Parajito Mesa Group at Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), New Mexico

Rosanna: I do think that it’s important for there to be internet access in Pajarito Mesa, because many of the kids don’t have computer access after school, because they don’t get a signal. It helps them with their homework. And lots of kids go to the libraries to do their homework and their parents have to drive them 15, 20 minutes away [to Albuquerque] to look for a library.

Sandra: And then the cost, as well.

Rosanna: Yes, and some parents are working, and can’t take their kids.

Dharma: Before we start, did you ask if it’s okay for us to record?

Carlos: Not yet.

*[etc.]*

*[Permission is granted.]*

Dharma: It would be helpful for us if you could give us a name, and age, and how you identify ethnically.

Sandra: My name is Sandra Montes I’m from Pajarito Mesa, I’m a staff here from SWOP I’m a community organizer, and I’m a Mexican, from Mexico originally.

My need for the internet is it is something I need to perform my job as a community organizer, do research, do research on where grants are available for infrastructure for the community. Also to put together documents, well, for lots of needs. And being that I’m from Pajarito Mesa, and not having the basic services including electricity for me to have the access to computer and internet and all that. Well that’s something that puts a barrier on me performing better than, you know, with the internet and without.

Dharma: So you don’t have the internet at home?

Sandra: No.

Dharma: You don’t have electricity at home?

Sandra: No, I don’t. We run through solar panels, solar energy. Also as a back up with a generator. But in internet we don’t have any form of, ah... we could have it put in our cell phones? But because we’re in an area where we don’t get signals very, you know, effective. I can take... it takes... just to even turn on the computer, it takes forever. Even our cell phones doesn’t get the signal right. We can get like pieces, you know, of conversation here and there.

Dharma: Do you have a cell phone?

Sandra: Yes. But I don’t have the internet on it. What I have now it’s one of those... what do they call those? They go hooked up to the laptops and it gives me the...

Carlos: A wireless card?

Sandra: Yeah, kind of like the..

Carlos: A little card to pick up the signal?

Sandra: Uh huh. What is that thing called?

Dharma: Modem?

Sandra: Yea I think that’s what it is.

Dharma: Is it here?

Sandra: Yeah, I think so.

Dharma: Can you get it?

Sandra: Yeah. (She goes to look.)

Dharma: While she’s looking do you want to say your name and age and...

Sandra: I don’t have it.

Rosanna: My name is Rosanna Gonzalez, and I live near [San?] Pajarito. And my age? [Laughs]

Dharma: You don’t have to say.

Rosanna: d I’m from Mexico. What else?

Dharma: Do you have the internet at home?

Rosanna: Yes. Not in my home, because I don’t have a good signal. but I have it on my phone, but I have really really problem to get internet so. So when I need, I come into the city to Albuquerque to get my emails and everything. And we can’t get the computer at home because we don’t have any signals. [?]

Dharma: Nobody has service where you live?

No. I think I heard somebody once [?] they need to come to the cit [?] to make their homework for the kids especially. So the old people I think the old people needs to get the internet, because they needed something, some informations about the medicines, or doctors or appointments or whatever there is... hospitals. yeah so I think it’s really import [e.g., important] the internet. For everybody. It’s so faster too, it’s easy. Because it doesn’t [?] [Laughter]

Sandra say that they can put up all kind of information on the computer. With the old people, I think it’s more easy for them.

Sandra: especially now with the senior citizens, that they don’t have a means of transporting themselves. they can buy things online, they can, you know. But ah... not having access to that, it’s a real barrier.

Rosanna: [?] internet on cell phones, but it’s not work either. So.

Sandra: So now we move to English?

Rosanna: Can we in Spanish?

Carlos: Spanglish.

Sandra: Spanglish. There you go.

Carlos: Okay, my name is Carlos [Grado?]. I live in Pajarito Mesa, and I’m a... what do you call it? Hispanic and Native American...

Rosanna: Chicano.

Sandra: Latino

Carlos: Hispanic, Native American...

Sandra: Not Spanish. Latino.

Carlos: Hispan?

Sandra: We’re not coming from Spain. latino.

Carlos: Okay, Mexican.

Sandra: Latino.

Carlos: Latino, Latino.

Rosanna: My dad, he’s coming from Puerto Rico, and my mum, Mexican, so I have 100 Latino [?]. Latina.

Sandra: [replying to Carlos] and Native American.

Carlos: Native American.

Sandra: Mm hmm.

Carlos: Like they said it’s hard there to get internet. I go to school and when I want to do my homework, I have to ride my bike all the way to the South Valley Public Library, and that takes a while, to be on the bike.

Dharma: How long does it take?

Carlos: I bike about... oh, 2 hours on the bike from [home?].

Sandra: It’s quite a distance, about 17 to 18 miles? And then we only have access to an hour on the internet at the library. So we have to give somebody else a chance. And then if we’re not done, then we have to get on the internet again. So I mean, that kind of puts a you know... well that’s a problem cause if we’re halfways doing work for like school and stuff then we have to save it and we can’t do that but then we can print it and then we go back and start all over again so we can... So that’s a disadvantage that us as Latinos and low income communities we have. You know the cost is one thing, then having access to that is another.

Rosanna: Why do you have to pay $35 a month for internet?

Dharma: How much?

Rosanna: $35 a month.

Dharma: $35 a month?

Rosanna: Mm hmm.

Sandra: But that’s just a basic.

Rosanna: Just a basic.

Sandra: In order to get the fast...

Rosanna: [?] the cell... it’s different, some companies. You have to... you can pay $5 a month.

Carlos: Mine is unlimited, but... it’s no good.

Rosanna: But it’s no work! [E.g., “it doesn’t work”.] So...

Candelario: It doesn’t pick up the signal?

Rosanna: It doesn’t pick up the signal.

Sandra: And if we do, it’s very limited, the signals that we get up there. So even if we get the internet with cell phone and stuff, we could be paying up to 60 dollars a month, and then, not having the signals when we really need that, you know, then it’s just a waste of money that we don’t have to be throwing away. We need it to be very dependable and affordable that we all could have. Ah... there’s lots of senior citizens that are not too familiar, or they don’t know how to navigate the internet stuff, and they’re not going to pay a lot of money for something that they just want a basic to get to...up to speed with what internet can provide to them.

Dharma: Can you describe your community more? How far is it from Albuquerque and how many people live there and what’s it like there?

Sandra: It is south of here, we’re about 22 miles from here. We’re on the north side of the boundaries of Isleta Pueblo, to the west from [Curs? Coors?] all the way to Rio [Puerco?]. It’s a large area and there’s over 400 families up there. The 90 percent we’re from Mexico, although we do have Native Americans, African Americans, and you know, you’ve got very low percentage. And I would say 60 % of the population up there are youth, under the age of 18. There’s lots of kids or young adults. And also we’re leading... it’s actually not a self-sufficient or -sustaining community. We don’t have, like I mentioned before, the basic services? We don’t have any portable water or any water at all. [Note: she seems to say “portable” although she may mean “potable”, or perhaps that is what she says.] We don’t have any electricity, we don’t have postal services, we don’t have emergency services up there, and we don’t have any addresses. We all have either P.O. boxes or we get our mail, um, family members here in the city. We don’t have any nearby stores, although we do have a land fill right in the middle of our community, which is also something negative very impacting our community.

Dharma: Did you say a land fill?

Sandra: Yes. Privately owned land fill. And then also we’re… due to the lack of addresses, emergency vehicles cannot find us when needed. Right now we’ve been working on... Well, and another thing too that really affect us the most is not having the support from our representatives, that’s one of the major struggles that we’ve been handling.

School transportation only gets to a certain spot, so kids still have to walk up to 7 miles to get to the only bus stop. Our kids go to... We have 3 schools in our district, or you know, the little district that we we belong to: Elementary is Pajarito en Los Palillas, Junior High is Polk, and Rio Grande High which is way.. in the South Valley. But those are the maine schools that our kids go to. Most of the residents go out of the community to work. We don’t have... we have... in terms of environmental justice... we have the land fill, we have the municipal jail in our community, we also have a car race track in the back, we have lots of illegal dumping that goes on up there, being that there’s no supervision, no enforcement of any sort, of like police or... we’re kind of like on our own.

Although we are all taxpayers, but our taxes doesn’t do anything for us. Right now, we work towards, that’s through my work, where we’re getting, ah... it’s health care prevention mobile clinic that goes once a month. That’s to kind of oversees mainly the the small prevention sort of stuff, or they get referrals to other places. The majority are without health care insurance. And... what else? Ssssso...

Dharma: Do you have telephones? Cell phones?

Sandra: Cell phones. Yeah, there’s no electricity, there’s no cables to hook up to nothing. Like I said, some of the companies we’re getting our cell phones contract through, it’s either Cricket, although, that’s kinda also... in a way just to a certain area and past that area is just... no use at all.

There are other companies. I have moved from T-mobile to Verizon, because T-mobile I experienced also you know like ah, cutting of the conversation. Also when I get to certain places it would just go off. So I moved from T-Mobile to Verizon cause they would tell me that I would have a better signal. And also that is also been experiencing some bad... you know. When I dial a number, in emergencies, you dial the number it takes from maybe sometimes even 3 minutes before the call goes through. And then the 911, as everybody else, everywhere in the whole country, you dial 911 for emergencies, well we don’t have that service either up there. We have a direct number to our Sheriff’s Department, and from that Sheriff’s Department, then they put the call to 911. So that’s also time that it goes by before we get the response that we need for emergency assistance. I can go on and on and on on and on... [Laughter] It would take me a whole week to go list and present about what this community is all about.

Now, as a community organizer, I been organizing in the community to help each other to come up with ideas and solutions for alternative some water, to have portable water for our residents, and also myself, cause I live up there. So for water right now we’re just going out anywhere–I call it begging—I go and beg to a store, a restaurant, just anybody that’s nearby and ask if I can get some water from there. Sometimes they say sure, and very helpful, some of them say no, because then [?] city, and my bill is going to be more than what I usually pay for. Then if we do find somebody that will provide us with water, then we have to haul it whatever way we can to our homes.

But all this negative and bad experiences that we face up there, there’s also good things about where we’re living. We’re in an open space, we’re not crowded with right next door neighbors. Also the noise, airplanes flying over, those noises, vandalism, we’re free of gangs. There’s some good stuff too. It’s a good environment for our kids to grow up in. We have cleaner air than the city. We conducted some air monitoring in the air and everything that came up better than...and...

Dharma: Do people own there own homes? Are people renting, or what?

Sandra: The majority we live in mobile home. Either single or not too many in wi... you know, double wide. There’s also some residents that have build their homes with whatever, you know, getting material and, from... if they have money left over they buy something, and they build their own homes.

Dharma: Do people own the home or are they renting?

Sandra: We’re paying for it. Some of us already down-paid. That’s another thing, too. We buy our own pieces of land through real estate contracts, and some of those are just being draft from the internet, you know, the people that has internet down here? And they draft this real estate contract which is, sometimes is to benefit for them instead of the buyer. And sometimes it’s just a way of doing the illegal selling of land. Because you know we buy land we can go pay for 10 or 15 years, for this piece of property that we believe that it’s going to be someday ours? Then when it comes to going and register that property under our names… we find out that it’s being subdivided illegally so there’s only one title for this piece of, you know, a 5 or 10 acre plot.

Dharma: So that would be owned by one person.

Sandra: Yeah. It’s only one title. So they subdivided themselves, you know: “I have 5 acres, I’ll sell you 2 acres.”

But them when you finish paying for that piece of property according the price they set themselves, you then go and find out that the land cannot be subdivided because there’s only one title to it. And if the seller wants to be a nice guy, which that never really happen, well then that’s just our loss. All the money we invested in the property, everything that we built there, would just go down the drain because we would never get any title to that place.

But then there’s other people who are been more aware of what is going on, and before they go to the contract or any type of buying property, they do their research. And that’s one way of finding out on the internet, whether there’s a lien on the property, whether it’s being subdivided illegally whether it’s been registered to that person that’s really is selling it. And this is something that I can really use myself, up there. Because a lot of people depends on our work that we do, and also to provide them with the right information that they’re seeking from us. And not having internet, I tell them, well let me go down to the office and I’ll look it up, or something. But then, things could happen in between the time frame; the information could get to them late.

Dharma: So you said you pay taxes to the state or city or?

Sandra: Well we pay property taxes, and that’s one of the things that I don’t see how, when property is being subdivided illegally, and that means that the assessor’s office is taking our money illegally also, because they’re aware that that property cannot be cut in fours, but then they’re taking property taxes from all four of us. So that’s also the corruption there.

Dharma: So if you’re paying taxes why is it that there aren’t the services like water and all that stuff?

Sandra: Well like I said before, there’s no support from our representatives. The land was... the whole area, there’s 18,000 sq. miles of area, so it’s a pretty good chunk of land. And there was no plans for any type of development. But then people from out of the state, even from California, purchased that land. Well, that land has always been as a Atrisco land grant. So then a big company, a realtor’s company, bought certain parcels of land, to drill for,you know, they were looking for oil, because I guess they assumed that there was oil up there, so they purchased these huge parcels of land, and then when they found out there was nothing they could get out of that area, then they just sold it to whoever, and then from there, the land started going to, cutting it in smaller pieces and selling it. And that’s how it got developed. And the county, which we belong under Bernadillo County, they hadn’t done their planning. Development studies or whatever they call it. So, they didn’t have no plans for any type of development? And we started moving in. But now because there’s still the South Valley as part of the whole valley, they don’t have the city water yet. So there’d the Chicanos versus the Mexicanos, like I mentioned we’re the majority Mexicanos. So there’s always that resistance still. Not in lots of clear ways but there’s still the racism there. Where there’s maybe Mexicanos versus Chicanos. Also native U.S. citizens [say] that they should be the first in line to get the what ever[yone] else has. And then we come in as 2nd class, um, either citizens or residents. As second class, they’re not going to provide us anything until the rest of city or the [?] gets, you know. So that’s... I hope that answer your question.

And the support of course is the main, main thing because if we did have somebody from our elected officials, if we had them on our side, they could be pushing for at least the basics. It’s not like we’re asking for things that are not necessary. But that’s one of the main reasons why we don’t have the stuff that we should, as a human, we deserve to have the same quality of life than anybody else. And this is so, it amazes me and kind of surprises me, being that this is the country–and that’s why we come here, because we want to reach our dream, and this is the place, supposedly that would provide us with that dream of owning something that we could call our own, more opportunities and everything else, and we’re finding out that it’s not so.

Even people from here, or this Pajarito community, is being already [?], not just locally or statewide but it’s also now getting to be more of... nationally, and even internationally, that–the U.S. being the powerful country and everything, in New Mexico there are still communities–not just New Mexico, but there are still things here you see only in different other countries. And people living in these conditions like in the third. And that is just not right.

Dharma: Do you have anything to add?

Sandra: How it is for you to be, being young, and wanting the things that other youth...

Dharma: It helps us to understand, because that’s why we came to New Mexico, why we chose to come here, because we thought that maybe we would hear stories like yours, that maybe it would be more people experiencing that here maybe than other places in the U.S. But unfortunately the only things the government wants to hear from us is about the internet. They want to know about your internet.

Amelia: Maybe a question is... It sounds like there are all kinds of things that you’re community needs, and, in what order is it important to have them? What would be the most important to have, then the next and the next?

Sandra: Well in my organizing skills and work, we [? down], and we gather, and I do outreach to every single member of the community. We call in meetings, we prioritize our needs, what needs to be put all our focus and efforts and time, and one single thing. Cause we can’t really try and work on all of them because there’s too many and we don’t really have that capacity, we don’t have the time, the resources. So we all came up with one... well, actually, there was three. Water is number one, because for other stuff we should find out ways of being able to... you know, like, energy, well we could go with solar energy, with generators, with candles, with flashlights, with.. whatever. And the emergency roads, we came up with, instead of waiting for the emergency vehicles, why not go to the full training of certifying ourselves as first aid providers. Which, that’s what we did. And then, so, water, there’s no other... we need water, there’s no other way of life. Humans or any other living thing in the world, and I don’t see why, as humans, we do not have access to that. And, don’t get me goin’ cause then, you know, I start: “my experience, my work...”

Dharma: It would be good to hear from everybody, though.

(40:53)

Rosanna: Well, the point is, people really use internet [these days?]. For many reasons, for homework, to get internet, so it’s really important.

Dharma: Yeah, it’d be good to hear some of your own stories about that, so, maybe we could... Carlos, you mentioned that you had to ride 17 miles, 18 miles on your bicycle, to use the internet, and that’s the library, that’s the closest place for you to use the internet. Could you tell me what you use the internet at the library for? What you do there?

Carlos: Most times I go to use the computer at the library because I need to do my homework for school. Cause I’m attending school right now.

Dharma: Where do you go to school?

Carlos: CNM, Central New Mexico Community College. If I need to do research, or do an essay on something, I need to ride my bike, [?] my backpack and go to the library. I even ride my bike to school.

Dharma: What year are you at school?

Carlos: I’m trying to finish my high school diploma right now. From that, I’m going to keep going, through college.

Dharma: How old are you?

Carlos: I’m 24.

Dharma: To use the internet at the community college, do you use it there, too?

Carlos: The thing is, that place is always crowded, and sometimes it’s hard to have a computer open. There’s always someone, or there’s always a lot of people at the computer lab. I go to school in the evenings, and so it’s easier for me during the day togo to the library because there’s not many people at the library at that time of day. But in school it is packed.

Amelia: How many times do you go to the library?

Carlos: Sometimes I go like twice a week, or sometimes, more.

Dharma: Do you think you would go more if there was a library closer to you? Or a place closer? Would you go more often? Like if it was maybe a mile away, or two miles, do you think you would go more?

Sandra: [One at? What about?] the community.

Carlos: Yeah, I think I would. I would be closer...

Can I answer this [question?]. I’ll get in trouble.

Sandra: Go ahead.

[Laughter]

But there will be back-talk! (44:44)

Dharma: Do you have places that you can use the internet?

Rosanna: Yeah. When I come in to my work. And [?] my work, and myself, when I come into the city. Last week I was (needed to) looking fora birth certificate for my travel. We needed to go to the library to get the information from Santa Fe. To get birth certificate places. I have a lot of things to do on this moment, and I have to leave everything and go to the... That’s why I say I need internet. Cause something–you don’t have the time, or... Yeah.

Dharma: How many kids do you have?

Rosanna: My oldest [?] takes my little one to the library, three times a week I think. When she needs to make homework or get some information from a book or something. At the school.

Dharma: How many children?

2-I have three kids.

Dharma: And how old are they?

Rosanna: 22, 16 and 19.

Dharma: Are they in school?

Rosanna: Yeah. Just the little one.

Dharma: Are you able to do everything you want on the internet when you’re at work? Do you do everything you need to do?

Rosanna: Yeah.

[Note from Translator: I wonder if she understood this question to mean, “Are you able to do everything you you need to do on the internet for work, when you’re at work”. Because she just said that she went to the library to look up birth certificate information. So maybe she can’t do any personal business online at work. Just speculation.]

Dharma: What do you use the internet for?

Rosanna: For news... just for me? Um, part of my work.[?] information for something.... looking for another job. Part-time jobs or... I have email. So I need to get my mail. For college for my daughter. Lot of things. You can [?] lot of things to do on the internet.

Sandra: And chat. [Laughs]

Rosanna: And chat, yeah, chatting.

Sandra: That’s what [I don’t?] do.

Carlos: Resources.

Rosanna: I have a lot of friends! On New York, Canada, Germany. You can meet a lot of people on internet.

Sandra: I just want to share this. Since, like I said, I don’t have internet in Pajarito Mesa. There’s this important information I needed to be at a meeting, but it was scheduled for Monday at 8 o’clock in the morning. Well I went out on Friday afternoon, at 2, I was gone, cause sometimes I don’t come in at all here, I’m needed more out there so I stay up there. Cause we had a very important meeting for the community, we put a meeting together so–anyway...

The meeting on Monday was related to the water system that we’re taking to the community. So the meeting had been approved, and everyone came in consensus that Monday at 8 was good for everybody, so they sent me that information through email, but I wasn’t here, so I didn’t get to go. So that... me, as the representative of the community at Pajarito Mesa, I wasn’t able to be at this meeting. They needed approval to move the water system forward in different ways. And now it got delayed till after the holidays of Thanksgiving. So that’s putting us like a whole week, that we could have been work to put the asphalt on the where the system is going to be, it’s under construction right now. So how we [got lost of?] getting us water sooner. So that’s one thing I missed out for not having internet access closer instead of also me driving, either to the library or coming all the way here so I can get my email and stuff. My phone doesn’t [?] signals up there so I’m kind of like without any kind of communication.

Dharma: Do you think the phones and everything work better for people in other communities around? Do you think it’s typical for the phones not to work so well and to have the spotty coverage and all that? Do you think that’s something special just for your community?

Sandra: I think so, I think it’s just for the Pajarito area cause there’s no, the signals aint there. Everybody else, I don’t see anybody else complaining. Even the less expensive, basic service down here in city–well, within the area of service–they all have good communication.

Dharma: But you pay the same amount of money, don’t you.

Sandra: Yeah. And we don’t get the the same service.

Dharma: Did you guys complain to the phone companies?

Rosanna: Oh, yeah!

Sandra: Yeah. [Laughs]

Rosanna: Oh, yeah!

Dharma: What did the say?

Rosanna: They have a good signal over there.

Dharma: They say that you have a good signal?

Rosanna: They say that.

Sandra: And then they show us

Rosanna: They lost the call, when you call in... then–well... it’s gone! Hello?!

Sandra: They show us this map, where it says, well, we have service for all this area... They mention Santa Fe, they mention...

Rosanna: You can have the [little?] company, but it no works. [?] Verizon wireless. They don’t work.

Dharma: Nothing works?

But you say, when you look at the map, you see, we’re on the map, so we should get service.

Sandra: Yeah.

Dharma: But then when you get it, it doesn’t work.

Sandra: Mm hmm.

Sandra: Even our digital... you know, the new thing that went out? We don’t the same, ah...

Dharma: The TV.s?

Sandra: Uh huh.

Rosanna: Yeah.

Dharma: So what happened with the TVs?

Sandra: Well the Spanish-speaking... we only have one channel that works.

Rosanna: [Laughs]

Sandra: That we count on that for news and updates on what’s outside of the community.

(52:34)

Sandra: We don’t get the same... It has a lot of snow.

Rosanna: [When it’s bad weather?].

Dharma: That’s after the DTV?

Sandra: Uh huh. And before we used to have channel 41, channel 47, and channel... 17? It was the [?] or something. Now we only have one. And now we can’t have access to the ones before.

Dharma: It’s a different channel than the ones you used to have?

Sandra: No, we only get one now.

Dharma: Which one do you get now?

Sandra: 41.

Dharma: And is that the Spanish?

Sandra: It’s just the Spanish. But we used to have three. And now we only... they cut down to one.

Dharma: Was anybody able to get the boxes? Or did people have to buy new TVs? Or what happened?

Sandra: The coupons weren’t getting distributed, as they told us that we would get. They put us on the waiting list, some of the residents from the Mesa. Then they would tell as soon as they would approve so many more coupons for discount, they would send them to them. Not having the physical addresses up there, it was hard. They wanted us to list a physical address to verify that the person was going to be getting that thing. And that was one of the things that right away, it flagged a red, you know. [?] how we going to use it? We couldn’t use somebody else’s addresses, a member of the family or nobody, because that family already gotten their coupons so that was like asking for extra, or duplicating that stuff, so somehow they left us with that. So we end up getting [paying?] the full price, which that wasn’t easy for some of us. That we have to leave something more, for me, to be able to buy this, um...

And then also we noticed too that there were some private small companies that were offering this system but the prices were different. RadioShack was selling it for 80, but then with the coupon it was 40. And Walmart, it was cheaper, but they didn’t have them on stock. So it was forcing us to get something instead of waiting until whatever they...

So it was a transaction that we didn’t really...

Dharma: Cande, do we have to go?

Cande: Yes, we’re going to another gathering. But we want to say good afternoon [as in, “farewell”].

Sandra: Okay. And to you all also. “We wish you well, on your way, for those... it’s the... oh, the...” [Alternate translation: We give you permission for those... it’s the... oh, the..] [Alternate translation: “Should we give you permission for those...? It’s the... Oh, the..”]

Carlos: It’s just that they’d already told other participants that they were going to go.

Rosanna: [? (A joke)]

[Laughter]

Sandra: But I want to thank you all for, at least to be able to express our... how important

Rosanna: Our needs.

Sandra: having us is to this internet...

[Cleaning up]

Dharma: What would you like to tell president Obama for your internet? What would you like him to know?

Sandra: Oh... ah–wah! I talk too much.

Rosanna: I don’t know.

Sandra: Tell them, tell them!

Candelario: [?] time [?] speak first... [Maybe: “If you need more time, one of them could speak first”.]

Rosanna: Ooh... ah...

Sandra: Do you want me to leave, so you can think about it?

Rosanna: No, no; it’s okay. New Mexico is the state more poor of the nation. New Mexico. So New Mexico needs–really needs–help, for the Presidents. The people needs help, the kids needs help. Everybody here, on this state, specially. So... Mr. Obama, please, looking down, we are here in New Mexico. We live here. And we have a lot of needs.

Sandra: But on the internet? Isn’t that what you asked? I mean, why... So, to me, I would tell him that we’re, especially the Latinos, low income communities, we would... also deserve, as well as have, better access to the internet. Because we want to, you know for the communication information, the news, everything that goes on–if we don’t get it through the digital TV, which is...

Rosanna: We’re fighting every day, with TV, with the phone, with the... every communication thing...

Sandra: Yeah. So it would be something to have, you know,

Rosanna: [?]

Sandra: for sure, everybody here in New Mexico or the whole public to have a better ways of reaching or having internet. But an internet that would work.

Rosanna: Oh my goodness! [?] [Note: This statement seems not to have been a response to the discussion, but rather, to something done by someone in the room.]

Sandra: A service that would really provides the service and be dependable.

Dharma: Do people have computers out there?

Sandra: Up in the Mesa? I have my laptop, but I really can’t work unless I use the generator, which I don’t do that because if I’m working on something and all of a sudden, it won’t [cut off?] gasoline or something, all the work that I do is [lost?].

Rosanna: Do you get the little thing that you put in the computer?

Sandra: Mm hmm.

Rosanna: It doesn’t work, does it?

Sandra: No, takes forever to get the internet. And now my laptop, when it goes connected?

Rosanna: Mm hmm.

Sandra: It’s not rejecting it. [Perhaps she means, “It’s now rejecting it”?] So then I pulled it,

Rosanna: Yeah. They don’t [?]...

Sandra: and now it’s not reading the whatever it reads to get me into the...

Rosanna: It’s a little thing that you can put on the [?] of your computer to get internet.

Dharma: Ah, [?]

Rosanna: The telephones company, Cricket or

Sandra: T-Mobile

Rosanna: T-Mobile?

Sandra: So now I have to replace my laptop now in order to continue using my modem or mode-something.

Rosanna: Modem.

Dharma: You need a different laptop to use it?

Sandra: Yeah.

Sandra: I could take it in because it’s not reading the register, whatever, the internet [?].

[Thanks all around.]

*END*