

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

Participant 576

Written Interview collected March 30, 2021

Translated June 7, 2021

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

***Participant (written):** Life has felt more calm, have had the opportunity to share moments with my loved ones more profoundly.*

**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:** Went directly to google when I wanted information.*

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

***P:** Google and Youtube.*

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

***P:** Sought out help on understanding how certain (translator note: technological) programs work, I became capable and achieved.*

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

***P:** No.*

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

***P:** Greatest challenge was managing the online classes of the kids.*

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

***P:** Nothing was easy in addressing the challenges, I just had to find the way to become capable and find sources of income from home.*

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

***P:** Allies were the group Healthy New Jersey, my siblings, and my family.*

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

***P:** Sources of strength were having faith and my children.*

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

*P: Found happiness in the resilience and spending time with my children.*

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

*P: As a victim of COVID, I felt defenseless knowing that it was to the point where I could not breathe (translator note: unsure of rest).*

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

*P: Biggest disappointments were seeing the deaths of family and friends.*

**I:** What surprised you about the pandemic?

*P: Being able to connect with people from other places and feel that support was surprising.*

**I:** What are your greatest fears moving forward?

*P: Fear going forward is having to go through another pandemic.*

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

*P: Act of kindness was receiving food every week from Healthy New Jersey and the support of my family.*

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

*P: I shared my meals, medications, and natural products to those who didn't have help.*

**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: Had conversations with company of natural products.*

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

*P: Benefitted from free COVID testing.*

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

*P: Yes.*

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

*P: Learned about vaccines through google.*

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

*P: Will take vaccine, to protect myself.*

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

*P: Not all communities treated equally, some were some weren't.*

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

*P: Undocumented people were left out, couldn't seek help because of fear.*

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

*P: The state could've had a better strategy of managing the pandemic.*

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

*P: Something different I would've done is communicate with more people through social media.*

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

*P: New forms to survive economically.*