

Felipe's Story: "I'm going to the U.S. I'm going to see who detained the clouds and how they detained them."

Category: Encounters

written by Sara Kohrt | July 27, 2018



"There was a time [in Mexico] that it didn't rain and there wasn't a lot to eat in the country. There were no crops. People started to say that the Americans stopped the clouds so it wouldn't rain, because they are very powerful. I said, I'm going to meet these Americans – I'm going to go to the U.S. I'm going to see who detained the clouds and how they detained them. I was about 15."

"[Hubo] un tiempo que no llovía y no había mucho que comer en el campo. No hubo cosechas. Empezaron a contar los señores que los Americanos detuvieron las nubes para que no lloviera porque son muy poderosos. Dije, voy a conocer los Estados Unidos. Voy a ver quienes son los que detienen las nubes, como las detienen. Tenía como 15 años."

Felipe, age 54, immigrated from Mexico in 1999

(Felipe, 54 años, inmigró de Mexico en 1999)

About the *Seeing Immigrants* Series:

From the time she was a medical student, **Joanna Sharpless** has been collecting immigration stories to learn more about the struggles and celebrations of being an immigrant in America. For a social medicine project undertaken during residency, she combined excerpts from interviews with a half-dozen of her immigrant patients with photographs of these immigrants holding something of importance to them. Three of these photos and excerpts are presented here. More will be featured in a later issue of *Pulse*. All of these photos and excerpts are exhibited at the family health center where Dr. Sharpless saw patients during her residency—in the hopes of creating a welcoming atmosphere for current and future immigrants. For Joanna Sharpless's own story of her interest in immigrants, see "[My Immigrant Patients](#)."