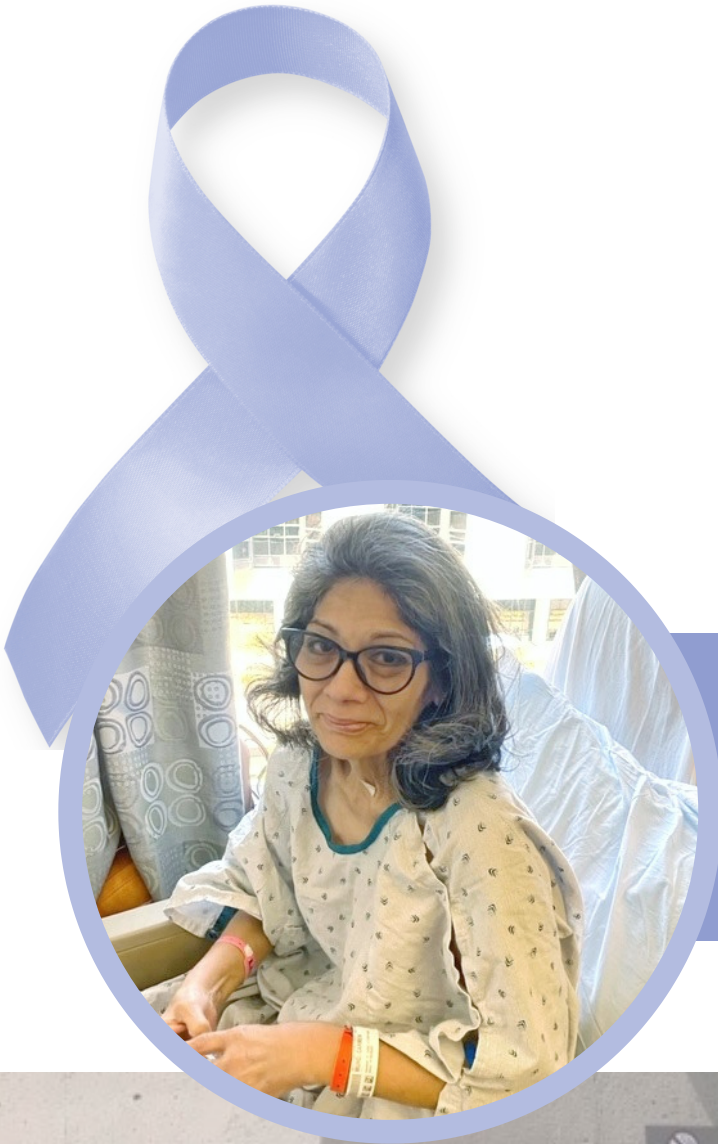




**Debbie's Dream Foundation:
Curing Stomach Cancer**

Two South University Drive, Suite 326 , Plantation, FL 33324
Phone: 954-475-1200 || www.DebbiesDream.org



Not even COVID-19 could keep us away from celebrating our mom. Stomach cancer has taken so much from us already so there was no way we would allow COVID-19 to do the same.

- Jessica Alcantar, Caregiver

Left Photo: Carmen Muro, 56, stage 4 stomach cancer patient was hospitalized for 51 days without visitation from family during the pandemic.



Photo: Carmen's three grandchildren, two sons-in law, and son held signs outside of her hospital window on May 11, 2020.

Photos provided by Jessica Alcantar

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WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

October 30, 2020

Dear DDF Supporter,

2020 will forever be synonymous with the COVID-19 global pandemic. This year our norms were interrupted, we faced difficulties and uncertainties, and many things in our everyday lives came to a screeching halt—but **stomach cancer did not stop**. Many patients and families have continued to suffer the impacts of this deadly disease, while others may lose their lives due to COVID-19's unthinkable consequences.

For Carmen Muro, a 56-year-old stage 4 stomach cancer survivor, social distancing took on an entirely new meaning when she fell ill this March and required hospitalization. She spent a total of 51 days in the hospital—**alone**. Due to visitation restrictions, many family members could not comfort their hospitalized loved ones during the pandemic. For Carmen, this meant missing out on quality time and warm hugs that she desperately needed to feel from her hospital bed. Several weeks passed before Jessica, her eldest daughter and caregiver, was finally granted visitation on May 11. To Carmen's surprise, the rest of her family stood just outside her hospital window, holding signs with a message of love and support for their mom: "Happy Mother's Day! We Got This!"

Stomach cancer treatment options are few and far between, and the pandemic made this worse. With many clinical trials that hold the key for patients' survival placed on hold, and in-person doctor visits now virtual, fears have increased for patients like Marisa Ajdelman, a 55-year-old stage 4 stomach cancer survivor. Marisa was first diagnosed in April 2017 with stage 3B gastric adenocarcinoma. Following several surgeries, including a total gastrectomy, she recently experienced a stage 4 unresectable second reoccurrence. Her treatment options went from surgery and immunotherapy to innovative and limited clinical trial therapies and radiation as an advanced disease patient. However, the onset of COVID-19 has presented Marisa and her family with her greatest fear—that the lack of clinical trial enrollments will prevent her from receiving new treatment options that are critical for her survival and other stomach cancer patients alike.

Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer (DDF) is a leading non-profit patient advocacy organization dedicated to funding research and supporting patients, families, and caregivers impacted by stomach cancer. Despite having to postpone or cancel our traditional fundraising events, we have defied the odds during these challenging times as we strive to meet the stomach cancer community's immediate needs. We continue to host FREE monthly stomach cancer support groups for patients and caregivers, educational webinars and symposia, and provide a mentor matching program to give patients the necessary moral support during this crisis. We also launched our new COVID-19 Resources and Support Program to provide updates and virus prevention information, a meal delivery service to help minimize patient exposure, a mental health video series, and a telehealth educational webinar to meet the mental and emotional needs of those we serve.

DDF continues to press forward during these challenging times, but we could not do it without the generosity of those who support our mission. Simply put—**WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!** Now is the time to get involved and help make a difference for those impacted most during this pandemic. Your support can help us reach our goal of keeping patients and their families hopeful and safe. To make your donation, please complete and return the enclosed envelope or donate on our secure website at www.DebbiesDream.org. Thank you for continuing to dream BIG with us to help make our ultimate goal of curing stomach cancer a reality.

Sincerely,

Andrea P. Eidelman, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer