



## **Volunteer Spotlight – Summer/Winter 2020**

### **Ariana Lopez**

In March of 2019, Ariana was browsing the website VolunteerMatch in search of ways to give back to her local community and found The Women's Breast & Heart Initiative. After learning more about our door-to-door outreach opportunities through our website, she registered for outreach occurring in Miami Gardens that upcoming Saturday. In her words, "It was serendipity. The time frame of Saturday mornings was perfect, the location was ideal, and it matched with my personal and career interests". Ariana works as a Pathology Lab Assistant and frequently works with breast tissue taken from biopsies to

detect breast cancer, so our particular mission tied in with her career and meant a lot to her. Ariana continued to volunteer the rest of the spring season and became a Community Partner in fall 2019. "I feel like I am really making a difference when I volunteer, and I know this work is essential for the community". Ariana likes working with the other Community Partners, enjoys meeting and interacting with the younger volunteers, and especially loves working with the women WBHI serves. "They are all so happy to see us, especially the women who come back every year. It warms my heart seeing these women doing what's best for their health". Most of all Ariana appreciates when a woman answers the door that wants to get involved and spread the word. "It's good to know that the outreach goes beyond the door we knock on".

Becoming a Community Partner has helped Ariana realize just how much planning goes into these outreach events, since she now sees and participates in every little detail. Aside from growing her event planning skills, she has also improved her skill in public speaking since she is usually behind the scenes in the lab and doesn't have very opportunities to practice her public speaking. Ariana really loves working with the WBHI and we love having her as a member of our team!