

Community Conversations: NJ's COVID-19 Storytelling Project

Participant #42: Rosa Elenn

Interviewed on October 26, 2021

Translated and Transcribed on November 13, 2020

Interviewer: How has your life changed as a result of COVID-19?

Rosa: My life has changed a lot because there's plenty of us that are out of work. On top of not being able to work, students are also having a difficult time because we're all home.

I: How have the food boxes impacted you? Have they helped you?

R: Yes, they've helped me a lot. And, they've helped those who I'm helping, by coming here and picking up boxes to distribute to those who need them in places like Hopewell, and another one that is by Route 206. So, thank you for the food that you're giving out to all of us.

I: What was the most difficult challenge of the pandemic for your family?

R: The most difficult part has been that I have not been able to work, that's one. The second is that my kids are bored and frustrated from being stuck at home since classes are now online. And, well, I speak a little bit of English, but it's a challenge for me. There is a lot of schoolwork that the kids have, and it has complicated things for me in trying to help them understand. That has been the most difficult thing, to be a teacher and a mother at home. For those of us with those same responsibilities, COVID-19 has really brought upon a lot of challenges.

I: What has been something you have done to help others during the pandemic?

P: I have been helping out a lot of people at church. There's [a Pastor] in Trenton, he has helped out a lot by giving out boxes. In fact, last week we were helping out here in Princeton, New Jersey. They were giving out over 100 food boxes on Thursday. There really were a lot of people in Princeton who were in need of this help. I have been helping distribute the boxes that they give to me for all those who need it, and sometimes I've been left with no boxes for myself, but it's really nice to give to those who truly need it.

I: Do you know where you can get COVID testing?

P: Thanks to the work of God, I'm a nurse and I work in Pennington and I've seen that there's a lot of people here by Nassau Street in CVS that are giving out numbers to do the testing.

I: Do you believe that all communities are helping during the pandemic in the same ways or in different ways? Are there communities that are helping out more? Do you feel that there are communities that are helping out less?

P: In Princeton, thank you to you all who have come to help everyone here. You know how I told you that I go to church in Trenton. Well, [the Pastor], he said there are a lot of people who needed help here in Princeton, and truly there are. I would like for everyone to unite to help out Princeton, New Jersey, because while there is help being offered, of course, there is not a lot of help with food like there is right now. Food like milk, eggs, ham, sausage, and cheese, which is what kids eat for breakfast. It's healthier for kids than canned foods. Like it says on the sheet you gave me, it's all good. However, they give out more canned foods than natural foods for kids.

I: Yes, of course. That's all for now, have a nice day.

P: Thank you so much. God bless you guys.