

# Undocumented

## We Are Invisible When We Are in Need

Yolanda M.

**BEFORE YOU READ:** What is an unsung hero? Who are the unsung heroes in your life?

### A Time of Stress

The pandemic is very difficult for my family. My husband does not have a job due to the coronavirus. My husband works in construction, but during this pandemic, the company is closed. We have no income during this time. We are a family of five who lives with a lot of stress.

My husband and I talk about the economy, and we are very worried. The government will not give us stimulus checks or unemployment. We feel helpless. We think that we are not able to do anything about the government's decisions.

### No Help for Our Children

As parents, we are concerned about our children. The government provides citizens and residents with help. However, our children, who are U.S. citizens, are not getting help. This is because their dad and I are undocumented. This makes us feel very sad. We are constantly worried about money. I am worried about my family's safety.

For the government, we are invisible when we are in need. But when it is time to pay our taxes, we are very responsible. I never thought I would live through 2020, the year of the coronavirus.

### AFTER YOU READ:

1. According to the author, what is stressful about this time?
2. Read the article on the next page. What is similar and what is different about these two stories?
3. Read about Cosecha in the box on the right and then research the group and find at least one news article that discusses their work.



Yolanda M. is a student at Family Start Learning and Support at the Center for Literacy at the University of Illinois in Chicago, IL. Yolanda is eager to learn English. She wants to be an example for many other people but especially for her three sons. She says, "Despite difficult circumstances, it is never too late to keep learning."

### Immigrants Take Action

Cosecha is an immigrant-led organization that runs campaigns to support immigrants in the U.S. During the pandemic, for example, they are raising money to help undocumented immigrants buy food and pay the rent. They have also been fighting for the right of undocumented immigrants to get drivers' licenses. Find out more at <https://www.lahuelga.com/>.

