

# This Is How We Survive

*Patricia Olivier*

**BEFORE YOU READ:** How have you been surviving the pandemic?

This pandemic made us feel panic and despair. My husband Jorge had to go to work. He works in the fields where the apple orchards are. He takes care of the young apple trees. He prunes and cuts the older trees. He harvests the apples when they are ripe. We worried he would get the coronavirus and bring it home.

## Surviving at Home

I am a diabetic. I was so afraid of catching the virus that I would not open the windows and doors. This is how I led my daughter Luz to have anxiety. She would eat, sleep, and watch television every day. I knew that I had to help my family, so I started looking for solutions.

First, I remembered my faith in God. He gave us this treasure of life, so we have to live it the best way we can. I also began to do more fun activities inside the house with Luz and Jorge.

## Surviving in Our Community

Then we took another important step. We decided to try to help more people. Maybe you are wondering how we did it. We started by speaking with friends, family, and the people in our church. We met other enthusiastic women “warriors.” These women have big hearts. Together, we help families in need due to the pandemic. We deliver food to families that can’t shop or cook. We hear about undocumented families that need financial help, and we collect money for them. The money helps if they have a death or illness in their family due to the coronavirus. We may be in quarantine, but we are also in a network of people helping each other.



## Surviving at Work

As for Jorge, he still works in the fields. His employers gave him information about the coronavirus. They told the workers to keep distance from each other and to wash their hands. They gave workers gloves and facemasks, but then they took money out of his paycheck. He and the other farmworkers make sure that the apple trees grow well and produce plenty of fruit. They are essential workers making sure we all have enough food. The owners should provide the masks and gloves for free.

When he comes home from work, he has to go through the whole process of cleaning and washing before he greets us. Then we sit down and enjoy every second together as a family.

This pandemic has been a great lesson in our lives, so we can be better human beings and be humble. I give thanks to God who allows me to live one more day and help the families in my community.

**AFTER YOU READ:** Who are the warriors in Patricia Olivier’s essay? Describe the warriors who have emerged in your community during this pandemic.

*Patricia Olivier is a Spanish GED and ESOL student at New Britain Adult Education in New Britain, CT. She is from Nezahualcoyotl, a city in Mexico. She is an independent business owner and she wants to be a role model for her family. Her message to everyone is, “Let us not forget to be grateful every day because we are constantly being blessed! No matter how dark life may seem, the light always shines through!”*

