

Transcript of Interview with Andrea Avilés by Sofia Soto

Interviewee: Andrea Avilés

Interviewer: Sofia Soto

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Location (Interviewee):

Location (Interviewer):

Transcriber: Lily Crigler

Abstract: Andrea Avilés is an International Student from Tegucigalpa, Honduras. From borders closing in March to Hurricane Eta causing catastrophic damage, Andrea shares about how she copes, stays connected to her family, and above all, positive through such difficult times.

Andrea Avilés 0:01

Everything is kind of crazy over there. But thank God My family is doing okay. It definitely was a very devastating- it was very devastating news. Especially being here away from home not being able to see it firsthand. You know, seeing all the pictures and videos it- it obviously hurt a lot to see your home literally underwater. But thank God my family's okay. And regardless of that, it's still my country. And I still wanted to feel like I could help in some way. And it was very hard being away, you know, like being able to not being able to be there and volunteer, seeing my friends volunteering and not being able to do that firsthand. And like I've said before, being away doesn't mean that you have to be disconnected. So I was able to connect with some friends that I had here from Honduras. And we were able to gather many donations from people that were here in San Antonio, we were able to spread awareness through social media. We were able to share a GoFundMe link that my friends back home started. And thank you to like everyone that helped. We're right now at \$268,000, and it's going to all of the people that have been affected by the hurricane. And it definitely will play a very big and important role with COVID spread. Everyone right now is just focused on surviving. And that means they lost their home, they don't have masks, they don't have money to buy masks, they don't have social distancing right now. So the country will be hit by a very large increase of COVID cases. And so that's something that obviously scares everyone and the population. But I just think that definitely Honduras is going through a very hard moment right now. And as international students, I mean, it hit Central America in general. So I think that all students that are far away from home, don't make the mistake of thinking that you can't help at all and thinking that you're useless because that will be something that will drift you from your responsibilities that you have here. So I think it's just making the best of it, trying to use the power of social media, trying to connect people that you can connect with and make the best of it.