dear to my heart.

Preston ([14:23:18](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_7ZrVwXu034akZdD1oy_b32ukWXsGZq1E6w4vIKtOmQMr7vt7nJhRd_Ve4ptPa-iSn_IF0XIN8-LHJPkfWNwgA-M-YU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2409.09)):

Good. Peggy, before we read the letter, is there anything that you want to double back on?

Peggy ([14:23:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wpqj0mMpIgPPiWHEuqi0Ad7Tk66fJpZQgrdWGDRCSGFmO9DaHSTcP_E_p3wheYDm77KmWhmW5TzLtF1TXCwDuIx39wE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2422.08)):

How about advice that you would give your eight-year-old self coming from what you went through? What advice now looking back.

Preston ([14:23:31](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/hcgNSxOP5dW7JPt_m4h8R9papLgm9F40hE-JA4350XiOC2PyGLEAMjhaKgg4nkC2uYw5puU4kq7G7DK8E782UGivZyM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2422.23)):

You can look right at me.

Michael Kunkel ([14:23:41](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/_duOi96LwfnCBWKEKUd100PMUJNxxy5L-6KUlsKleitxpZe_jE01-7Ul06F8RjTq4vQGdvAQkPjNu5my_yIOLzSy8Lk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2432.22)):

Oh, sorry. I would tell myself that I was right, every year does get better, every moment does get better. There are good people out there, there are people that will look out for you. There are people who will make you feel like you're at home. Just keep moving forward. That's what I would tell myself.

Preston ([14:24:16](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/lzUOBxyjot2qB1ADqep97QtpMaS7-0St5vTVmTskTWJb3YuTwsdcctaNqcmTqg4QmWlxerJt-51zJG3pRaeC0Vl7bSU?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2467.14)):

Actually, I want to go back to, and I've had you answer this question several times, but you made an interesting remark that being a military guy, jumping rank is something that you don't do. What really motivated you? If you could tell me again about your email to Alan. What do you think it was that made that something that you felt like not only that you'd be willing to do that, but it was actually the right thing for you to do?

Michael Kunkel ([14:24:47](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/N3OpgMTKX_ja1X-ZKZaBTxGV8-i-NpsxZrwBHv6FdM58fsw5339P4NHx8ZOrgucWr4g9jEgLTvPaYpVan8Z8hjjrOJg?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2498.28)):

I don't know if it was right or wrong. That's the thing here. I know that I am loyal, but I am loyal to myself, especially to the promises that I make. If I'm going to make a promise, I will uphold that promise. And since it was a promise that I made to myself to give back to a community if I could, that I felt that it was the appropriate course of action to just directly go to Alan and express my interest, even though it was extremely uncharacteristic of me to jump ranks like that.

([14:25:24](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JXqoxplkEXLXtUmwsEpXYs_Gqo0uBxn-TxaJWf1ZnS6Z2CmOmbZTXoT_BTP42sYEweUTHLS45ctUAT3ZfXVglnOpCH0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2535.78)):

... happy for me, he understood. Is that what you wanted? Yeah. Okay.

Preston ([14:49:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/J9Oz2QLygSQ7YHS6DxHt2swvZWLWdGiZjLQpwRhJAsLMlkUW6uPprhzxnlZHIneky_A062Kx5I7sT-beRxiUlRX48w0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2541.84)):

We're good. We're rolling?

Crew ([14:49:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/WguzLYMo_a2b4Q-8gkZHLBo7aA3SdLSwc9BMpqje79Q7XD1c6YDH31xQPGY1OiWcaBn0KCPkDAGK4V9kdQOm_FScRgM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2541.84)):

Yeah.

Preston ([14:49:07](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/UtmjSnzUWwB7-XJWOc_GjacktwvXgq6QDV--t9q_0IK9Qm2roQ3su7h62RraMhJfsm2sqQj_tcKSAHCq4FXGtwc1ZjI?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2549.4)):

Tell me a little bit about the experience of communicating to your children about-

Peggy ([14:49:12](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/E0FComUES4ddTZzL9J0ucvlED6hQCA4w5XBFBihpUmQE5j4cR405btV0jWjfv5RhGlUnEiBOU0WNZXEFFP4iZQFw6a8?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2554.05)):

If he was sitting here. If he was Preston, tell us how you explained it to him.

Michael Kunkel ([14:49:22](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/I1HjzG3nMSTUlF1fbDQ28tk6Gpz41inliloJvhe6pSt2ENMrGV6VptBlOE3o-_TyNcxIrNRiDmCfrseecuhILOVopIw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2564.58)):

I see. That's a little bit more complicated. How I explained to my 11-year-old what I did in Chicago with building a playground for foster children was predicated upon years of slowly allowing him to understand the world that I actually grew up in. It wasn't something that I could just easily come out with. And I didn't know when I was able to ever tell him, so starting when he was five I would slowly give him the idea of what it was like for me growing up. And then when I came back from the project, he asked me how it was and how I was. I think specifically he was more interested in how I was doing rather than how it was.

([14:50:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/vn75dZXcxuimQKBaLVoT-tRB0UxTQK-1Hf3w3JPP53mL7MuMv6W5hZnvd9O0fcQAmuhEaKvZ5nczJyLCATIZQLp0mak?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2624.7)):

And I told him how I felt. I told him how it made me feel very happy, and it made me feel very peaceful. Because he understands, well, he has an idea, I would say, of what I went through. He doesn't really have the idea because I never treated him like I had ever been treated. And it was really hard for me to convey to him what it really means because he's never been in the experience that I was in. But explaining to him that I went and I built this playground for children and it meant so much to me because of my childhood and what the playground meant for me, he seemed to say that he understood and he told me that he was happy for me.

Preston ([14:51:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/JhVKRqNzuIEGqG6XISr2KqidL0UjvB3R_42OCpOpDuAgr12zHuYNenBI6tvlhO0LTip4voJhs0yxn2vYFDwsiZ_SIms?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2675.88)):

It's a blessing that he doesn't have that understanding. The understanding of what it's like to grow up without mom or dad.

Michael Kunkel ([14:51:23](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/nfYAIqScU6YWiqHzl_k33wJoJY--Pf8XbOhWm16gI5BgF5VSvJ0U0zOcAvydRHD29ptoC2ghgMKLtKDx0iiwRUHPDjE?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2684.85)):

I am very fortunate, I would say, that he doesn't have or will ever know what that is like. I do feel bad that others do though. Being able to maybe help out with that, it felt good. And one day I will tell my four-year-old when she's older, and I hope she also understands what that means.

Preston ([14:52:00](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/0v_d9ZC-RLfO_poUBslALI1r1JjUsHplSYB-QLwf6lgipr1l_AyQf4EsLhdVgRZZOGN6U4T3AX6jd06-JnYpOxrCDNs?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2722.41)):

If you just had to look back at this experience and just summarize what this project has given back to you, what would you say that is?

Michael Kunkel ([14:52:14](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/6zO115efLgeJ4LNfip3f3347DYVwX47UEZm9kI8hwrl7ts2KH6jgRUETr4D8W0SBMaLBQvVg4SGg_cF_WZ0uzAeAbwk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2735.64)):

It's given me back a part of myself that I didn't know was there, if that makes any sense? I didn't remember any of these feelings for a really long time. They weren't something that... I would discuss with my child what my childhood was like, but I would do it from a sense of how a parent would teach a child not as a child experiencing it. And the project brought back a lot of those childhood emotions, that at the end of the day I was able to say to myself, it's good. It really is good. And you did good. And it feels good to keep a promise to yourself also, I would say.

Preston ([14:53:01](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/y2ijxcFmMVJiuLSGmIEJtUgCD7KiwC13JnikiUqWDjjwemHy75zfBlYzvwKLbSOL3P4qvDMB3r5Y0SrW9Cmx5ViSGkY?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2783.25)):

Great. Peggy, is there anything?

Peggy ([14:53:06](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ZpwG7w2DtAphX2YWtqHVozJsygymd3tTFrsSr7uIWSlw5ilHNZI35awnPIFcyrqosDIJ1Gs6FjRrdsSrqjV8Ub3-LcM?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2788.41)):

Best memory. Best memory.

Preston ([14:53:10](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/2VpYYkmMMPrCEGIFNqTBatXVupht1JM3NmTC96XmvEQAA9YJ1SZQ6evIudVk4uekjurFJZPEGp185UlyXxJQHrMgNFw?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2792.58)):

Best memory of the project?

Michael Kunkel ([14:53:13](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/wkFI-kzk9an8Z6jIPQqS7UmTmgdAzzlmyVKBHjmtE7BHAr2g65LvwXTyz3-T-skx0RHipIiJdie4nSr_8LpYSrYTuDk?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2795.25)):

It was those two children. It was those two brothers asking what we were doing and building a playground and for who and for you, silly that the foster parents said to. And watching the smile on those two children's faces and watching them smile. And then that emotion coming back to me where I almost lost the ability to hold a bag of mulch, I would say, was probably the best memory I have of that day.

Peggy ([14:53:45](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/Z6GQDvT2uKB-hnlvGUJ5JV4WiF7Cke2jTlBTxsNJAVaZMgElM3Yh-qyhLx6C-97pY_Y1BUFqhVoEwe-_1LA_f7B0F0w?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2826.66)):

I have a question, What does family mean to you?

Preston ([14:53:57](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/HLrmtwQXikNSPK54Hb0q5rkyu2tTYyfBohZorUHcXuIwlFmjv3B8jwrmQ1iqjzgIxkSKXQCsLPoD9msBwPz1K9hUV4A?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2839.59)):

What does the word family mean to you?

Michael Kunkel ([14:53:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/t8ZSnIYHM-b0X1VUdsgmLYbMxUrVGl3wlc4UUSL-ZlX1SI2qRPCNYPdOz4CegnFY1JyFdjfg1VSk9pmQEYpZDmhEtkA?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2840.55)):

Everything. Family, the sense of family, it's belonging, it's courage. It's being willing to do whatever you can to keep it together, knowing that at any minute it could just fall apart. I think family... I know I gave you a different definition earlier, and I've been resonating on the definition I gave you earlier, but I really think, looking back, I think the definition to me of family is everything and being willing to do everything in order to keep it together, because not every family is together.

Preston ([14:54:40](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/j77uZgZrKNrMU4qRatceiDzTwBJ8shbjdIKLql6zbnSW-S-BXB1TJm51_AM8aTCY42h3oDCkqY_r6sI2IkAJbulGm4Y?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2882.22)):

Anything else, Peggy? Anything else now we've reached the end of my questions. I know I already gave you an opportunity, but is there anything else that's come to your mind that you feel like is important that you want to express regarding your experience?

Michael Kunkel ([14:54:58](https://www.rev.com/transcript-editor/shared/ogA5GvfwuUXiDAZuZG-PIZUb-gYFKHuD3sK7UljSs0leSRenoFNX4jd-C883d9LLIaJGNPpL73-jDiJq-83qAblVtdc?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink&ts=2900.01)):

I would just really, at some point, just would like Alan to know that part of me will always be thankful to him for taking on this event and allowing me to be a part of it. It will always mean a lot to me to be a part of this organization after he accepted, allowed me to, or invited me to go to the events, partake in the events.