



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

Please let me start by saying thank you for the commitment you've shown towards the PA Fund as we all faced tremendous challenges this past year in a world changed by COVID-19. And I hope that steadfast commitment means you continue to stand with me as we look towards the second half of 2021.

This is an extraordinary moment in time. Please take a look back with me over the past six months and note the positive strides the PA Fund has managed during a period we hope passes quickly. Many individuals in the lupus community experienced daunting physical and financial hardships, and the PA Fund, through its various programs, was there to reach those most in urgent need. This newsletter highlights the Fund's programs which offer direct support to those individuals and their families living with lupus. With your help and generosity, you've managed to lift the spirits of many in this community. Your contributions have provided a light at the end of a very long, dark tunnel. A special, heartfelt thank you goes to the PA Fund's corporate sponsor, RPM International, Inc., for their generous 2021 grant award enabling the Fund's programs to thrive.

Let's continue together to make a difference in the lives most affected by this devastating disease. As a reminder, May is Lupus Awareness Month. Please access the Lupus Research Alliance's website LupusResearch.org for event information as the month unfolds.

Wishing everyone a hopeful and safe summer.



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

Patti Allen, Founder

Advocate for Lupus Research Week — March 2021

For the past five years, the PA Fund has co-sponsored the Lupus Research Alliance's Annual Advocacy Conference and Hill Day in Washington, DC through its scholarship program. This year, the PA Fund had the honor of being the sole presenting sponsor for this event, which was held virtually again this year due to the pandemic's restrictions. Hundreds of advocates from around the country were able to make their voices



heard through the LRA's online Legislative Action Center. With easy-to-use tools, they phoned and emailed their legislators to champion funding requests for improved drug development, effective educational platforms, and increased lupus studies to improve care.

PA Fund Lupus Emergency Grant Program

Given the ongoing situation with COVID-19, this program has taken on an essential role in the lupus community where many of our members are struggling not only medically, but financially just to make ends meet. The continuation of this lupus-related emergency program is a critical component in providing short-term financial aid to individuals who apply and are approved. Since December of 2020, this grant program has awarded a significant number of grants and continues to be available nationally as the challenges posed by the pandemic linger.

Support Groups

For many people, a health-related support group provides a safe space to share personal experiences and feelings, coping strategies and firsthand information about their disease and treatment. The PA Fund allocates resources to enable the long-running support groups to be held one-two times per month in the Manhattan LRA headquarters. These groups fill a gap between medical treatment and the need for emotional support essential for one's well-being. This is especially valuable given the long period of isolation due to the current health crisis. While these groups are unable to meet in person right now, the virtual platform has been immensely successful as an alternative.

Mailing Address and Online Donations

Lupus Research Alliance c/o Patti Allen – PA Fund

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

For online donations, click here or go to: <http://bit.ly/DonatetoPAFund>