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Purpose Statement - The purpose of the Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter, is to offer multi-level support to people with lupus and their families, while working to advocate for better healthcare policies and to contribute to national lupus research.

Services Provided

National Resource Center on Lupus - Online and multi-media collection of resources for anyone affected by lupus, including people diagnosed with lupus, caregivers, healthcare professionals and the public. The Resource Center is intended to empower, educate and connect all people affected by lupus.

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's 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.

LupusConnect™ - Online lupus community where individuals with lupus and their loved ones can engage with others like them to share experiences, find emotional support and discuss practical insights for coping with daily challenges of the disease. It's an easy-to-use, online platform that encourages its community members to ask questions, reply to posts and read about others' experiences in a safe and comforting community.
<https://www.inspire.com/groups/lupusconnect/>

Public Awareness - The LFA creates awareness by placing public services announcements on broadcast networks, cable and satellite channels and in major newspapers and magazines. The LFA also works with producers, editors, writers and reporters to increase the exposure for lupus through the news and media. Our Chapter conducts outreach through social media channels in addition to print media and online community calendar outlets. We celebrate 'Put on Purple' day during Lupus Awareness Month in May to help rally public support to solve the cruel mystery of lupus. Our Chapter also participates in numerous health fairs, symposiums, and community events each year.

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 LFA 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 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 past 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's biggest fundraiser is the Walk to End Lupus Now® event held in Indianapolis each fall. To celebrate Lupus Awareness Month in May we host the 'Lace Up for Lupus' Gala, which includes a silent and live auction. We also host our annual 'Faces of Lupus' Fashion Show in the summer featuring individuals with lupus and members of their support team, showing the diversity of the population affected by this disease.

Support Groups - Currently, our support groups meet monthly in multiple locations and virtually (online). Meetings are facilitated by LFA-trained support group leaders. The philosophy of our 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. Our 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.

Health and Wellness - We are excited to offer monthly gentle yoga and mindful meditation classes available on Facebook Live. There is no cost associated with these classes. www.facebook.com/IndianaLFA.

Educational Symposium – Our Chapter hosts 'In the Loop - Healthy Living with Lupus', a half-day symposium featuring medical experts and other professionals to help educate attendees on managing life and living well with lupus. All individuals with lupus, 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.

'Let's Talk About It' Webinars – 'Let's Talk About It' is a series of live educational webinars on a variety of topics designed to provide participants with important information about living with lupus. Participants learn from some of the world's leading lupus experts from the privacy of their homes. This series is offered as a free service of the Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter. <https://www.lupus.org/indiana/events/lets-talk-about-it-webinar-series>

SELF (Strategies to Embrace Living with Lupus Fearlessly)- The SELF program is a new online self-management program designed to help people with lupus build and enhance skills in lupus management. The SELF program is accessible through all devices and serves as a virtual coach to support and provide tools to better manage lupus. Self is free and available to people with lupus ages 18 years and over. Learn more about SELF and how to participate by going to the lupus website. <https://www.lupus.org/resources/self>

Marlene Stepanek Lupus Legacy Scholarship- The Marlene Stepanek Lupus Legacy Scholarship is a \$1000 scholarship for eligible high school seniors who have been accepted into an accredited community college, university, or career school. The application and additional eligibility criteria are available on our website. <https://www.lupus.org/lfain-scholarship-program>

PATH (Patient Access to Healthcare)- The Lupus Foundation of America, Indiana Chapter has implemented the Patient Access to Healthcare (PATH) program to assist people with the most crucial needs that cannot be met through other community resources. The PATH program helps assist with emergency prescriptions, medical appointments, lab work, emergency utilities, etc. Those requesting assistance will need to complete an application available on our website. <https://www.lupus.org/indiana/path-patient-access-to-healthcare>

Information and Educational Materials - The LFA is the leading source in the country of the most accurate and latest information about lupus. We are 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. 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 of @9,000 constituents. 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) and the National Resource Center on Lupus (<http://www.resources.lupus.org/>) are also very valuable resources.

Match Clinical Trial Resource - The LFA has partnered with Antidote, a digital health company, to bring you the latest in clinical trial matching technology. <https://resources.lupus.org/entry/search-for-clinical-trials>