

Communities for Immunity: Stories about COVID The Peale, Baltimore | 2022

Whitney Frazier (00:00): What do you say to people to convince them to get vaccinated? What are your one-liners?

Joy Ross (00:16): I just walk up to them and I'm like, "Did you get the COVID shot?"

Whitney Frazier (00:17): Okay.

Joy Ross (00:17): They like, "oh no."

Whitney Frazier (00:17): You just like, you don't even say hi or like, did you get the COVID shot?

Joy Ross (00:20): They like "no," and I like, you serious and we just start a conversation from there. Cause "hi" is like a weakness for, I know Baltimoreans, like saying hi is a way of saying, oh, she ain't from the city. So I have learned to negate that hi sometimes, I'm always saying hi to people, but if you just come out, what you got to say in Baltimore, it seemed like it's more effective than... Cause they get shocked by when you say hi.

Whitney Frazier (00:54): They don't want to, people don't like small talk. They just want to get right at it.

Joy Ross (00:57): Right.

Whitney Frazier (00:58): Like what you want. Okay. So you just straight up ask them, and then if they say, no, I haven't. You're like...

Joy Ross (01:07): What are you waiting for?

Whitney Frazier (01:09): Yeah. What are you waiting for?

Joy Ross (01:12): If you need help? Can I, you know what I mean? Like I tell them I'm a nurse. I can help you get it, if that's what you wanted. Like, "no, no, I don't want it," and then I'm like, "why, you allergic to it?" Like tell me, like you don't want, and then if they go into that story about, they killing us, then I use that as an educational forum because I'm always educating health wise on the streets.

Whitney Frazier (01:38): Right.

Joy Ross (01:38): So it's just easier for me to jump in there behind it's like the little drug boys around here. You know none of them have been vaccinated, and I wanted to know I'm like, you know what? You are at a high risk occupation here.

Whitney Frazier (01:55): You're interacting with a lot of people.

Joy Ross (01:56): Why [inaudible 00:01:57] vaccinating? You know, they're like, "no, Miss Joy I don't contact with people" and this and that. So I had to hit home when I said about your kids and your family. When you go there, it's like a wakeup call. So they've been vaccinated now they made a point to tell me they've been vaccinated.

Whitney Frazier (02:18): Wow.

Joy Ross (02:19): You know? Yeah. I told one, I call him the lead ring and he claim he isn't. But I think he is. I says, "the guys out front haven't been vaccinated." He says, "what's wrong with them?" I said, "I don't know." I said, "you've been in vaccinated." He said, "oh yeah." I said, "you need to go talk to them." So it's so casual, it's funny because they feel like they're always on guard anyway, because I used to call the police on them so much.

Whitney Frazier (02:53): Yeah.

Joy Ross (02:53): So now I realize I put them in harms way in so many ways.

Whitney Frazier (02:57): Oh, but you now have like a relationship where you can talk to them.

Joy Ross (03:02): Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Whitney Frazier (03:02): Yeah. That's powerful.

Joy Ross (03:06): Yeah. They're not so open with doing their drugs. They're discreet about it. If I see some strange people out here or lingering, so I let them know. They'll make sure that there's no one out here because I'm like, it's not safe.

Whitney Frazier (03:28): Yeah.

Joy Ross (03:29): It's coming home, and your population is looking at us like we trying to sell us, you know what. I don't, you know.

Whitney Frazier (03:43): How many years like, did it take to build that relationship with them?

Joy Ross (03:47): Mm. I didn't say it started off rocky because I called the cops all the time. They annoyed me so much.

Whitney Frazier (03:59): Yeah.

Joy Ross (03:59): I did everything I could do to like reduce some from sitting around my porch, to planting lavender plants or, you know what I mean, that attract bees.

Whitney Frazier (04:13): Yeah.

Joy Ross (04:15): You know, so finally, I was sitting on a porch and listening to them and it just like a magnetic connection began, you know.

Whitney Frazier (04:27): When you sat...

Joy Ross (04:30): When he died, saw my daughter and asked me, he tried to talk to my daughter.

Whitney Frazier (04:37): Yeah.

Joy Ross (04:38): They said like, "you see that lady sitting there and Miss Joy, isn't going to let you talk to her daughter." So then I teased back. I says, "if you promise to stop selling drugs, maybe I can hook you up." Right. So, you know what I mean? It was just little stuff like that, allowed us to just kind of like raise the gap, you know what I mean?

Whitney Frazier (04:59): Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:00): And after that, I just start talking to them straightforward. Like what is it that we can do? You know, we got turnaround Tuesday. We got this program, that program.

Whitney Frazier (05:11): Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:11): Miss joy. For real, for real, I can't work for \$8 an hour.

Whitney Frazier (05:15): Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:16): Or, you know.

Whitney Frazier (05:17): Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:17): I can't work for minimum wage. I'm like, "yeah but keep in mind when your trying to get a job, part of your benefits is in that package plan."

Whitney Frazier (05:27): Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:27): "So the way you're looking at it, is really not \$8 an hour, it's maybe like 10. So you don't see them too.

Whitney Frazier (05:37): Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:37): So having educational...

Whitney Frazier (05:40): Right.

Joy Ross (05:41): Forms with them, it's almost developed to a point that when I came home from work, I can guarantee that I had a crap load of questions I had to ask. Answer, you know what I mean?

Whitney Frazier (05:52): Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Joy Ross (05:54): Cause they was waiting for me to come home.

This transcript was exported on Mar 11, 2022

Whitney Frazier ([05:57](#)): Oh.

Joy Ross ([05:58](#)): You know, and I got ready to go to work in the morning. You know what I mean? Vice versa.