LFANC Mardi Gras Gala Update from Todd & Ginger Dickerson

15 years! It is hard to believe that this year we will be celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the Lupus Mardi Gras Gala. The Mardi Gras Gala began as an effort to honor our sister who lives with Lupus and to raise significant funds for the LFANC’s programs and services! Our family helped to build and develop the Gala from inception, and we want to take a moment to thank you all for being a meaningful part of a cause that is so important to our family.

The dollars raised over all of these many years go directly to the Lupus Foundation of America, North Carolina Chapter. The LFANC serves all one hundred counties in North Carolina and the estimated 55,000 people living with Lupus in this state. We believe in this organization and value the support of all past participants. The main factor in our continued success is YOU - the people and businesses that have supported us and this critical mission. Thank you for making these past years possible. We have been fortunate to have longstanding support from each of you which is a testament to the strength of the LFANC’s mission and the people it serves.

Since inception, we have collectively danced to over one thousand songs, played over 2,000 poker chips, served over 3,000 meals and benefited from the help of countless volunteers. All this has been done in an effort to fulfill the mission of the LFANC - which is to improve the quality of life for all people living with Lupus through programs of research, education, support and advocacy. In honor of this special milestone, we are reaching out to all past participants to say thank you and to ask that you consider making a special gift this year.

Sadly, the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has caused us to change course yet again. Last year, we held our Gala virtually, believing that we would be together in person in 2022. However, that simply is not possible. Therefore, we have made the difficult decision to take a break this year, with the full intention to come back bigger and better than ever in 2023. In fact, Founders Hall has already been reserved for the 2023 Lupus Gala – be sure to put February 25, 2023 on your calendar to Save The Date!
However, the need is greater than ever. People living with Lupus throughout North Carolina need the life-changing programs and services offered by the LFANC. Although you cannot meet us on the dance floor or at the casino this year— we sincerely ask you to make a meaningful donation.

We ask that you reach deep into your hearts and pockets and make a significant gift to the Lupus Foundation in honor of our sister, and all the other Lupus Thrivers. Consider what you would have spent on a new dress or tuxedo; the price of tickets and babysitter; the many raffle and auction items; and your hotel and flights. We ask that you generously donate to the LFANC in the same amount that you would have spent when attending the Gala in person. You can make a difference by supporting the LFANC today. Even though we cannot be together this year, you can do what you do best – **give generously**.

Thank you again for supporting our family’s charity of choice for the past fifteen years, and for answering the year’s urgent need. We look forward to the next fifteen years and the many good things to come.

**See you on the dance floor in 2023!**

Todd and Ginger Dickerson
MGG Committee Chairs