



## Statement on Our Transition to Fiscal Sponsorship

The Loeys-Dietz Syndrome Foundation was founded in 2006 and is dedicated to:

- encouraging education about Loeys-Dietz syndrome and related connective tissue disorders to medical professionals and lay communities in order to aid in identification, diagnosis, and treatment of Loeys-Dietz syndrome
- fostering research about Loeys-Dietz syndrome
- providing a support network for individuals, parents, and families affected by Loeys-Dietz syndrome

We have been run by a volunteer Board of Directors over these past years, who through their dedication and passion have continued to embrace the Foundation mission and move us forward. We are indebted to all of our generous supporters who have also given of their time, resources and energy to make the LDSF the community it is today. We are proud of all that we have accomplished. This past year, we have reflected on how to continue to provide excellent information, community and be conduits to research in the face of ever-increasing complexity and challenges of running a nonprofit.

As such, our BOD wanted to update our community on some infrastructure changes that will be occurring in 2018. The LDSF has existed under its own 501c3 status; a nonprofit organization that has been recognized by the IRS as being tax-exempt by virtue of its charitable programs. Most nonprofits choose this model to be able to accept donations. Because of increasing challenges surrounding management and administrative tasks to our volunteer BOD, we have elected to utilize a fiscal sponsorship model for operations.

A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary services, including governance, funds management and other administrative “backbone” supports to projects with social impact missions. To the LDSF, fiscal sponsorship will allow increasing administrative burden to our volunteer staff to be leveraged to an existing administrative structure to keep costs low. By tapping into the support services of the fiscal sponsor, our BOD can efficiently focus their time and resources on program activities and outcomes.

## WHO WILL BE THE FISCAL SPONSORS OF THE LDSF?

The Loeyes-Dietz Syndrome Foundation will be under the fiscal sponsorship of Strong City Baltimore (<https://www.strongcitybaltimore.org/our-work/non-profit-business-services/>). Strong City's mission is to build and strengthen neighborhoods and communities. As the fiscal sponsor for over 100 organizations, ten million dollars in funds and ten years of fiscal sponsorship expertise, they have experience, passion, and knowledge to help organizations like ours thrive.

## WHAT DOES THIS PRACTICALLY MEAN TO YOU, A DONOR?

The LDSF will still have the same look, feel and "heart." Our mission and vision will not change. Our online and conference presence will not change. What will change is much of the behind-the-scenes reporting and receipting of gifts. Donations will continue to be made to "Loyes-Dietz Syndrome Foundation" and be tax deductible. Receipting will look different with receipts reporting this fiscal sponsorship relationship. This transition will occur in January, 2018 so will not impact 2017 giving.

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We are constantly in awe of the capacity and generosity of our community. Our heart is to continue to improve quality of life for those impacted by LDS. We are excited about this new transition to fiscal sponsorship. Because we at the Foundation believe in transparency, we want to fully inform our community about this transition and answer all your questions, so please contact Gretchen MacCarrick at [Gretchen.maccarrick@loeydietz.org](mailto:Gretchen.maccarrick@loeydietz.org) with any questions. As always, thank you for "taking heart!"