PA FUND
for Patient Advocacy at the
Lupus Research Alliance

Holiday 2025/Issue No. 19

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.

As fall settles in, I find myself reflecting on the past year and the many moments that have touched our lupus community. I'm deeply grateful for the generous way donors surround the PA Fund with love and support.

Now more than ever, the Fund relies on the generosity of our dedicated donors to sustain its programs and community outreach initiatives. These efforts come with costs that require continuous financial support. I humbly ask for your financial donations to assist those living with lupus in dire need.

Lupus Emergency Grant Program (LEGP)

One of the most meaningful benchmarks of the year came with the relaunch of the Fund's Lupus Emergency Grant Program (LEGP). Since the end of January 2025, over 500 applications have been submitted by lupus patients seeking financial relief due to their struggles with this complex illness. ***Due to a decrease in donor funding this year, we were only able to fulfill 11% of these grant requests.***

Below is a testimonial from a long-serving LEGP Committee Member:
"My name is Alison Lee, and I've been a member of the LEGP Review Committee since 2020. The Committee is made up of four members who volunteer their time to vet funding requests. We prioritize circumstances when evaluating a patient's need for a grant award.

Over the past 5 years, I've witnessed the growth of the program and the impact it's had. Many of the applicants are, truly, in dire need. They are often unable to work due to their illness, struggle to pay bills, and sometimes also care for children. The grants provide $500 to people with lupus for emergency-related expenses.

Most of the grants were awarded for utilities (49%) and rent (35%). We prioritized applicants whose utilities were being disconnected or those who were getting evicted from their homes. It's been rewarding to be part of this program and see the relief it gives our lupus community. It keeps lights on for families and helps patients stay in their homes.

I only wish that we had more funds to help more people."

Here are testimonials from 2 recipients of a LEGP grant during 2025:
"Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for this emergency grant. It has been pretty rough adjusting to my May 27th lupus diagnosis and trying to remain calm to avoid a flare-up. Your compassion and generosity have put me in a better position to manage and get bills under control, as well as being able to focus on getting things in place to help my mom's continued recovery and get me back to work."- Diana H.

"I accept this emergency grant with gratitude for $500 to be applied to my electric bill. I am so

thankful for your quick turnaround and generosity. I hope that one day I can pay it forward and contribute to this life-saving cause." - Allison B.

PALS PROGRAM

The Patient Advocates for Lupus Studies, or "PALS," program was created by the Lupus Research Alliance to provide lupus patients with the opportunity to learn more about clinical trials that might help them. PALS pairs people considering a trial with a person who has experienced lupus, understands the challenges of living with the condition, and is familiar with clinical trials.

The PALS program was piloted in 2019 as an innovative initiative to improve clinical trial awareness, knowledge, and enrollment among people living with lupus. Over the past several years, so many people with lupus have benefited from this program, as they have become aware of and enrolled in clinical trials seeking to develop new treatment options for lupus. The PA Fund sends donor dollars to PALS every year to support the wonderful work they do!

SUPPORT GROUPS

These groups help to elevate individuals who are struggling to make sense of lupus as a chronic, long-term illness. It is a safe space where like-minded individuals come together to share their lupus struggles and successes, along with information about new developments in the care and treatment of their disease. To celebrate the Support Group's achievements, an annual in-person holiday event is scheduled for mid-December, uniting members together during a season of thankfulness and community.

As the last few weeks of the year approach, the PA Fund carries both gratitude and hope:

- **Gratitude** for every person who gives their time and resources to sustain this mission.
- **Hope** for those struggling with lupus.

Your generous contributions create ***meaningful*** change and make a big impact.

Please consider donating today. For online donations, go to: http://bit.ly/DonatetoPAFund

Patti All

Founder, PA Fund