**Quang Huynh**

**Biographical Questions**

Name of person Interviewed: **Phung Huynh**

Birth year: **1982**

Relationship: (grandparent, parent, aunt/uncle neighbor, ect.): **Mother**

Topic of Conversation: **Coronavirus**

1. **When did you grow up? What was it like growing up?** I grew up in the 80s and 90s in Vietnam. It was a struggle growing up during a post-war era, since Vietnam had flushed most of their money towards the war effort. Growing up, I was in poverty, and did anything to eat. I at my parent’s store and sold clothes on the street every day. Eventually, my parents could no longer afford school for my 3 siblings and I. So, I continued working for my parents until I moved to America.

2. **What do you do for a living? If retired, what did you used to do?** Currently, I work at a nail salon for a living.

3. **What education did you receive?** I only finished 10th grade, before my parents made me drop out of high school. My parents couldn’t pay for school anymore.

4. **Where were you born?** I was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, also known as Saigon. I grew up with 3 siblings and lived next to a pond.

5. **What were your siblings like growing up?** Growing up, I was the third child out of four children. I have an older brother, an older sister and a younger brother. Generally, I mostly played outside with my sister and my neighbors. But sometimes, my brothers would join too. In school, my sister and I did well academically, but my brothers were slackers. They got beaten by the teachers a lot growing up.

6. **When did you move to America?** I was allowed to even to go America because my husband has family who are United States citizens. Otherwise, if I had not met him, I would still be living in Vietnam. I wanted a better future for my children, so I made a huge sacrifice moving to America, without knowing English or having any money. My parents and my siblings cannot just go to America either, as they would require filling out papers for several years. I moved to America in 2005 after I had my first child.

**Living History Questions**

7. **Where were you? What were you doing when COVID-19 took place? What do you remember?** I was at home when the COVID-19 quarantine took place. Basically, it started when the school called me and noticed that there will be no school for the next few weeks. When the quarantine took place, I just remember being home and looking at the news all day, looking for updates and more information about COVID-19.

8. **Did you witness COVID-19 firsthand, or watch it on television, or read about it in a newspaper?** I first encountered COVID-19 on the internet. While I was browsing the internet, there were many articles circulating around the topic of the Coronavirus. I looked into it and noticed how dangerous COVID-19 is.

9. **Do you believe that masks help protect your face?** Yes, I do. Masks cover up your mouth and nose, making it more difficult to catch the virus. It helps prevent the passing of COVID-19 from person to person.

10. **What were your thoughts when we had to quarantine?** When we had to quarantine, I thought about my job and my children. Luckily, I saved up some funds before quarantine happened, so I could buy food at the store.

11. **Did it affect your job?** Yes. I didn’t go into work when quarantine first happened. I was unemployed for around a few months before everything reopened again. I had to rely on my savings and the New York employment service.

12**. Have you learned any lessons during the pandemic?** Of course. Some lessons I learned during the pandemic is that family is very important, and they helped me through the quarantine.

13. **How have you handled COVID-19?** I handled COVID-19 through the support of my family and the support of the New York State Unemployment Services.

14. **How did you feel on shopping during the pandemic?** I felt very anxious when shopping, since I feared that I would get COVID-19 if I am in public. Luckily, I wore a mask in public, and tested negative for COVID-19.

15**. Is there anything we didn't talk about that you would like to add?** Not really, but I hope a vaccine gets made soon. Wearing masks, in my opinion, is very uncomfortable.