

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, our small business has suffered major losses. During the shutdown months, we experience undue hardship. We have lost the only source of income for our family. As a result of decreased sales and increased costs, we lost our regular customer base, as well as employees. Those employers that were able to bear with us during this time also suffered lost wages in hours.

For the small amount of time we were able to open our doors to the public, the increases costs in supplies and materials skyrocketed. The glass installation and sanitizing products increased costs as well as time and labor spent. When some restrictions were lifted, we invested in outside seating with patio tents, tables and seating. The increase expense was projected to assist with any level on income stream, however, we were hit by Derecho. Derecho damaged and blew away all of our invested seating.

COVID-19 shut down the world and local economy. As a result, one of my main lines of revenue stream was completely removed. We were unable to provide catering for weddings, graduations, and other special celebratory festivities. We had a weekly contract to provide food services through or mobile food truck restaurant for big companies such as John Deere and Arconic which were also cancelled. All festivals through the season were cancelled, which meant that our food truck restaurant was unable to provide services, and this was another income blow.

The hits keep coming. We also suffered two burglary attempts and had to replace windows and locks. Our upstairs tenants suffered the same fate. Calming the fears of our employees that worked evenings was understandably difficult. Our current state is bleak, as we are again shut down. Our income is dwindling, our employees are leaving, costs keep increasing, and now our boiler has broken. Many small businesses and small business families are shutting their doors. We are trying our best to get creative with sales and food distributions, just enough to keep the doors open. We greatly appreciate our surrounding communities and their dedication to help us stay open.

Best Regards,

Virginia Castro