

## **Q&A WITH REV CARMEN HERNANDEZ**

**Q:** What does “community” mean to you?

**A:** Community means to me "Family"

**Q:** What personal experiences have shaped your commitment to cancer prevention and why?

**A:** I used to work at the Century 21 Department store in NYC. A co-worker and I worked together in the women's department. We built a great friendship, and she became my best friend—I was about 19 years old. She was in her mid-20's. She started getting ill and it turned out she had cancer. That is when I did my first blood drive for her. A lot of co-workers came out to give blood. She had leukemia, and she passed away. I promised myself that in some way I was going to get involved when it came to cancer.

**Q:** Can you share a moment in your work when you felt you truly made a difference?

**A:** When I met the Disrupts team and on my family day event, we did a workshop about cancer research and found out that a few tenants of mine were dealing with cancer. That's when I felt I kept my promise with Jackie, who passed away from leukemia.

**Q:** What's one thing you wish more people understood about your community or the challenges it faces in cancer prevention?

**A:** My community needs your relationship and the resources, so they don't feel alone or misunderstood about what they are going through. I am a strong believer that we always have to do the legwork. The only way you can know what my community is going through is to build a relationship with them. So they can get the help they need.