April 24, 2020

Dear Friend,

These are difficult days for all of us, and particularly frightening for those living with a chronic, life-threatening disorder.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, patients and families worry about access to medications, access to their providers, and what will happen if they have an emergency. Now, more than ever, they want to be connected to others in similar circumstances and CARES is still supporting them.

While our office is closed, our (virtual) doors are still open. Since the stay-at-home order was issued, we have:

1. worked with other national organizations to advocate for telehealth coverage of all patients and insurance coverage for at least a 90-day supply of life-saving medications
2. provided one-on-one, as well as group support
3. provided physician referrals
4. shared information on possible medication shortages
5. shared CDC guidelines
6. assessed access to telehealth appointments for our patients
7. assisted providers with guidance on providing those appointments
8. shared information with our biotech partners about continuity of clinical trials

We are looking at ways to continue to keep our community informed, as well as planning patient education sessions and our annual patient education conference. We're also working with newly designated centers of excellence to get them up and running.

Remember that members of our community are also on the front lines of this battle. They are doctors, nurses, allied professionals, grocery store workers, truck drivers, mail carriers, pharmacists, etc. who worry about their own health and well-being while serving the needs of their neighbors.

Our community's needs have not come to a halt, despite this crisis. However, our fundraising activities, including our biggest fundraiser (our Gala) and other smaller events, have been postponed. That's why we need your help TODAY. Your donation (in any amount) will allow us to continue serving our community's needs under these unprecedented circumstances.

Thank you for supporting our mission!

Sincerely,

Dina M. Matos
Executive Director

Louise Fleming
CARES Foundation, Chair