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

**Date of Interview: November 29, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Indianola, Ms**

**Name of Interviewer(s): Vonkerius Jackson**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Patrick Strong**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Video File (Patrick Strong)

[0:15] VJ: Where is the focus of your advocacy work?

[0:18] PS: Pretty much the children. We give back to the community. We have fundraisers. We give back bookpacks, pretty much have food, all those type of things.

[0:36] VJ: What motivated you to become an advocate?

[0:44] PS: Just giving back to the kids so that they can have a brighter future and have someone to look up to and keep the tradition going.

[0:50] VJ: How is Mississippi’s history impacting the lives of young people today?

[0:57] PS: I would say Mississippi is pretty much effective in a good way. I would say a majority—we pretty much have hustle ability. Uhm, we could go anywhere and make it.

[1:17] VJ: What gives you hope?

[1:21] PS: Family. Family gives me hope because it’s pretty much keep me striving to keep going.

[1:29] VJ: Is there anyone particularly in your family that gives you hope?

[1:32] PS: Uhm, my kids. Both of my sons. They keep me striving to do more.

[1:40] VJ: Where do you see student’s rights being disregarded in the school system?

[1:47] PS: Uhm, I really don’t--

[2:02] VJ: You don’t have an opinion about that?

[2:03] PS: Nah, I really don’t.

[2:04] VJ: How do you support your community members in regarding to encounters with the police? If you have any.

[2:11] PS: I don’t.

[2:16] VJ: So you say you’re an advocate. Where did you start off with your advocacy work?

[2:20] PS: Right here in this shop actually. Started about 2 years ago. Back in 2015. Well about a year ago. I used to always talk about when I made it I wanted to give back. But hey, I’m giving back.

[2:43] VJ: When you first started giving back did you have any negative things that hindered some of those things that you wanted to give back—like opinions or parents or students? Or just anything?

[2:55] PS: I wouldn’t say anything negative. Just seeing the kids smile. Normally, just giving back. Giving away haircuts. Making kids presentable the first day of school. That brightens up my day. So--

[3:23] VJ: Is there anything else that you want to say to the people who are going to watch this about anything in your life that you want to say to the world or the people in Mississippi or the kids in Mississippi.

[3:33] PS: I just encourage the people just to keep going. Just keep having faith and believing in yourself. Don’t let no one stop you from your dreams just keep pushing. No matter what nobody tell you, always believe in yourself.

[3:48] VJ: Thank you.