

Person Interviewed: Suzanne Sadowski

Date Interviewed: January 25, 2021

How has your daily life been affected by the quarantine or Corona Virus?

Well, I used to go out of my house a lot for various things and activities. I used to go to the community center a lot for the lunches that they have and I used to go to meetings with people. Now, I am very rarely in public spaces except to go pick up my mail at the post office or to go pick up a little bit of food. I live by myself, so I've been quite isolated.

Do you feel supported by The Valley community during this time? If yes, in what ways has your community supported you? Can you think of any other challenging time in The Valley that would compare?

Well, this has been the most challenging time I think and I've been living in The Valley since 1975. It's been a combination of the fires we've had this year and the isolation, which has probably been the most challenging, but I feel very supported by this community. I feel like I've been able to sustain my life in a pretty healthy way because of this particular community and the friends that I have. I'm fortunate that my daughter and my grandchildren also live in the valley, but I don't spend a lot of time with them because I live alone. At least we talk a lot on the phone. I think the fact that so many of us have been able to use technology has compensated for the fact that we can't be with each other.

Do you think that the safety precautions such as masks, social distancing, and hand washing are too much, too little, or just enough?

I think they're absolutely essential and I'm glad that in our community people seem to be pretty observant of safety measures. I think it's really important that we do this.

Have your thoughts about the pandemic changed at all since March of 2020?

I think when it started in March we realized how severe the problem was going to be and how long lasting it was going to be. I think we thought well, maybe a few months, but time went on and just seeing everyday that it was getting worse. I pay pretty close attention to the cases. I look at the county website and I look at the data. Then I look at our community and see The Valley is pretty safe compared to more crowded places.

Would you like to add anything about what your Valley community has meant to you during the past year?

There's a feeling that we're all in this together and that we're all working together to try and do the best we can and to help one another in so many different ways. I think the fact that we were able to get the mail at the post office is a really great benefit because at least we get to see people. I think we're very grateful and fortunate but I'm also mindful that we do have this ability to be together and that's not something everyone has. The community center has really been so great about the ways they've been helping people and the Presbyterian Church, too with their food pantry twice a week. I'm on the board for the San Geronimo Valley Affordable Housing Association and we're trying to make sure people can afford to stay here even if they're not necessarily wealthy. We want people of all different backgrounds, incomes, and lifestyles to be able to be here. Prices have gone sky high and families and young people especially can't afford to find housing here so, that is one of the things I've been really paying a lot of attention to.