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Mission - The Lupus Foundation of America (LFA) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all people affected by lupus through research, education, support and advocacy.

Services Provided

Lupus Information Line - The LFA receives hundreds of calls annually from individuals requesting information. The toll-free number is 1-888-NO-LUPUS. Health educators are standing by to answer questions. The LFA national website (www.lupus.org) assists thousands of visitors each year and has a patient navigator who is a nurse to help patients through their lupus journey.

LFA Chat Forums - Participate in online chats at <http://lupuscommunity.messageboardchat.com/>.

Public Awareness - The LFA creates awareness by placing public services announcements on broadcast networks, cable and satellite channels and in major newspapers and magazines. We also conduct outreach through social media channels. The LFA also works with producers, editors, writers and reporters to increase the exposure for lupus through the news and media. Our Chapter celebrates 'Put on Purple' day during Lupus Awareness Month in May to help rally public support to solve the cruel mystery of lupus.

Research - The LFA National Medical Council solicits research proposals from hundreds of medical centers, universities and research institutions. Each year the Council selects several projects for funding. The Foundation seeks innovation and promising new research ideas that someday may lead to the cure for lupus. Our national research program has a unique three-pronged strategy: lead special initiatives, fund researchers, and advocate for expanded investment.

Advocacy Efforts - We advocate on behalf of all people with lupus, their families, and the health professionals who care for them. We educate government officials and industry leaders on the urgent need to expand public and private investment in lupus research, education programs, and support services. During our National Lupus Advocacy Summit in June each year hundreds of lupus activists from across the country travel to Washington, D.C. to tell their stories and educate Members of Congress on the importance of and need to increase federal funding for lupus research and programs.

Federal and State Relations - The federal government is an important partner with the LFA in the search for new knowledge about lupus. The LFA works in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute of Health to stimulate medical research. We will continue to advocate for expansion of lupus research, education and awareness programs. In recent years, the Indiana Chapter has received a Governor's

Proclamation designating the month of May as Lupus Awareness Month and partnered with the Indiana State Department of Health to host the 'Put on Purple' awareness event.

Fundraising Events - Our Chapter hosts fundraising events throughout the year to enable us to provide support, education, build awareness and advocate for our constituents. A portion of all funds raised by our Chapter fundraising events is donated to the LFA national research program. Our Chapter organizes one significant Walk to End Lupus Now™ event: in Indianapolis in October 2017. In June, our Chapter presents 'A Tasteful Affair' gala, a food, beer, and wine tasting event complete with a silent and live auction. A planning committee comprised of northwest Indiana supporters is planning a new Purple Daze of Fall event that will be held the evening of October 26 for that area of the state.

Support Groups - Lupus support groups are held throughout the state of Indiana. Currently, fifteen support groups meet monthly, and are facilitated by trained support group leaders. In 2017 we launched both online and teen/youth support group meetings. The philosophy of LFA support groups is to provide a warm and caring environment where people with lupus, their family members, caregivers, and loved ones can share their experiences, methods of coping, and insights into living with lupus. LFA support groups provide a comfortable learning environment to help develop the best coping strategies to reduce stress that often accompanies living with a chronic illness.

Yoga and Tai Chi Classes - We are excited to offer yoga and tai Chi classes on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm at IU North Hospital, 11700 N. Meridian Street in Carmel. There is no cost associated with these classes but they are available only for people with lupus and one caregiver/support person. Register online at lupusindiana.org.

Educational Symposium - We are hosting a full-day symposium in December 2017 featuring national and state medical experts and other professional resources to help educate attendees on managing life and living well with lupus. All lupus patients, caregivers, family, friends, and healthcare professionals are invited to attend. This symposium also provides networking time, giving attendees an opportunity to interact with one another and develop new friends.

"Ask the Experts" Teleconferences - "Ask the Experts" is a series of live educational teleconferences and pre-recorded webcasts on a variety of topics designed to provide participants with important information about living with lupus. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from some of the world's leading lupus experts from the comfort and privacy of your home. This series is offered as a free service of the Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter.

Health Fairs - We participate in @15 health fairs each year to raise awareness and provide lupus educational materials.

Information and Educational Materials - The LFA is the leading source of the most accurate and latest information about lupus in the country. We will be vigilant for all new data received on lupus so that we can share it with those in the lupus arena so that they are better equipped with knowledge about lupus. In 2017 the National Resource Center on Lupus was launched (<http://www.resources.lupus.org/>). Our Chapter disseminates packets of lupus materials upon request. We maintain a list of rheumatologists in the state of Indiana and routinely communicate with these rheumatologists on available Chapter resources.

Newsletters and Publications - In addition to the national LFA newsletter, our Chapter publishes a monthly eNewsletter that is sent to our Chapter mailing list. This is the most efficient and cost effective way of communicating with those we serve.

Website - We continue to strive to make our website (www.lupusindiana.org) efficient and a valuable source of information, including downloadable educational documents, links to other resources, lupus frequently asked questions, and information on programs and events. The National LFA site (www.lupus.org) is also a very valuable resource.

Lupus Research Registry™ - Enables individuals to indicate their interest in participating in lupus clinical studies in their local area.