

**Community Conversations: NJ's COVID-19 Storytelling Project**

Participant 98: Odilia

Interviewed by Luis Rivera, October 2020

Translated & transcribed by Jamiera Jacobs, November 2020

[0:22-0:47]

**Interviewer: So Odilia, we must ask you questions about Covid-19 and how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected you. We had these questions since March when it all started on March 14<sup>th</sup>. What are some of the biggest problems you and your family had?**

*Odilia: Truly, the biggest problems were that we lost our time at work. And then, with the children's school also [sic]. They could not go to school anymore and had to study and do work in the house. And everything had to be closed near the house. The truth is that it has affected us enough.*

**I: Was there a generous act of love or affection that you did for someone during Covid-19? You helped them or supported them--or is there something you saw someone else do for someone else that you would like to talk about?**

*O: There has been more good than anything. I thought about, what if we could help another person? We had to do that without fear because people sometimes need help from others. Then, you are in a position to help more. Well, it's fine to do it. But, as I tell you, so many people are scared to give help to others. Because then, what if they're infected? What if they might get sick? They don't want to approach people. I didn't feel very scared because I tried to help a family, even if it's just talking to them.*

**I: Yes, thank you so much for that. Yes, a little personal, but that is important. What brought you joy during this time or how did you find joy that this time?**

*O: Yes. Well, first of all, God. We really have to thank God. We really thank God. We have a community that supports you so much [sic]. And well, I'm very grateful to God first, right? Because I'm able to tell that there are people who care about others. And, I'm thankful.*

**I: And we love that.**

*O: Thank you.*

**I: Another question. What brought you sadness and where did you find sadness within everything that was happening?**

*O: The truth is, I told you, a lot of sadness, because I've been seeing so many people who got sick with Covid-19. It gives you sadness. And it was so scary at the same time because I imagined so many people who died. But we also trust in God first. We will make a way.*

[5:00-5:09]

**I: How did you confront the problems that Covid-19 brought you?**

*O: It was very difficult for us. As a mother, it was very difficult for me to see our family situation. I'm trying to figure out how to give strength to my children. I told them that we will come out of this, come out of this, come out of this. In the name of God. We will get out of this, thank you and goodbye.*

**I: This is the last question Odilia. What problems do you expect now that Covid-19 is over--not finished? But--is there something still there that troubles you/frightens you and your family?**

*O: Ah, okay then. I trust that God has brought me here and was beside me through everything we went through. Even though it wasn't easy. But, I love that things are already getting better.*

**I: That's good. Well, that's all. Thank you very much.**