

February, 2011

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

As we make our way deeper into the new year, we continue to give thanks for our blessings and renew our focus on how to share these blessings with others, specifically our friends of the Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation. Our success is a direct result of your support, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

2010 was a year of great collaborations. The LDSF became a part of the Thoracic Aortic Disease Coalition (TAD coalition), a group formed to unite organizations and individuals who share a common mission of preventing premature deaths due to thoracic aortic aneurysm and dissections. Actress Amy Yasbeck served as spokesperson and led the media coverage. For more information, check out the TAD Web site at www.tadcoalition.org.

In June, LDSF families, volunteers, physicians and researchers collaborated to put on our first conference in Baltimore. Together we created an atmosphere of support, encouragement, knowledge and, obviously, fun! With more than 70 participants from 15 states and 2 Canadian provinces, we were thrilled to see the dedication and desire of our membership come together and collaborate.

Our members have also generously given of their medical information and biological samples to collaborate in research efforts. Approximately 20 articles were published in 2010 reporting on features and experiences with LDS. This information about musculoskeletal features, TGFBR1/2 mutations and surgical experiences, helps further our mission to raise awareness about LDS in the medical community and ultimately improve health care for our members.

As we move continue to move into 2011, it is our desire to be responsive and responsible to our families and to grow and strengthen the Loeys-Dietz syndrome community.

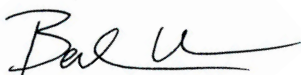
We will hold our first LDSF Strategic Planning with the Board of Directors in February in Baltimore, MD to continue to assess our vision and mission. We are excited about this time to meet face-to-face and to DREAM BIG! We look forward to sharing more information about our time together with you this spring.

It is truly because of your encouragement and support through your time, energy, compassion, motivation and finances that we have been able to expand the Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation this past year and DREAM BIG for the year to come. Whether it be the widespread emailing for the CHASE Community Giving Challenge on Facebook, a heart pin given to that favorite teacher, or that willingness to talk to a newly diagnosed family in their time of anxiety, we appreciate each and every one of you.

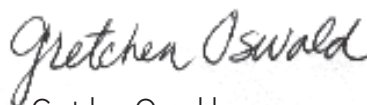
Thank you to all of our LDSF friends and family who share our journeys with us. We grieve with those who have experienced challenging times in 2010—medically, emotionally or financially. And we celebrate all your successes (both large and small) with you.

To our donors, thank you for your generosity that continues to inspire us. Thank you for taking heart!

Sincerely,



Beth Utz
President, co-founder



Gretchen Oswald
Vice-president, co-founder

2010 CONTRIBUTIONS

The Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation is greatly impacted by its members, families, and friends who have made donations to help further our cause. These donations are much appreciated and support our mission of raising awareness, education and research efforts for those affected by Loeys-Dietz Syndrome and related connective tissue disorders.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Andrew Chanley:

Alfred & Florence Chanley

In memory of Daniel:

Elena Astrakhan

In memory of Robert Hogan:

Melissa Brady

Michael & Denise Hogan

Jennifer Trost

In memory of Andrew Hoiem:

Jane Bollin

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Peer Influence, LLC

Ray's Beauty Boutique

Renee Ryan-Edwards

Larry & Kathleen Schierhoff, Jr.

George & Meryl Wilson

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In memory of Kathy Moore:

Deborah Blanchette

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In honor of Douglas Pape:

Susan Balthaser

In memory of Dick See:

Larry & Phyllis Allen

In memory of Donald See:

A.J. Vogt

Stanley C. Beard

In memory of Erin Ramsey:

Stanley C. Beard

Joan Woodward Riddle

Honor Gifts

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Michael & Jennifer Konnovitch

In honor of Bob & Melissa Brady:

Melissa Brady

In honor of Shannon Brenner:

Michael & Mercy Brenner

Blanca M. Rivera

Thomas & Blanca Rivera

In honor of Anthony Brescia:

Cristin Brescia

In honor of Mike, Sam & David Coren:

Debra Hunger

In honor of Alexis Davis:

Charles & Linda Collier

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Fady Fakhoury, DDS

In honor of Alexander Galli:

Pat DiCapo

Joseph Galli

Mary Repella

In honor of the Griffith Family:

Tammy Hixson

Angela Torabi

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Malu Gomes

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