## **Riccardo Nunziati**

By Sophie A. Nunziati



## Growing up



My great- grandmother was born in Civita di Banorejo, where she had my grandfather. I do not know who my actual great-grandfather is, but my step-great-grandfather is Mario Nunziati. The picture is of me going up the path to Civita.



RICCARDO NUNZIATI IS MY GRANDFATHER (NONNO IN ITALIAN). HE WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 10, 1936. HE IS NOW 81 YEARS OLD. WHEN HE WAS 21 YEARS OLD, HE CAME TO CHICAGO FROM ITALY. HE WAS AND STILL IS A GREAT TAILOR (PERSON THAT SEWS) AND CAME TO AMERICA TO DEVELOP HIS DESIGNS. IN AMERICA, HE MET MY GRANDMOTHER (NONNA) WHO IS A SEAMSTRESS, AND THEY STARTED UP A TAILOR SHOP CALLED RICCARDO'S.



## **Before Coming to America**

AT THE TIME, GROWING UP IN ITALY WAS VERY COMPLEX. WE AS STUDENTS ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO HAVE EDUCATION UP UNTIL COLLEGE AND NOT HAVE TO WORK UNLESS WE WANT TO. MY NONNO ONLY WAS ABLE TO GET EDUCATION UP UNTIL FIFTH GRADE BEFORE HE HAD TO START WORKING. IT WAS VERY HARD FOR HIM TO COME TO AMERICA, BUT HE SUCESSFULLY LEARNED ENGLISH AND GOT A GREEN CARD IN ORDER TO COME TO AMERICA.





MY NONNO'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS DEFINIETLEY ARE STILL GROWING ON ME. HE ENCOURAGES ME TO BE HAPPY WITH WHO I AM AND BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE. AUTHOUGH HE DOES NOT RUN HIS BUSSINESS ANYMORE, HE STILL MANAGES VERY WELL. THE STEPS THAT HE IS STILL TAKING TO BECOME SUCESSFUL ENCOURAGE ME TO KEEP GOING. HE STILL MAKES IT BACK TO ITALY WITH MY NONNA EVERY YEAR. HE TAUGHT ME TO NEVER PUT MY HEAD DOWN IN ANY SITUATION AND THAT WE WERE BORN FOR A REASON, NO MATTER HOW HARD IT SEEMS TO BELIVE IT.





