**Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County**

**Date of Interview: June 24, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Sunflower, MS (Sunflower Freedom Project)**

**Name of Interviewer(s): Jawaski Gardner**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Jessie Cooper**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Audio file (Jessie Cooper)

[0:18] JG: I’m going to ask you about 5-10 questions about what you feel about Sunflower County and uhm how to better help this community. How long have you lived in Sunflower County.

[0:25] JC: I don’t live in Sunflower County.

[0:27] JG: Where do you reside?

[0:29] JC: I live in Shaw. Boliver County.

[0:35] JG: Do you work in Sunflower County?

[0:37] JC: I work at the school.

[0:39] JG: Since you’ve been working at Sunflower County what changes have you seen in this community.

[0:45] JC: Well as far as I’ve seen a decrease in the number of office referral at the school.

[0:53] JG: Uhm, do you… are there a lack of job opportunities here in Sunflower County

[0:59] JC: Yes.

[1:00] JG: How do you feel that … how can we better help improve that?

[1:06] JC: Well that’s a hard question.

[1:15] JG: Well ok. How do you feel us as a body, us a team to work together to show the young people that there is a better way that you know we can work for what we have. We don’t’ have to steal. We can work for it? You know. How can we better help that?

[1:33] JC: We can help that… merely talking to people. Getting their viewpoints. Seeing where they are having troubles because sometimes maybe there is a breakdown in communication between people. Sometimes all it needs is a conversation between people.

[1:52] JG: Do you feel that, since you work in the school, do you feel that uhm some of our young generations that lack of education is on a down fall?

[2:05] JC: I’m sorry I’m confused by the question. Are you asking me uhm if education declining among youth?

[2:17] JG: Yes sir.

[2:20] JC: Well it’s hard to say. It has in the past but hopefully in the future with the changes to common core and the changes to the way it’s being implemented. As well as the president’s changes to the way common core effects schools. Perhaps it could improve over time.

[2:42] JG: Ok, thank you for your time.