



Supporting patient advocacy and care for those with this life-threatening disease

MISSION STATEMENT:

To educate and support patients, along with their families, by increasing awareness of the disease and improving communication among healthcare providers and the general public.

A Note from the Founder and Director

Greetings! As 2018 draws to close, I would like to express my deep appreciation for all the philanthropic supporters of the PA Fund. Many have seen the Fund grow and develop its special programs dedicated to helping those lupus patients and their families who are struggling with this complicated disease. This past year, the PA Fund will be remembered for the work it has accomplished in increasing awareness of the disease and championing the patient's voice on the local, state and federal levels, as well as encouraging patient education and advocacy. With your generosity, many of these achievements were made possible.



Finally, networking with many of the patients and their families who are afflicted by lupus reminds me of the life-changing events they confront on a daily basis and the importance of supporting them through the work of the PA Fund and its mission. With your help, the Fund will continue on this path for many years to come. To view a list of all lupus events in the coming months, or to donate to the PA Fund, please visit www.lupusresearch.org and click on "get involved" and then "other ways to donate" where you can access the PA Fund.

Wishing all the very best this holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti Allen".

Patti Allen
Founder and Director

Support Groups

The PA Fund is honored to have Rachel Vaughan, a licensed social worker with 10+ years in the field, on board to facilitate the evening support groups as part of her curriculum requirement as she pursues her PhD in Psychology. The PA Fund is thrilled to have Rachel volunteer her time, knowledge and expertise as she leads the support groups funded by the PA Fund, which continue to be a vital resource for lupus patients and their families.

Advancing Lupus Care through Research and Advocacy Conference

The Advancing Lupus Care Conference continues to expand throughout the United States with the fifth conference held this past October in Denver. The PA Fund continues to co-sponsor these events to provide individuals with an understanding of lupus along with important research progress. These conferences empower lupus patients to advocate for their health in their communities with healthcare providers and their legislators. This half-day educational seminar is free of charge thanks to the generous outpouring of all the sponsors involved.

Lupus Advocacy Conference and Hill Day – March 2019

The PA Fund is proud to announce that its scholarship program is being extended into its second year for the Lupus Research Alliance's Annual Advocacy Conference and Hill Day in Washington, DC, 2019. After an unexpectedly high application response, the PA Fund was able to provide 15 scholarships, enabling lupus advocates an opportunity to travel to DC to attend an advocacy training session on the first day and to discuss funding needs for lupus with members of Congress the following day. This year, the PA Fund is honored to have the Michigan Lupus Foundation contribute to its scholarship fund. I personally want to thank the Foundation's Board along with their Executive Director, Ben Rathbun, for their donation, which helps make this program possible. If you would like to donate to the PA Fund Scholarship Program, please visit <http://bit.ly/DonatetoPAFund>. Every scholarship covers room/board and travel expenses to and from DC for this Annual Advocacy Day Conference.

Emergency Grant Program

The PA Fund rollout of the Lupus Emergency Grant Program (LEGP) for the tri-state area has been delayed until after January 1 due to compliance with regulatory issues. Once those issues are resolved, we will provide further details about application guidelines and requirements. The LEGP aims to address the immediate financial aid concerns of people with lupus struggling to handle day-to-day emergency living expenses. The PA Fund is thrilled to have the support of Lupus Research Alliance Board member Jennie DeScherer who will serve on the LEGP Voting Committee for the final grant selections.

Mail-In & Online Donations

Lupus Research Alliance • c/o Patti Allen – PA Fund

275 Madison Avenue, 10th Floor • New York, NY 10016

T: 646.884.6000/F: 212.545.1843 • Patti's Cell: 917.882.4227

For online donations, [click here](#) or go to: <http://bit.ly/DonatetoPAFund>