

**Community Response / La Comunidad Responde: An Oral History Project
Conducted by Gregorio Luperón High School students**

Interviewee: XX

Interviewed by: Scarlet Nuñez

Relationship: Friend

**May 22, 2021
New York, NY**

English Version (Original)

Scarlet Nuñez: [00:00:03.77] Good afternoon.

Friend: [00:00:05.65] Good afternoon.

Scarlet: [00:00:09.07] I'm so happy to be meeting with you today, and I would ask you some questions before I begin to warm up, so tell me how do you feel today?

Friend: [00:00:21.94] I'm super happy to be here with you and super glad to do this interview.

Scarlet: [00:00:29.08] And how [00:00:30.00] old are you?

Friend: [00:00:31.91] I am seventeen.

Scarlet: [00:00:33.18] OK, so how do you feel today compared to the beginning of the pandemic?

Friend: [00:00:40.02] Today I feel so much better than when the quarantine started, because, you know, now I'm going to tear up because I was super, super, super bad because of all of this. All this. You know, I don't like to [be home because I used to do so much stuff in school.] [00:01:00.00]

Scarlet: [00:01:05.21] Yeah.

Friend: [00:01:05.21] [It makes me happy] to see someone that I can talk with.

Scarlet: [00:01:08.24] [Yeah, ah thank you.] That's great. So let's begin with the interview. Tell me, how was your social life before the pandemic began?

Friend: [00:01:20.99] My life, I think it was super fun because I used to do a lot of stuff. with... [I used to go to literature class.] And [00:01:30.00] I used to play volleyball, so it was super fun and I enjoyed it a lot.

Scarlet: [00:01:37.73] Ah, that's really good. So can you tell me, [about a specific moment?]

Friend: [00:01:50.18] [Um, Yes.] I remember that after the practice, sometimes not every day, because. Sometimes after the practice of volleyball, we went [00:02:00.00] to get [some food.] Because we were tired with [my teammates] and we had a lot of fun together.

Scarlet: [00:02:12.48] That's really good. And [is there] like the best moment that you experienced before the pandemic began. And how do you feel in that moment?

Friend: [00:02:25.31] The moment that comes to my head, it was after a volleyball game, [00:02:30.00] the other team [was really good at playing], [so we thought] we wouldn't make it, but we did it and we won that night so after that, we went to have dinner [and was super fun.] [If I had to choose] a moment, that would be the one that I [choose].

Scarlet: [00:02:50.41] Ah, that [sounds really fun.].

Friend: [00:02:53.58] [You think so?]

Scarlet: [00:02:57.32] [Ah, yes.] Is there any [hobby] that you used to do before [00:03:00.00] [pandemic] begins? And tell me if that was affected by the pandemic.

Friend: [00:03:09.56] [There wasn't a hobby] because I [used to do] a lot of things, as I told you, I used to play volleyball and then little [things]. So I have, I don't have time to do [hobbies]. But I [used to] went to the forensic lab Monday, and [00:03:30.00] Tuesday I went to practice. [So there wasn't a hobby] but it was affected. All those things that I [used to do] were affected because school [close]. So, and we [had to maintain social distance.].

Scarlet: [00:03:50.33] Yeah, yeah, so let's change [a little bit] the topic, and let's talk about your life to [during quarantine.] So [00:04:00.00] the first question, what were the fears that you have when [quarantine] begins?

Friend: [00:04:13.11] Well, [I am glad] you asked me that question. I can [feel] what I [thought], I can remember what I thought [at that moment]. I remember being so scared because everyone felt like, oh, we will be back soon. But [00:04:30.00] I knew that it would take longer to get back to school because it [is a pandemic you know]. We have to take [everything serious]. And there were people that didn't want to wear a mask at the beginning, so that made it harder.

Scarlet: [00:04:49.05] Yes, and is there anything [that you liked to do] in the first months of [quarantine]. [And why did you began to do it?]

Friend: [00:05:01.66] Yes, [00:05:00.00] [I started drawing] because it really helped me out with my [stress]. I'm [still doing it today even I am] going to school now. With all of these, you know, [social distance] and these things they had to follow, I [am still] doing it. I really like [it].

Scarlet: [00:05:19.60] I enjoyed [it]. Is super fun.

Friend: [00:05:21.85] It [really helped me out with] stress. And [it makes me feel the moment.][I was reading a book, the "amuleto" and [00:05:30.00] there was [like] illustrations there, so when I [started drawing, I draw them] and it was super, super fun and really emotional to me because they remembered me [I used to go to the club] and my teacher.

Scarlet: [00:05:58.68] Yes. And [00:06:00.00] how did your social life change during [quarantine]?

Friend: [00:06:09.11] [It changed a lot. I mean, not a lot, but you know I don't go to classes, I don't meet] my friends anymore. So that's the thing that I think [changed the most]. But I feel like I played volleyball on my backyard here and I [00:06:30.00] read some books that I have on my phone.

Scarlet: [00:06:39.29] Yes, that's, that's good. So let's talk about your life today to this day. How do you feel nowadays?

Friend: [00:06:54.54] As I told you at the beginning, I feel [super. like] much better. [00:07:00.00] [Better with myself]. I've been able, I guess, to make me know myself more than I [used before], I thought I knew [me before] but now I feel more connected with myself and yeah, like all the good things that came from the fact that I get to know myself more.

Scarlet: [00:07:23.51] And if something [there that you can highlight] from your [days].

Friend: [00:07:33.50] My [00:07:30.00] [days on the quarantine] yes, and now, of course, yeah, we do [video, video call] and [you know] we talk like, [we make video calls, yes, so] we talk about what we are reading and we at the end of the meeting, we talk about [00:08:00.00] life or [something like we used] before.

Scarlet: [00:08:05.32] Oh, that's great. That [sounds] really fun, like, that's good.

Friend: [00:08:12.31] Yeah.

Scarlet: [00:08:12.84] So can you like say that [your social life changed?]Like [it's changing again?]

Friend: [00:08:23.62] [I think I'm changing my life, after all of this] I'm getting [00:08:30.00] much help, you know.

Scarlet: [00:08:33.13] Yeah, that's, that's pretty good. How is your relationship with your friends and your family like today say?

Friend: [00:08:46.81] Well, I say it's much better with my family. [we didn't have too much time, to you know, maybe have dinner sometime, we didn't have dinner before] and now we can. And [00:09:00.00] that makes me super, super happy.

Scarlet: [00:09:06.38] `Do you feel closer with them?]

Friend: [00:09:10.30] Yeah. Especially with my dad.

Scarlet: [00:09:14.80] Well, that's good. That makes you happy right?

Friend: [00:09:19.92] Yeah. [And with my friends, I, even if we can't see each other in person], I feel the same with them. They never change. [00:09:30.00] [They are with me, When I need them they are with me] and that makes me feel support... comfortable.

Scarlet: [00:09:19.92] Yes.

Friend: [00:09:37.49] [Because I see the relationship] between me and them.

Scarlet: [00:09:45.80] Then that's really good, thank you. So you can like think in a moment that you can highlight from [quarantine]? Like to this day? [00:10:00.00]

Friend: [00:10:02.59] Not really. No, [I'm sorry] I, I, I think I try to keep doing the things that I like and so there's nothing that I can [highlight]. I mean [I started doing exercise so we can say that]

Scarlet: [00:10:20.72] Yes, OK, so that's close. My final question. Is there anything else you would like [00:10:30.00] to add? or say?

Friend: [00:10:34.33] I just want to say to the people that fighting doesn't get you much stuff, I know [it is hard] I have experienced it, but if you know do what you have to do to maintain social distance, [you will be fine. You can do again what you used to do before], maybe if you really need your friends or whatever, [you can call them], like get out [00:11:00.00] of here. And maybe you can do a [video]. Make it fun and try not to [distract] too much.

Scarlet: [00:11:17.78] Um. So thank you so much for your time, and hope you enjoy it, and have a nice day.

Friend: [00:11:28.30] Thank you for [00:11:30.00] this great moment with you. [I'm happy] I can share with [other] people.

Scarlet: [00:11:39.24] Thank you so much. [Bye.]

Friend: [00:11:40.57] Bye.