



May 19, 2020

Dear PA Fund Supporters:

I hope you and your families are doing well during these unprecedented times. I also want to thank you for being incredibly generous donors to the PA Fund for Patient Advocacy and Care over the years. Your expression of love and support toward the mission of the Fund and its various programs for lupus patients truly humbles me.

During this volatile situation, the lupus community has been staying in touch via Zoom, video chats and calls, keeping each other engaged and morale up. In this evolving health crisis, lupus patients have faced an additional challenge with one of their key medications in short supply directly related to the potential treatment of the virus. Staying connected with facts, current updates and correct guidance are vital to any community, especially during this health crisis.

As we all continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic, please allow me to share some of the PA Fund program updates with you.

*PA Fund Emergency Grant Program* - The PA Fund expanded this program in early 2020 due to the increased demand for financial assistance in the current economic climate by more than doubling the number of available emergency grants to be awarded to individuals who apply and are approved. The grants provide financial short-term expense relief to individuals with lupus. Given the developing situation with COVID-19, this program has taken on a vital role in the lupus community where many of our members are struggling not only medically, but financially just to make ends meet.

"I would like to deeply thank you for paying my balance. I was so concerned about how I was going to find all that money. You have taken a burden off my shoulders and for that I'm so thankful. Thank you again and stay safe." Ingrid

"Thank you once again, I appreciate it, every little bit helps ... God bless you all, be well and stay safe."  
Maryann

*PA Fund for Patient Advocacy Scholarships* - The Lupus Research Alliance's 2020 Annual National Lupus Advocacy Meeting and Hill Day on March 9 & 10 went virtual instead of in-person as the COVID-19 crisis was just emerging. Scholarship awardees were able to have their voice heard through the LRA's online Legislative

Action Center and by making pre-scripted calls to their respective Representatives and Senators to champion funding requests for better drug development, increased educational platforms and more research for lupus treatments and a cure.

*PA Fund Support Groups* - The PA Fund continues to allocate resources for the long-running support groups based in Manhattan where meetings are held 1-2 times per month. Now, these groups have gone virtual, guided by a peer leader; discussion topics include issues relevant to anyone living with lupus.

Because of you and your generosity, the PA Fund remains viable as it supports lupus patients through its numerous patient advocacy programs. As we move forward in these highly uncertain times, if you are able to provide a donation now, I'd be enormously grateful. Every dollar counts. Just [click here](#).

I want to thank you for your continued, unwavering support, enabling the Fund to sustain its mission. Please stay safe and healthy during Lupus Awareness Month and always.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti Allen

Founder

PA Fund for Patient Advocacy and Care

c/o Lupus Research Alliance

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