

Community Conversations: NJ's COVID-19 Storytelling Project

Participant 577

Written Interview collected March 30, 2021

Translated June 7, 2021

(Translator Note: Handwriting was a little challenging to interpret, but major points were noted.)

Interview Question (written): How has your life changed since March as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

P: Life has changed drastically, everything seemed dark and fearful

I: What were the main or most trusted sources you received information about COVID-19 from? How did you act upon the information you received? Have you developed any new sources of information?

P: Only sources of information were the news, the same ones that filled me with fear.

I: With many aspects of daily life going virtual, what types of technology, or digital resources, have you relied on?

P: Only technological resources I had access to were social media.

I: Please describe any challenges you faced in accessing technology or digital resources during the pandemic.

P: Biggest challenge was not being ready to fight with technology since it is for those who are more advanced.

I: Have you experienced any difficulty navigating resources or information related to a language barrier? If so, please explain.

P: In my case, the language barrier was very difficult since I was only able to communicate only in Spanish, it was necessary to know English.

I: What was the hardest/biggest challenge for you or your family during/amidst COVID-19?

P: The greatest challenge was facing the lockdown without being able to work and being aware that rent, electricity, and the internet needed to be paid. Pandemic was unbelievable.

I: In what ways did you address the challenges of COVID-19? What challenges do you expect will remain post-COVID-19?

P: (Translator note: Unsure).

I: Who were your allies? Who were you able to lean on?

P: I wish I could say that I had a lot of allies, but unfortunately it was not like this. (Translator note: unsure of rest).

I: What were your greatest sources of strength? Where/when did you feel less strong?

P: Sources of strength were my children, aka Family.

I: What brought you/Where did you find happiness?

P: This wasn't happiness, but it helped to go out and receive food.

I: What brought you/Where did you find sadness?

P: It was very sad when looking for food and arriving late or when I arrive late and they told me that I had to return.

I: What were your greatest disappointments as a result of the pandemic?

P: Biggest disappointments were in the hard moments where very few people demonstrated affection.

I: What surprised you about the pandemic?

P: Surprised that during these times there isn't a reality (translator note: Unsure of last word).

I: What are your greatest fears moving forward?

P: Biggest fear going forward is not being able to leave from this pandemic.

I: Please describe one act of kindness that was done for you.

P: Act of kindness was receiving a card with money from ICN(?) that we used for a lot of our necessities

I: Please describe one act of kindness that you did for someone else.

P: Shared with another person food I had.

I: Did you have any conversations with healthcare or other service providers about COVID-19? What did this conversation look like? Who said what?

P: No Conversation on COVID-19.

I: What COVID-19 resources are you aware of, or have you benefited from?

P: I don't understand this question, apologies for not answering.

I: Do you know where you can get tested for COVID-19?

P: Can get tested in hospital, and other indicated places.

I: What have you learned, or where have you received information about COVID-19 vaccine development?

P: Received information from vaccine from TV.

I: When a vaccine for COVID-19 is made available to the public, would you choose to receive it? Why or why not?

P: Received first vaccine dose to stay protected.

I: Do you think that all communities have been treated equally during COVID? Were there populations who were favored over others?

P: Not convinced everyone was treated in the same way, there was a preference. People who are undocumented or poor were not treated equally.

I: Who do you think was left out of NJ's emergency COVID response? Why were they left out?

P: Immigrants were left out from all assistance. Assistance was only provided to those who had a social security number. It's very sad to see that we all pay taxes without a difference, so why don't they help us all?

I: What do you think NJ could have done better?

P: The state could have done a better job, the governor or mayor could have done more to protect the least protected communities, like immigrants.

I: If there was one thing that you or someone else could have done differently, what would it be?

P: If this was in my hands, I would've done a lot for everyone since there was a lot of pain and suffering from illnesses and all the necessities.

I: Is there anything else you would like to share that was not asked?

P: Want to share my thought in this pandemic that in some way gave me to recognize how hearts broke in the event where people lost their loved ones, the number of children that became homeless, and I ask God that this finishes, and to look over all of those who lost their loved ones.