

Community Conversations: NJ's COVID-19 Storytelling Project  
Participant 128: Angela Lopez  
Interviewed by M. M. on November 6, 2020  
Translated and transcribed by J. J. on November 23, 2020

**Interviewer:** Okay. Good morning, miss. My name is Merlis and I am with the United Way. As we spoke before, I am working with the YMCA to collect the experiences of people during the pandemic. Thank you so very much for accepting the interview. Let us know a little about your name and life.

***Participant:** Good morning. My name is Angela Lopez and I am from New York. I work with [company].*

**I:** The first question we have is, how has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your life?

***P:** Okay, one: more personal with myself and my family. I have come to learn and value what we have, morally, and as a spiritual and social family.*

**I:** So, what was the main or most trusted sources you used to receive information?

***P:** The news, social media, and the people around me. Because we were talking about the subject, and if we saw what was on the news.*

**I:** How did you act upon the information you received?

***P:** Oh, first, because this one in the family takes care of contagions. When we go out, we wash our hands with soap.*

**I:** Good. During these months, what was the hardest/biggest challenge for you or your family?

***P:** The economy and work. (inaudible 3:07)*

**I:** And how do you manage/handle those challenges?

***P:** Talk, play games, cook, watch movies.*

**I:** How nice. What challenges do you expect will remain?

***P:** To keep taking care of and valuing the family. This crisis, I don't know if it's taking advantage of those opportunities. For example, we make use of our heart when these opportunities are presented.*

**I:** Who were your allies or who was not trusted during this time? Is there anyone in an organization that you turned to in this situation?

***P:** Well, no. There's no one specifically.*

**I:** What brought you sadness, and at the same time, what brought you happiness?

*P: What's happening worldwide. We lost a cousin that was very close to us. And then, there's money.*

**I:** Is there something that disappointed you throughout this process, and how are things being handled?

*P: Well, suddenly, it was the behavior of the people.*

**I:** Like, that's how people react?

*P: Exactly. You feel like they don't care about anything, so that one (inaudible 7:19)*

**I:** Okay. Is there any, or what would be your greatest fear from now on?

*P: (inaudible 7:33-7:44)*

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

*P: Yes. Markets that deliver to your home. Suddenly, people who did not have information about where we could call, then let us follow-up by having a fraternity on the part of the people to provide information about this type of help.*

**I:** That's good. And, one that you've done for someone else?

*P: The same thing. That is, to call familiar people and friends saying, look, [go to] this market or breakfast. "That's what they're doing for free," or, "Don't go to such places." That's why I'm going to share information from what you have.*

**I:** During this time, did you have a conversation with a health professional or public service doctor about the pandemic?

*P: Now or at that time?*

**I:** During the pandemic, those months.

*P: No.*

**I:** Okay. What are the COVID-19 resources that you know or have benefited from?

*P: None at the moment.*

**I:** Do you think that all communities like this should be treated equally during the pandemic? Or do you feel that there is some more favored population than another?

*P: (inaudible 10:01-10:34)*

**I:** Perfect. What do you think, at what level, could have been done better? Now, you told me that you lived in New York, right? You received the assistance. What do you think of life here in New Jersey, if one could have done better--than if nothing had been done? What has been done?

*P: Well, I do not know. Thanks to the news, that's how I get information. I would not know how to tell you. It is informed and is handled well too.*

**I:** Perfect. So, I think we have covered a lot this morning and the topics I wanted to ask you. I do not know if there is anything else, I would like to share that I did not ask you. Is there anything that you would like to share?

*P: That we must show solidarity with others. So many people in this country need advice as well.*

**I:** I appreciate you collaborating, really. It's going to be very beneficial to other people and I'm glad everything is going well during these uncertainties. Thank you very much.

*P: Thanks to you. Bye.*