

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

Participant 574

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?

*P: Participant (written): It was different not being able to go out with freedom.*

**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: Information was from all the places.*

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

*P: Relied on smartphone.*

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

*P: Children help with technology.*

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

*P: Children help with language barrier.*

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

*P: Biggest challenge has been not being able to go out; being afraid.*

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

*P: Addressed COVID challenges by maintaining distance and constantly washing hands.*

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

*P: Allies were all the institutions that provided food assistance.*

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

*P: God was source of strength.*

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

*P: Virtual meetings brought happiness.*

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

*P: Not being able to go out with freedom, not being able to grab a coffee with friends brought sadness.*

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

*P: Greatest disappointments was knowing that many people were dying; personal family members passed away as well and not being able to say the last goodbye was very hard.*

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

*P: The number of people who were sick and who passed away was surprising.*

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

*P: Biggest fears going forward will be large gatherings and not being able to hug each other.*

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

*P: A lady from an institution brought me things to cook—something I'll never forget; her and many others were thankfully present right in the middle of the pandemic.*

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

*P: When possible made a call to say that everything will be okay.*

**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: Yes, many times I received calls to make sure I was okay.*

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

*P: I did not have any resources for the pandemic.*

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

*P: Yes, many places.*

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

*P: The 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: I wanted the vaccine since they were on TV.*

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

*P: I really don't know.*

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

*P: I don't know.*

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

**P:** *The state should've gone home to home to provide the vaccine.*

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

**P:** *I wish that people did not throw their PPE in the street, would give them a fine so they don't violate it.*

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

**P:** *To take into consideration that this virus still exists, and we still have to take care of ourselves, don't make wild gatherings, use masks and social distancing, and may God bless us.*