

Help Us Solve  
The Cruel Mystery  
**LUPUS**<sup>TM</sup>  
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
GEORGIA CHAPTER



The impact on the patients and families served and empowered by the Georgia Chapter is compelling. We invite you to once again be a \$20,000 year round sponsor. Help us reach our goal of becoming the first \$1 million LFA Chapter in 2016. Our footprint in Georgia is far larger than our small fiscal budget and staff reaching **115 Georgia counties**. From fall of 2015 through 2016, we will host **11 educational symposiums and workshops** including our first programs in Cumming, Decatur and Savannah, reaching new patients and communities. We are one of the fastest growing Lupus Foundation of America (LFA) chapters in the nation because we are building friendships at every opportunity to grow our “Chapter Family.” This family includes: **over 30 statewide support groups**; the largest lupus walk in the country with **14,000 walkers raising more than \$600,000** and our chapter boards and corporate sponsors. Our expanded Medical Advisory Board donate their time and expertise at our statewide symposiums and shares our resources with their patients.

For many living with lupus, the greatest challenge is a lack of understanding; patients often feel they are the only ones who “don’t look sick.” The Chapter is a lifeline. We are here to listen and to make sure everyone with lupus receives answers and support. Ninety percent of every dollar donated funds our programs, resources and advocacy here in Georgia and we also support the National LFA efforts funding and advocating for lupus research.

# Year Round Education Programs and Events



## **2016 Lupus Empowerment Series**

**Reaching new communities and patients across Georgia**

- 6 Statewide Symposiums and 2 Newly Diagnosed Patient Seminars
- The Georgia Lupus Support Network: 30 Support Groups across the state including Teens, Parents of Teens, Mens, Young Adults With Lupus (YAWL) and Hispanics
- Free Webinars and Teleconference Calls
- Statewide *Could You Have Lupus?* education brochures in English and Spanish
- Expanded Medical Advisory Board of 52 specialists serving lupus patients across the state



## **10<sup>th</sup> Walk to End Lupus Now**

**April 30, 2016 at Piedmont Park**

**14,000 walkers raised over \$600,000 in 2015**

**We plan to grow the 2016 Walk to \$700,000!**

The Chapter's Walk Campaign is the largest LFA campaign in the country with over 14,000 walkers and families in Atlanta raising funds and awareness. The new Columbus Walk raised over \$23,000 in the first year.

The walk inspires and empowers patients and families while creating immense brand visibility. Multiple print pieces and promotions include **highway billboards, radio and four ads in the Atlanta Journal Constitution.**



## **7<sup>th</sup> Night of Hope Gala**

**November 14, 2015 at Mason Fine Art Gallery**

**350 attendees raised more than \$175,000 in 2014**

The **Night of Hope Gala** is an elegant evening celebration to raise awareness and funds, with outstanding honorees, fabulous food, auctions and live entertainment. This event has raised more than **\$971,000!**

"In 2011, lupus became a reality for our family when our daughter Shea, a 19 year old college student, was diagnosed. Until then, we knew nothing about this life-altering disease. This summer after only three years, Shea needed a hip replacement due to complications from Prednisone. We are honored and humbled by the support of family and friends, but we have so much more to do. We need your help to change the future for Shea and all those living with lupus."

-Stephen Evans

2014 Gala Honoree and Chapter Board Chair



## **8<sup>th</sup> Drive to End Lupus Now**

**September 29, 2015 at The Manor Golf and Country Club**

**This event has raised more than \$160,000**

This year marks our 8th Drive to End Lupus Now and our event is at the fabulous Manor Golf and Country Club, Georgia's only Tom Watson-designed course. Steve Evans, Chapter Board Chair and a member of the Manor is proud to invite new and long standing teams to this beautiful course.

We are indebted to Mark Strickland, our past event chair for his tremendous dedication to our lupus fight. Mark helped raise over \$140,000 in funds in memory of his mother.

# WHAT IS *Lupus*



- Lupus affects over **55,000 Georgians and 1.5 million Americans**, mostly women aged 18-45 but also men, children and women of all ages.
- Lupus affects **more than** the combined number of those affected by MS, cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, sickle cell anemia, leukemia and HIV.
- Lupus is an **unpredictable, life diminishing and life devastating autoimmune disease** which can affect any organ system, skin, joints, kidneys, brain, heart, lungs and blood.
- Lupus is difficult to diagnose and is very misunderstood in the medical and lay community.
- Lupus is three times more likely to strike minorities, including African-Americans, Hispanics and Asians.
- There is no known cause or cure and the incidence of lupus has increased in the past 20 years.

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## In Memory

Ten years ago, few spoke of lupus, there was little awareness and understanding of the signs and symptoms and very little investment in research. No one and no organ is safe. We have made progress in the fight against lupus, with the first new FDA approved drug in 2011 and many other lupus drugs in the pharmaceutical pipeline.

We must do more as we have lost so many of all ages and we cannot rest. We are engaging our community and hope to soar to \$1 million as a Chapter in 2016! We are relentless and endless, but so is lupus. We vow to work harder to build a better future for all those living with lupus and to find a cure.

