

## **Every Step and Every Donation Will Help Us Solve the Cruel Mystery**

### **Making a Difference Reaching New Patients & Communities**

The Lupus Foundation of America is the only national force devoted to solving the mystery of lupus, one of the world's cruelest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases, while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact. Through a comprehensive program of research, education, and advocacy, we lead the fight to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus.

Every step and every donation helps our efforts to solve the cruel mystery of lupus. Ninety percent of every dollar donated stays in Georgia ensuring the Chapter continues to provide and expand the only free statewide education programs and awareness efforts including nine symposiums, advocacy and new support groups reaching new patients and communities. The Chapter also supports the national LFA research efforts funding and advocating for investment in lupus.

Since people with lupus may not look sick, they may suffer from lack of sympathy and support as well as from physiological harm. When it comes to the emotional turmoil and suffering of lupus, we get it. We care. We're here to listen and to make sure that everyone with lupus gets answers and support.

### **What is Lupus & Who Does It Affect?**

Lupus is an unpredictable, misunderstood and potentially fatal autoimmune disease in which the immune system is out of balance, causing damage to any organ system in the body. Lupus is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with, and a challenge to treat. Lupus affects 55,000 Georgians and 1.5 million Americans, mostly women aged 18-45, but also men, children and women of all ages.

Lupus is a cruel mystery because it is hidden from view and undefined, has a range of symptoms, hits out of nowhere, and has no known cause and no known cure. Its health effects can range from a skin rash to a heart attack. Lupus is complex, debilitating and destructive, and can be fatal, yet research on lupus remains underfunded relative to its scope and devastation.

Symptoms of lupus come and go, change over time, and often imitate other illnesses, making lupus difficult to diagnose. Common symptoms include joint pain, skin rashes, overwhelming fatigue and fevers that last for days and weeks. While lupus can be disabling and fatal, the disease can be managed in most cases through aggressive medical treatment and lifestyle changes.