

Not all superheros wear capes

BY SABRINA VIZURRAGA '22
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FABIOLA BELIBI '22

SOPHOMORE FABIOLA BELIBI KNOWS FIRST HAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE A PARENT WORKING ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SHE'S DOING HER PART BY HELPING TO SPREAD LOVE

COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED US ALL, DEEPLY.

Our way of life has turned into something unprecedented. Quite frankly, this is an alarming time. But for those with parents who are on the front lines, it is even more so. Fabi Belibi '22 is one of these kids. The thought of your mom or dad contracting this illness is terrifying, and this fear is even more real when your parents are on the front lines. However, the Belibi family has decided to take action by making masks.

“

Having both my parents as doctors is extremely stressful, especially when you start thinking of all the risks.

Q&A

ELEVATE: Your parents are first responders. What service do they work in? What role do they have within their departments?

A: So both of my parents are doctors; my dad specializes in Internal Medicine and Nephrology, and my mother specializes in Pediatrics and Allergy & Immunology. To put it less fancy, my mom sees children, and my dad sees adults. Recently, they have gotten way more sick patients rather than general checkups. They've already tested close to 100 patients for the coronavirus.

ELEVATE: What is it like having both your parents out in the field during this pandemic?

A: It's extremely stressful, especially when you start thinking of all the risks. The largest change is we talk about Coronavirus a lot, whether it's the cases they faced that day, the different variety of symptoms patients were having or another update (usually negative). However, this whole process is so much more bearable with my siblings. We can lean on each other and distract each other from thinking about the dangers of my parents' job.

ELEVATE: How has the pandemic affected your family?

A: I can't say that it has taken over our



lives, but it plays a huge part now. Our parents go to work as usual, they wear masks, and we have to wear them too; we have to practice social distancing from our own parents. However, my parents have been able to treat all of their patients who have the coronavirus and nurse them back to health, so it gives us hope that this will be over soon, patient by patient.

ELEVATE: Why did you want to make the masks?

A: My parents were explaining to us one day that the country had run out of masks, but their patients were really in need. That's when my mom got the idea to start making our own, and all the kids decided to pitch in and help.

ELEVATE: How many masks have you made so far?

A: We directly made over 200 masks. Later on in the process, since masks were in such high demand, we had professionals sew them with our same material and design so that we could get them out to people faster. So in total, counting those, around 500.

ELEVATE: If you could tell our students one thing about what it's like to have your parents on the front line of the pandemic, what would you say?

A: It's a scary thought that they could catch the coronavirus at any moment, not to mention spread it to us. But everyday I'm so proud of the work they've done for the community. I would rather they take this risk for their patients instead of refusing service to people in need.

ELEVATE: I know that you do track. How has it been missing your track season? What do you miss most about it?

A: Honestly, it's been awful, I miss it everyday. I was so disappointed when I heard because I had so many goals for this year. There's nothing I can do but keep training until next season. I really, really miss our team and coaches, but I miss competing the most; just being able to go out there and do what I love most.

ELEVATE: Any other comments?

A: Try and keep a positive attitude during this isolation and take care of yourself mentally!

A big thank you to everyone on the front lines- The Elevate Staff and Regis Jesuit are forever thankful for your service.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN NO SEW MASK

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED

BANDANNA
HAIR TIES
COFFEE FILTER-
OPTIONAL

STEP BY STEP GUIDE



1 Lay out a bandanna on a flat surface

Place a coffee filter in the center (optional).



2 Fold the top + bottom in towards the center.



3 Loop the hair ties around the fabric, folding the right and left sides into the center.



4 Tuck in one end of the fabric into the other.



5 Loop hair ties to the ears and adjust as needed