

Journal

My experience of this Pandemic:

I will start first with how my personal life has affected me. I am a very active person I am always moving from one place to another in my house and in my work. Ms. Rosemary always tells me that she is going to buy me something to calm me down :) It has been very difficult for me to separate from my family, especially my son and my grandchildren. I miss being able to hug them and share time with them. I am a very compassionate grandmother, and my grandchildren give me the kisses and the hugs that my children no longer give me. I also miss my family, who lives in Mexico very much.

Professionally there were many days that I would reflect on not going to work, not getting up, and getting ready to go do what you like to do. I have been working in the Head Start Program for 17 years. I love my job. Sometimes I felt like I wanted to throw in the towel, but I remember my children from my classroom and take a deep breath and regain energy again. The first week I spoke to some of my parents to inform them that school had been suspended because the Pandemic and I gave them resources and encouragement, we hope that soon everything will return to normal. It changed when we were informed that we would not end the school year with the children by order of the Governor. Having to give that information to our parents was very hard. Some students cried because they said they missed their teachers and their classmates. I cried on the inside so that they don't hear me because I need to be strong to encourage them. The next week we planned to go visit them at their houses and see their little faces of joy. They wanted to run to hug us and not being able to give them a hug, was very sad and we had to tell them from our cars that we loved them very much and missed them. It was a painful, but at the same time, it was a very rewarding experience to see our students, and the parents were grateful for our home visit. It is worth continuing in this field of work because we get to change the lives of our little students. Ms. Rosemary Kanawaty thank you for your support and to my coworker, Sara Estrada.

A special thanks to my Superintendent Dr. Marvene Lobato. To my Directors Elizabeth Camu, Mr. Vincent Medina, Ms. Natalie Barragan, and Ms. Annette Zamora.

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