

Chili Cook-Off & Tasting



More than 300 guests attend the annual LFA Chili Cook-Off & Tasting the first Saturday in March at Merrillville High School. Twenty-two contestants registered chili recipes into the 2009 contest. The event features celebrity judge, Phil Potempa, of The Times and master of ceremony, Steve Zana of Indiana 105. The LFA partners with the Merrillville High School Key Club each year for this great community event. Consider entering your favorite chili recipe and being a sponsor!

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Vendor/exhibitor booths
- Placemat advertising space
- Silent auction donation
- Door prize donation
- Chili contest entry

Strike Out Lupus



Strike Out Lupus is held annually in June at U.S. Steel Yard, home of the Gary Southshore RailCats. Fans purchasing baseball tickets for the *Strike Out Lupus* RailCats game through the LFA, Indiana Chapter receive a complimentary Strike Out Lupus t-shirt that features sponsors on the back. Nearly 1,000 tickets are sold each year to friends of the Chapter. Half of the ticket price benefits the Indiana LFA chapter at this great event. In addition to raising funds, this event raises awareness about the disease in the community. Consider making *Strike Out Lupus* a summer company outing and being a sponsor.

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship packages
- Advertising in the game's promotional book
- Purchasing bulk tickets for your organization



Walk for Lupus Now is the Chapter's largest fundraiser of the year. In addition to the walk, the event includes an exhibitors' show and silent auction. An estimated 500 walkers participated in our 5K walk at Festival Park in 2009. The event is held on the second Saturday of September each year. Consider forming a team and being a sponsor!

Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship packages
- Media sponsor packages
- Vendor/exhibitor booths
- Silent auction donation
- Incentive prizes for walkers, teams and team leaders
- Goody bag items for adult walkers
- Goody bag items for kids
- Gift bag items for lupus patients
- Breakfast items, lunch items, snacks, drinks and more!

Please consider dedicating a portion of your 2010 marketing budget to promote your organization through Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter events. Could you donate leftover give-a-ways from a special event? Or order extra promotional items to donate to an LFA event when you are hosting your own corporate promotion? Could you donate a gift certificate for product or service to one of the LFA events? **Please keep us in mind! As a non-profit organization run mostly by volunteers, we count on the community for support!** For information about the Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana chapter, call 800-948-8806 toll free or log on to www.lupusindiana.org.

Lupus is a potentially fatal autoimmune disease capable of damaging virtually any part of the body, including the skin, heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain. In its most severe form, lupus can cause disfiguring rashes and scarring, multiple miscarriages, kidney, heart and lung failure, impaired neurological function, strokes, heart attacks and death.



More than 5 million people worldwide struggle with the health consequences of lupus.

Approximately 1.5 million Americans have a form of lupus. Based on 2006 census information, it is estimated that 34,187 of Indiana's residents have lupus; including 2,671 residents in Lake County, 865 residents in Porter County and 597 residents in LaPorte County.

Despite its enormous public health implications, lupus remains a dangerously under-recognized and under-appreciated health issue. More than half of all people with lupus suffer four or more years and visit three or more doctors before being diagnosed with lupus. Lupus can be difficult to diagnose because its symptoms are similar to those of many other diseases. There is an urgent need to educate patients and health care providers to achieve earlier and more accurate diagnoses. Improved management of lupus will reduce and prevent its adverse effects, particularly among those communities most severely affected.

Nine out of ten people with lupus are women. Eighty percent of new lupus cases are diagnosed among women ages 15 to 44.



The Lupus Foundation of America (LFA) is the nation's leading non-profit voluntary health organization dedicated to finding the causes and cure for lupus. Research, education, and patient services are at the heart of LFA's programs.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter provides awareness and education for the signs and symptoms of lupus for early diagnosis and treatment.

Volunteers from the Chapter facilitate support group meetings in Lake and Porter Counties as well as Indianapolis, Terre Haute and Evansville. Support group meetings are free and provide lupus education as well as peer support.

The Indiana Chapter offers educational programs, such as the annual patient education symposium for lupus patients and their families.

The Chapter produces a quarterly newsletter to inform lupus patients and the community about upcoming activities and Chapter events.

The Chapter is supported by a board of directors, an advisory board and a medical advisory board; all volunteer.

The Chapter office, which serves the entire state, is located at 2642 Eleanor Street in Portage. For more information about the Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana chapter, call 800-948-8806 toll free or log on to www.lupusindiana.org.

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