

Laila C's story

My name is Laila and I've lived in Orange County for nine and a half years. I am originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I would define myself as a person of Indian and Persian Heritage, a Zoroastrian, born in the US, from the East Coast, who is a working mom.

I definitely feel like a transplant here in Orange County being of ethnically different, from the East Coast, and a working mom. I have found with time that Orange County is uniquely diverse with many amazing people in it. I enjoy being outdoors all year round and that my family has moved to be closer.

Right now, I'm struggling with- which is universal for any working mom- the balance of working, caring for my children, myself, and taking care of a house. I feel like I also struggle having my children take pride in their unique identities and have them value and appreciate the differences in other.

A hate-free OC look like if you were of a different faith, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religion, people would be interested in learning what makes you unique as well as understanding what we have in common. Once you have an appreciation and understanding of your neighbors, it is much harder to hate.

My advice for people in Orange County is: get to know your neighbors, get to know different cultures, people of different faith backgrounds, and sexual orientations. You are setting an example for others and your children to love, acceptant, and have tolerance.