



2009 Year-end Giving Campaign

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representing the disciplines of cardiopulmonary, critical care, dermatology, immunology, internal medicine, nephrology, orthopedics, pediatrics, pharmaceuticals, psychiatry, and rheumatology

Dear Friend,

IMAGINE what it must be like to hear that you have lupus **or** imagine what it is like to hear your child has lupus. I know many of you can. 2009 marks the first time in 50 years that there is *hope*. *Hope* for a new medication. **A HOPE FOR A CURE**. With over 17,000 individuals in Connecticut with lupus, this is such an important breakthrough for our state! **FOR** many years individuals with **LUPUS** have been forced to use medications that are prescribed for other diseases.

Now we have hope for a new drug that will not have the same difficult side effects of the medications that are currently in use. Earlier this month, Human Genome Sciences and GlaxoSmithKline announced promising results from the second of two large-scale clinical drug trials of BENLYSTA™, making it eligible for approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) next year. If approved, BENLYSTA™ would be the very first drug developed for lupus specifically. Yet, lupus is a complex disease and not every therapy will be appropriate for all patients. Each person with lupus is unique. In order to successfully manage lupus, an arsenal of therapies, perhaps used in combination with each other, is required.

The Lupus Foundation of America remains committed to stimulating research into new lupus treatments by bringing down the barriers that for too long have impeded lupus drug development. That's why we are writing to you today.

On behalf of everyone here at the Chapter, we want to thank you for your generosity over the last year. You're on-going support of the Lupus Foundation of America, Connecticut Chapter, continues to allow us to provide support groups and hope for everyone. Last year we began offering support groups for men and teens (in conjunction with Connecticut Children's Medical Center). We also attended many health fairs and passed out information to thousands of individuals. We also created awareness at two walk-a-thons, a bike-a-thon, bowl-a-thon and a golf tournament.



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Email: office@lupusct.org • Website: www.lupusct.org

Our Mission: The Lupus Foundation of America, CT Chapter is dedicated to finding the causes of and cure for lupus and providing support, services and hope to all people affected by lupus.



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At each one of these events we try to increase lupus awareness by educating others about the importance of early diagnosis and the many symptoms of lupus, but, we still have work to go. With less than 80 percent of the population having little or no knowledge about lupus, it is critical we work together to create awareness about the disease. Imagine if we're able to help someone get diagnosed early or even reach one more physician who can learn more about lupus so he/she will think of it when diagnosing a patient.

As you consider your 2009 year-end giving priorities, I ask that you make a generous tax-deductible gift to the Connecticut Lupus Foundation to support our life-saving research, education and advocacy initiatives, which work together to find an end to lupus. Last year you generously gave \$. This year might you please consider a donation of \$. Your dollars will help to provide support for individuals with lupus through our many support groups, continue to build awareness and help to fund the much needed research in our state. Your donation gives us promise and hope for the future of those with lupus. We have enclosed an envelope for your donation, or you can donate online at www.lupusct.org.

Not only are we writing to you today for your gracious support, we would also love to hear from you! As a chapter, we've been very busy making a lot of changes in order to make a greater impact to our state. We hope you have seen the difference. Along with your donation, please feel free to provide us your feedback or suggestions on how we can improve as a chapter. You can email the office at office@lupusct.org or call at 860-269-6240.

We are so proud of our accomplishments this year. While we are headed in the right direction, we still have inadequate and intolerable medications. The existing drugs can help address the symptoms of the disease, but they also cause so many unacceptable side effects. And when we have new medications, will they be accessible and affordable? We are committed to tackling these issues on behalf of all people with lupus.





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As the Chapter attends events throughout the state, we are always surprised by how many people tell us they have a family member or know someone with lupus. We hear the personal stories every day which touch us each time. These stories easily renew our purpose to stay actively involved in the chapter as a volunteer!

We remain encouraged and hopeful that our collective accomplishments in 2009 and beyond will yield measurable success for people with lupus.

We have ambitious goals for the coming months in 2010. Your commitment, the enthusiasm of our volunteers, and the dedication of our Board, staff and medical advisors have personally energized me over the last year.

Thank you for your support and for making a difference in the lives of those with lupus. Thank you for giving us hope!

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Ron Marek]

Ron Marek
Board Chair

[Handwritten signature of Lisa Sartorius]

Lisa Sartorius
CEO/President

