

# "IN MOMENT OF CRISIS, STRANGERS TURN INTO FAMILY"

JONATHAN IRIZARRY VARGAS, PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO

My experience begins on September 20 at dawn, it was raining; I woke up when the rain is hitting the windows very hard. This happened when the rain came in through holes in the windows. We moved away the furniture that was near the window so that it wouldn't get wet. We put towels and old clothes on the windows so they wouldn't get in. Then I went to my parents' room to sleep on the floor, it was the only place where the rain was coming in. When I woke up, it had calmed down a bit, but it was still raining. My brother leaned out of the living room window, told us the water was coming to the front door. My father went outside and saw that the sewer in front of our house was covered with debris and leaves. Me and my father went to uncover it before the water rose and reached inside our house. The next day the hurricane was gone. All the neighbors of the urbanization left their house to check the urbanization. That was the first time I had seen everything go out on the streets.

The next few days were to visit our families if it was okay, look for supplies for the week and other things. One obstacle was not having an electric generator and looking for one in those moments was difficult. At home there was one, the last time it was used was since Hurricane George and it didn't turn on. My father spent about 3 or 4 days repairing and trying to turn it on. Until he turned it on, at that moment it was an achievement to revive an electric generator.

What I illustrate is what happens after reviving the electric generator. It starts when my friends from the urbanization came to my house to play. Sometimes we would stay at home and play board games like monopoly or play cards. My mother prepared food for everyone and also made food for

my friends' family to take away. The next day my friends bring something for me to prepare food for them; since I didn't have an electric generator to store the food. My mother prepared it and told them to have their mother come to eat at our house and not to be alone at home. Since then my family knew their mother and every day she came to visit us and brought something to make dinner.

In the poster I illustrate the street where my house is, it is highlighted with illumination since it represents the electric generator that provided us with light in each dinner. Even though the dinner event takes place from my house, I wanted to do it outside, because I wanted to illustrate the stars in the sky because it was a moment that could be appreciated during this event. The title "in a time of crisis, strangers become family" is the reason that one moment I didn't know anyone before the hurricane and now I know them after this event and that you can count on them in difficult moments as if they were a family.

## Recommendations

- Prepare yourself better before and during these atmospheric phenomena, also help each other so that everything can well. In the universities they can make delivery of supply of those students who need it and offer their facilities so that it can continue their tasks. The agency should call on the communities to prune trees and collect rubble in the streets before the arrival of this atmospheric phenomenon so that the drainage systems are not clogged.

