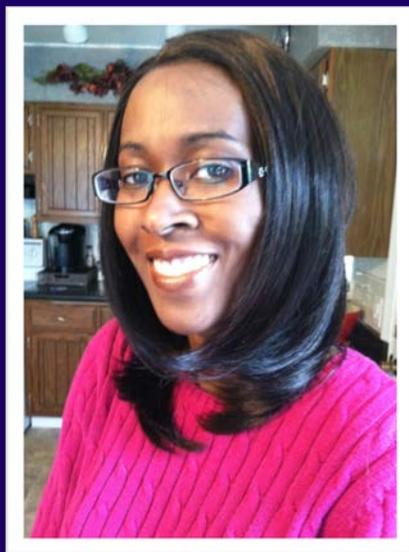


Improving the Lives of People with Rheumatoid Disease



**Rheumatoid
Patient
Foundation**

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

RHEUMATOID AWARENESS DAY 2015

3rd Annual Rheumatoid Awareness Day Campaign

Rheumatoid Awareness Day was established by RPF in 2013, and is observed on February 2, giving people with the chronic illness known as rheumatoid arthritis, or rheumatoid disease, a day of recognition. Because the disease is commonly presumed to be a type of arthritis, awareness about the systemic nature of the disease is lacking, causing problems with disability accommodations, clinical care, healthcare costs and research funding.



- ❖ Rheumatoid Awareness Day Twitter Chat to discuss raising awareness and working to overcome misconceptions
- ❖ “15 Seconds of Fame” video challenge asking people to share why we need a cure for Rheumatoid Disease
- ❖ Awareness Campaign: 15 Ways to Spread Awareness for Rheumatoid Disease in 2015
- ❖ Focused messaging on replacing the word “Arthritis” with “Disease” to more accurately name this chronic illness



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In 2015, RPF held its first scholarship program for individuals and families who are affected by rheumatoid disease. We recognize the financial strain that rheumatoid arthritis can place on a family and the career challenges many people with rheumatoid disease face. In light of that, we are happy to be able to offer some support to those looking to advance their education and/or change careers.

- ❖ **Unique scholarship program, available to students with rheumatoid disease or who have a parent with the disease**
- ❖ **Applicable toward any higher education institution**
- ❖ **Open to any age to allow financial assistance to older students who may need to change careers due to the affects of RD**
- ❖ **Two \$1,000 Scholarships awarded**

2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



MELISSA ELLER

"I wanted to express my gratitude to you all for this opportunity. I had given up hope on ever being able to become an event planner but now thanks to this scholarship I can say that my dream job is with in reach now!"

"I am pursuing my dreams to become a biomedical engineer. I have been accepted to Saint Louis University, University of Alabama-Birmingham, and The University of Tennessee, with scholarship to all three. Take that, RA!"



MANDY JONES



EXPANDING THE PATIENT VOICE

Patient Videos in Rheumatology Offices

The Rheumatoid Patient Foundation has collaborated with the ContextMedia:Health Network to provide content on a patient education TV network to doctors' offices across the country, including over 800 rheumatology offices.

Patients Supporting Patients in Their Doctors' Offices

Our hope is to provide educational resources that are easy to understand and to provide encouragement and support to others with rheumatoid disease during their time spent in doctors' waiting rooms. Rheumatoid disease can be confusing and isolating; and sometimes just hearing from another voice who understands can provide hope.

- ❖ **Over 800 rheumatology offices across the United States**
- ❖ **3 RPF videos in circulation**
- ❖ **Over 12 MILLION impressions**



SHARING OUR STORIES

RPF believes that sharing our own personal stories about living with rheumatoid disease is a great way to provide support for others. Knowing we are not alone in our experiences can be one of the most encouraging things. RPF published a series of blog posts in 2015 featuring RPF members and supporters. We thank our supporters who are willing to share their stories and help others who are going through similar situations.



ROBERTA WANDS



MRS. ROBLES

I love teaching, I like to have fun and I'm here to help you!!

MARIA ROBLES

“ There is one thing that has helped me deal with all the losses and changes this disease brings. One day *I decided to stop focusing on what I could no longer do, and started focusing on what I COULD DO.* That shift in perspective has been very helpful. I feel more empowered in my life as a result.—Roberta Wands ”



DOROTHY



NINA R.



WORKING TOWARDS A CURE

Blood Donations for Rheumatoid Disease Research

One of the goals of the Rheumatoid Patient Foundation is to contribute to and promote scientific discovery that leads to a cure. In 2015, we partnered with Sanguine Bioscience to provide one simple way that people with rheumatoid disease can get involved to help accelerate research and perhaps get us one step closer to that ultimate goal of a cure.



Help Accelerate RA Research!

Donate a blood sample for RA Research.

↓

Receive \$50 for you, plus a donation to RPF.

 Rheumatoid Patient Foundation rheum4us.org

- ❖ **One-time blood donation – available to be conducted in the participant’s home**
- ❖ **Each qualified participant received \$50 for their donation**
- ❖ **Sanguine provided RPF with a \$25 donation for each referred participant**



FINANCIALS & SUPPORT

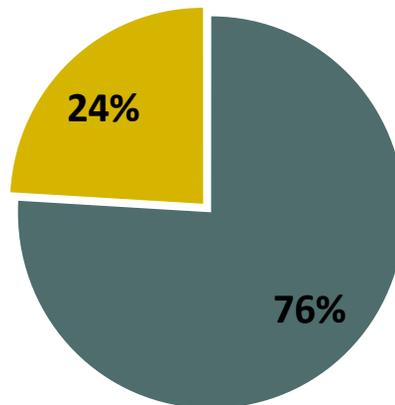
GET INVOLVED:

15 WAYS YOU CAN SPREAD AWARENESS OF RHEUMATOID DISEASE

1. Share Awareness Images on Social Media
2. Sport Awareness Gear or Colors
3. Add a Twibbon to your Social Media Avatars
4. Change your Facebook Cover Photo
5. Join #Rheum Chat on Twitter
6. Hand Out Awareness Cards
7. Get an Official Proclamation for Rheumatoid Awareness Day in your Locality
8. Tell Your Story
9. Become a Member
10. Support our Partners
11. Create a 15 Second Awareness Video
12. Educate Yourself to Better Educate Others
13. Host a Fundraiser
14. Donate a Photo for use in RPF Publications
15. Plan Your Own Rheumatoid Awareness Day Celebration

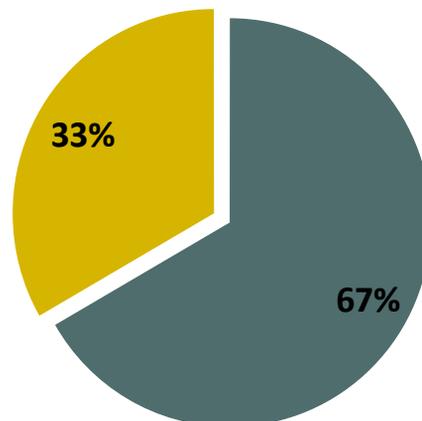
Learn more at rheum4us.org

2015 Sources of Support



- General Donations
- Memberships

2015 Expenditures



- Program Services
- Admin & Operations

