

# Lupus Foundation of America, North Carolina Chapter

## Lupus Advocate Bureau Members 2012-2013



### **Crystal Cates**

Hometown: Durham NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Mother has lupus

I feel that being a part of LAB will enhance my opportunity to give back to the community by educating and increasing awareness for those living with lupus, and those who have a family member(s) or friend(s) that are living with lupus. As a patient advocate, it is my responsibility to be sure that individuals have adequate access to information about lupus, resources that are available in their communities or through the local LFA chapter, and ensuring that funding is increased for lupus research on a national level so that we can come closer to finding a cure for this disease



### **Susan Corbett**

Hometown: Burlington NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Diagnosed in 2003

One passion of mine is to increase awareness of lupus, and I truly believe that through increasing awareness we will subsequently increase funding, and hopefully one day find a cure for lupus. Sharing my story daily, I have met so many new people and feel I have given them hope. These rays of hope are what fuel my passion to continue to speak about my battle with lupus. If I can make a difference in the life of one person, then I will have been successful.



### **Heather Edwards**

Hometown: Asheville NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Diagnosed in 2001

There is more need for life stories to be told. There is also a need to educate others, spread awareness and gain more support. I want to do this. Ever since I was diagnosed with lupus, I have wanted to do anything and everything that I can, within my power, to help the lupus community.



**Timeka L. Griffin**

Hometown: Charlotte NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Diagnosed in 1994

I have been thriving for 18 years. I have definitely had my share of good days and bad. I know the experience of my journey can serve as an inspiration and motivation for individuals living with lupus. Any opportunity that I am given to talk to others I will gladly step up to the plate to serve in that capacity. I am a firm believer that knowledge is power.



**Cynthia (Cyndi) Horner**

Hometown: Wake Forest NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Diagnosed with lupus-like disease in 2011

I would love the opportunity to help other people going through this disease. I would really love to make others aware of just what you go through day-to-day when living with lupus. I believe that there is always room to learn.



**Dana M. Horner**

Hometown: Wake Forest NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Mother of individual with lupus-like disease

My daughter has been living with lupus symptoms for the past 4 years and was recently diagnosed with lupus-like disease. It has been a very long, hard and heartbreaking struggle, but it has brought us together; we have learned so much. Being involved in the Raleigh Lupus Walk allowed us to be a part of the chapter, to raise funds and awareness, but most importantly to tell our story and maybe help others or even make a difference in the community. I look forward to this opportunity.



**Barbi Manchester**

Hometown: Mount Airy NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Diagnosed in 2006

I worked in the medical field because I wanted to help people. Now, due to having systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), I am unable to do so. My passion still is to help people. If I can help people accept this terrible disease, educate people more, or even be a part of a cure for this disease by telling my personal battle with SLE, then my battle was worth the fight.



**Kimberly (Kim) McLean**

Hometown: Fayetteville NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection to lupus: Diagnosed in 2001

I would like to encourage people with lupus and their families and friends. I feel that there weren't as many resources when I was diagnosed, and there are a lot of things I had to find out on my own. I don't want anyone else to go through what I went through. I want people to understand that there is life after lupus. I would like to place emphasis on education and the importance of knowing your body and resources.



**Tameka L. Mitchell**

Hometown: Wilson NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection: Diagnosed in 1996

When I was diagnosed with lupus 16 years ago, the doctor gave me a pamphlet and walked out of the room. I was scared, had no idea what lupus was, or how I got it. I became depressed because I had no one to talk to. I want to make so no one else feels the way I did when I was diagnosed. Everyone should know that they are not alone and that there is help.



**Shellee Reeves**

Hometown: Gastonia NC

Member Since: 2012

Connection: Diagnosed in 1996

I want to educate as many people as I possibly can on lupus as well as encourage everyone to have a fulfilled life even while living with a chronic disease.