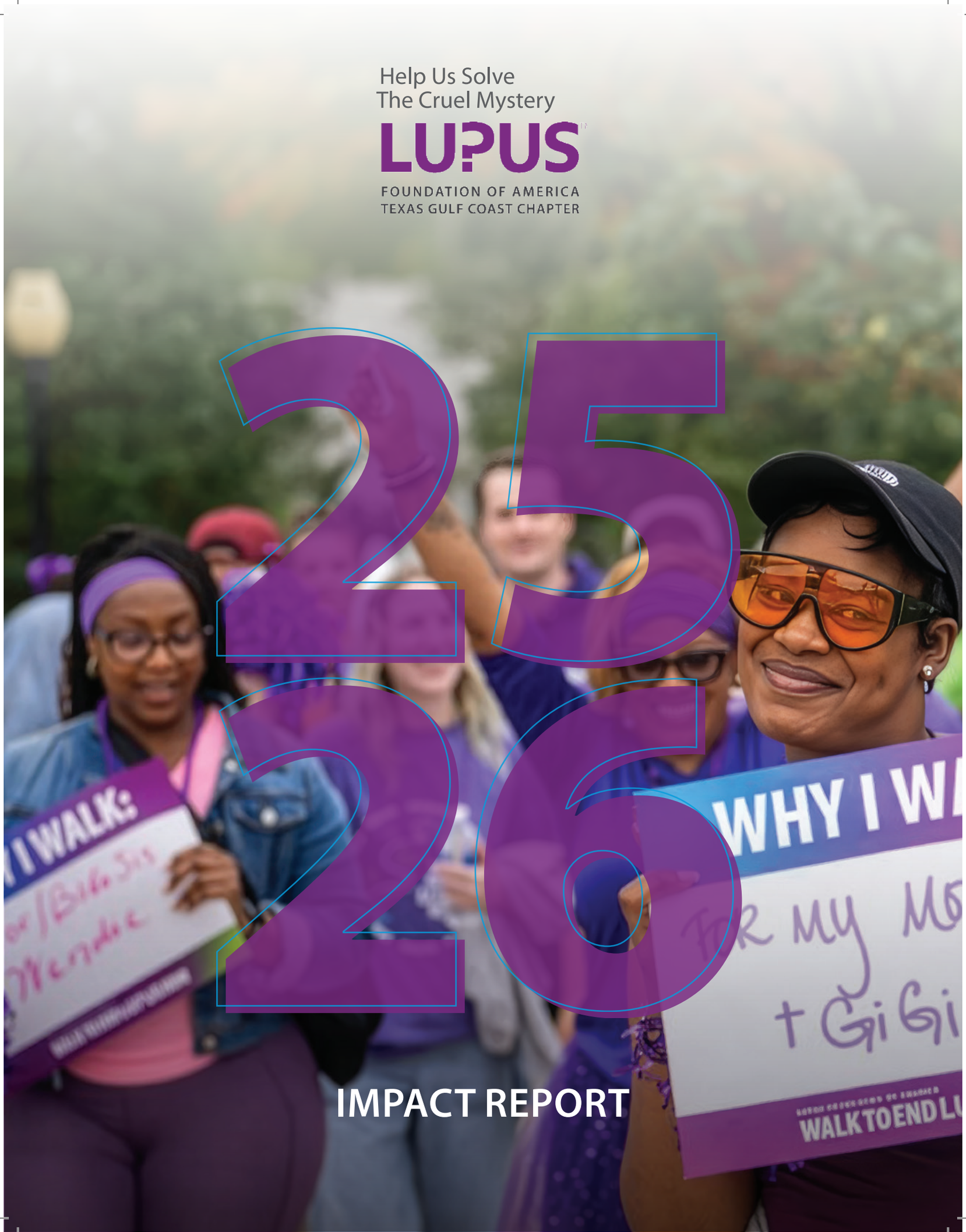
Help Us Solve
The Cruel Mystery

LUPUS

FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER



2025 2026

IMPACT REPORT


At the Lake,
LUPUS
SUMMER JAM
Youth Retreat


CONQUER YOUR 6


CAMP FOR ALL.


LUPUS RESEARCH ACCELERATED by YOU
I'm Powering

Help Us Solve
The Cruel Mystery
LUPUS®
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Letter from the Board Chair and President & CEO

At the heart of the Lupus Foundation of America's mission is one constant: *you*. Your voice, experiences, and strength shape every step we take. This report reflects the progress we're making together — and the lives being changed because of it.

The stories and outcomes shared here show how we're advancing our core strategic priorities: reducing time to diagnosis, ensuring access to safe and effective treatments, expanding support and care, and securing the funding needed to move our mission forward. Importantly, these stories reflect the community strength of the Lupus Foundation of America (LFA).

We're here for people with lupus at every stage of their journey. From answering thousands of individual questions and offering support groups nationwide, to providing tools and education programs to explore online, and we continue to expand access to reliable, accurate, and personalized support.

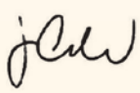
Our research investments are changing the standard of care in lupus. This year, we funded 12 new studies focused on (1) better understanding lupus symptoms such as fatigue and memory issues, (2) advancing treatment options for immune system and kidney complications, and (3) improving self-management, including medication adherence. We proudly continue our pioneering investment in pediatric lupus research and predicting and preventing lupus, while investing in the future of lupus research by supporting scientists at every career stage.

Lupus awareness is also improving. Since 2019, national awareness has increased significantly — a vital step in building broader understanding of the disease and its impact. The Lupus Foundation of America is driving global awareness of the disease because we know that when more people understand lupus, access to compassionate and timely diagnosis and care becomes easier - and people with lupus can feel more understood.

Our advocacy efforts have never been more urgent — or more effective. Together, we helped secure $153 million in Fiscal Year 2025 federal funding for lupus research and education, and advanced policies that expand access to care and reduction of treatment costs. We continue to lead national coalitions and global partnerships to elevate the needs of people with lupus.

Our work is powered by a passionate community. At Walk to End Lupus Now® events across the country, thousands came together to raise awareness and critical funds while supporting lupus warriors. Whether walking, advocating, volunteering, sharing your story, or providing financial support — your actions with the Lupus Foundation of America are creating real change.

Thanks to you, this past year has been one of innovation, momentum, and meaningful impact. Together, we're getting closer to a life without lupus.



Joseph Arnold
Chair, National Board of Directors

Louise Vetter
President & CEO, Lupus Foundation of America

Our cover photo: 2025 Summit Roll Call

Help Us Solve
The Cruel Mystery

Letter from the Lupus Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Chief Executive Officer

It is our mission to shorten the time to diagnosis of lupus, ensuring every patient has access to the best medicine to treat lupus and gain remission. Our goal is to bring community into lupus research in the early stages so that when a cure, when found, works for all community members with the disease. Advocate. Educate. Cure.

In 2025, we made great strides in lupus education and advocacy through our local lupus community, and learned about your journey to diagnosis, your fight to be seen and treated, and your challenge finding health partners who believe you. We learned that lupus, by itself, is not your only concern. Hearing your stories helped us find a more complete path to bring health care to the communities where it is needed the most.

2025 saw a large leap in lupus education and advocacy through work with our partners at University of Houston Honors College and their Community Health Worker Initiative. Together, we created three lupus courses for licensed Community Health Workers (CHWs), accredited for continuing education by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services. Each course (Lupus 101: Signs and Symptoms; Lupus 201: Next Steps and Self Advocacy; and Lupus 301: Disease Progression and Clinical Research) is designed to engage and educate CHWs, some of whom already live and work in the communities they serve. CHWs are the bridge between the community member without access to quality, specialty, or needed health care, and the health care providers able to help.

This group of valuable community members, the CHWs, are often impacted by lupus in their own communities and families, leading to deeper engagement within their service communities. This allows for the provision of much-needed lupus advocacy for treatment, access to transportation and high-quality health care, and additional support services to ensure any additional family, health, and household needs are met. This allows the lupus patient to focus on their own health, ensuring they are able to remain engaged with their work (when possible) family, and community.

We are not stopping there! Our Texas Gulf Coast chapter services nearly 50 Texas counties, and our community health worker instructors (funded by a community impact grant) are working to train these CHW's in every county we serve through public health departments, Adult Health Education organizations, clinics and health care systems and more.

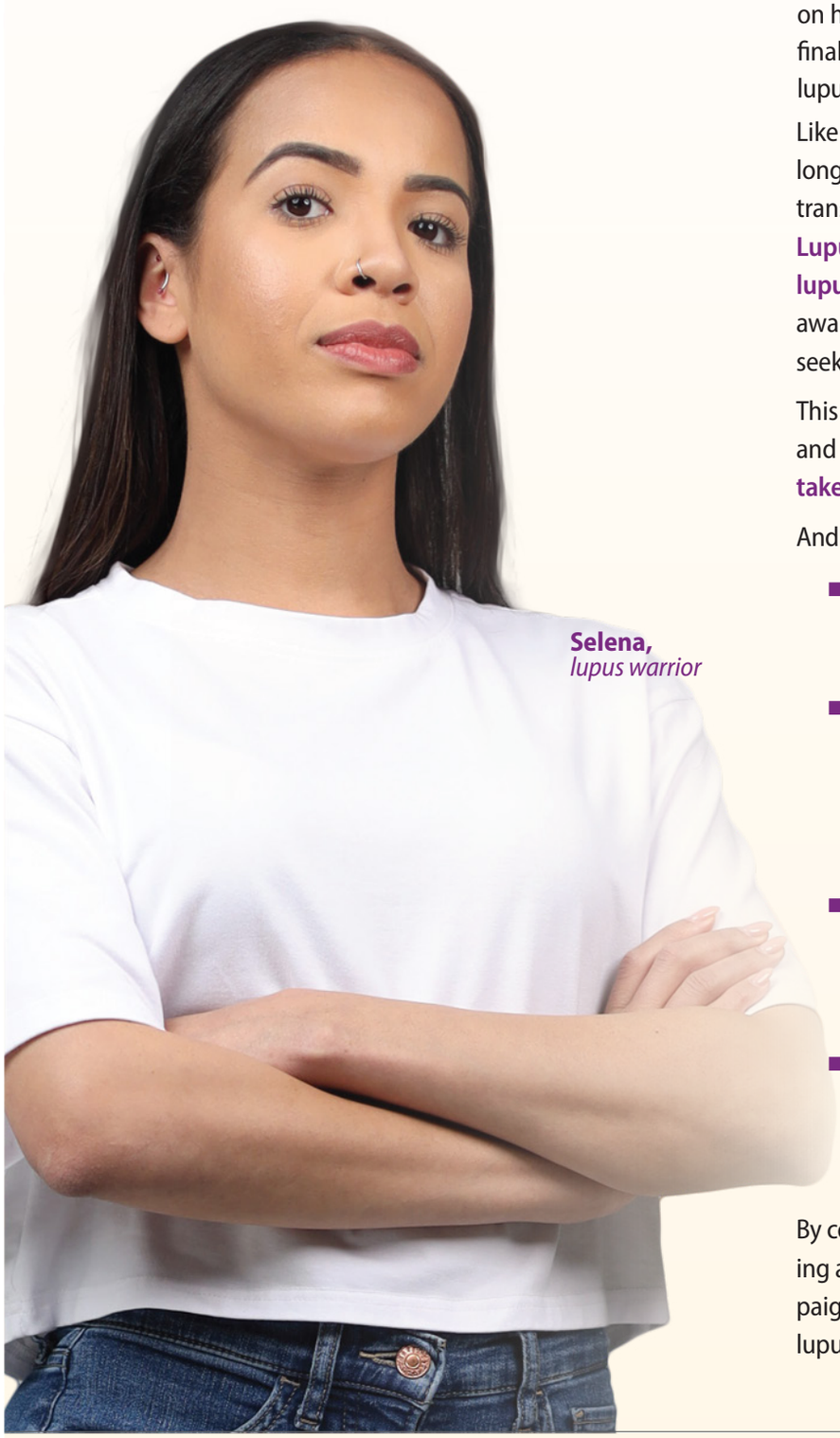
Thank you, for helping us continue to serve.

Anne Marie Blacketer

Anne Marie Blacketer
Lupus Texas Gulf Coast Chapter
Chief Executive Officer

REDUCING THE TIME TO

Diagnosis



Selena,
lupus warrior

When Selena first noticed a butterfly-shaped rash across her face, intense swelling and hair loss, she had no idea these were symptoms of lupus. At just 24 years old, lupus wasn't even on her radar. It took multiple doctor visits, a trip to the ER and finally a kidney biopsy before she received a diagnosis of lupus nephritis.

Like many young women her journey to diagnosis was long, frustrating and filled with uncertainty. Today, she's transforming that experience into purpose. As part of the **Lupus Foundation of America's *"Be Fierce. Take Control.®"* lupus awareness campaign**, Selena uses her voice to raise awareness, encourage self-advocacy and empower others to seek answers sooner.

This is the heart of the campaign: real stories, real women and a clear message —**listen to your body, speak up, and take control**.

And this multi-year campaign is working.

- With nearly **18 million digital impressions**, the campaign is reaching women with life-saving information about early lupus symptoms.
- More than **72,000 visits to the *Be Fierce. Take Control.* website** —including more than **17,000 visits to symptom and diagnosis tools** —are helping individuals take the first step toward getting care.
- Outreach through **Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the Essence Festival of Culture, and local community events** ensures that awareness reaches those at greatest risk.
- **Influencer partnerships and targeted digital content** are amplifying stories that resonate, especially among young women who often feel overlooked in the healthcare system.

By combining culturally relevant outreach, personal storytelling and digital strategies, the *Be Fierce. Take Control.* campaign is making a measurable impact in the fight for earlier lupus diagnosis.

Community Health Worker Training

Impact Summary — Lupus 101 / 201 / 301

Lupus Texas Gulf Coast trained **230 community health workers** (CHWs) across our territory in a single, comprehensive session in December of 2025 covering all three tiers of our curriculum: **Lupus 101** (Signs & Symptoms), **Lupus 201** (Next Steps & Self-Advocacy), and **Lupus 301** (Disease Progression & Clinical Research). A post-event survey completed by **37 attendees** (a 16% response rate) provides a validated sample of the training's reach and effectiveness.

Extending Reach Into the Community

Two-thirds of survey respondents (65%) came to the training with a personal or professional connection to lupus — as patients, family members, friends, caregivers, or healthcare professionals. The remaining third arrived with no prior connection to the disease, meaning the training is actively converting community members with no personal stake into informed screeners and referral sources. Each of the 230 trained CHWs is now equipped to recognize early signs of lupus within their own community network — a reach that extends far beyond the 230 individuals trained, since CHWs are embedded contacts for the households and clients they already serve.

Curriculum Impact by Tier

- **Lupus 101 (Signs & Symptoms):** Attendees specifically cited learning about diagnostic delay, the limitations of the ANA lab test, and how lupus affects multiple organ systems — core knowledge that shortens the path to earlier diagnosis in communities where lupus is frequently mistaken for other conditions.
- **Lupus 201 (Next Steps & Self-Advocacy):** Training equips CHWs to coach patients through the healthcare system — what questions to ask, when to push for a specialist referral, and how to track symptoms — turning CHWs into trusted intermediaries between patients and providers.
- **Lupus 301 (Disease Progression & Clinical Research):** CHWs trained on this tier can identify community members who may be candidates for clinical trials and explain research participation in accessible terms — directly feeding the pre-qualified patient registry model at the center of our pharmaceutical partnership strategy.

By the Numbers

230 CHWs trained across the territory

62% were first-time attendees, expanding reach into new networks

97% of surveyed attendees rated the training 4 or 5 out of 5

Quality of Delivery

Ninety-seven percent of surveyed attendees rated overall satisfaction four or five out of five (average 4.86/5), and the large majority reported the training met or exceeded their expectations. Attendees consistently praised presenters for explaining complex medical concepts — diagnostic criteria, lab test limitations, disease progression — in clear, accessible language, including for Spanish-speaking participants.

Why This Matters for Funders and Partners

This training model demonstrates a scalable, low-cost way to expand lupus screening, patient advocacy, and clinical trial pipeline capacity without adding clinical staff. Each dollar invested in CHW training compounds: a single session reached 230 community-based workers, nearly two-thirds of whom were new to our programming, with satisfaction and comprehension scores that confirm the curriculum translates complex medical information into action-ready knowledge at the community level.

The Access Gap

WHY BIOLOGIC THERAPIES ARE REACHING SO FEW LUPUS PATIENTS ON THE TEXAS GULF COAST

An analysis of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) data 2022–2024, collected by the University of Houston Honors College Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Unit in 2025.

Over the past decade, biologic therapies have reshaped what is possible for people living with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). Unlike conventional oral drugs, biologics such as belimumab (Benlysta) and anifrolumab (Saphnelo) are manufactured from living cells and engineered to target the specific immune signals that drive lupus activity, offering more precise disease control and fewer broad side effects for patients whose disease is not adequately managed by standard therapy. But because they require infusion or injection, specialty handling, and more complex insurance approval, biologics also cost more and reach far fewer patients — and for patients on the Texas Gulf Coast, the promise of these medicines is not translating into real-world use.

Texas DSHS emergency department encounter data for lupus in patients from 2022–2024 make the gap plain. Among 23,191 recorded lupus treatment encounters, hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) accounted for 96.53% of all treatment instances — the backbone of standard lupus care. By contrast, Benlysta appeared in only 0.02% of encounters and Saphnelo in effectively none. Combined, biologic and unclassified biologic therapies represent a rounding error in the data — a strong signal that the patients cycling through Gulf Coast emergency departments are, overwhelmingly, not the beneficiaries of the newest and most targeted lupus treatments available. The gap is even larger when treatment is measured against diagnosis. Regional patient data drawn from Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital shows a large population of diagnosed lupus patients in underserved Houston-area communities, yet fewer than 35% of those diagnosed patients are documented as receiving treatment of any kind — let alone a biologic. **Read together, the two datasets describe a two-part failure: most diagnosed patients are not being treated at all, and among the minority who do reach treatment, biologics remain almost entirely out of reach.** The access problem does not begin with the biologic prior-authorization process; it begins much earlier, with diagnosed patients falling out of care before treatment ever starts.

Emergency department utilization is an expensive and preventable proxy for this unmet need: every encounter driven by uncontrolled lupus activity represents both a personal health crisis and a cost that better outpatient access — including biologics — could help avoid. Closing this gap requires coordinated action: expanded patient-assistance and bridge-therapy programs, community health worker support to navigate insurance and prior authorization, provider education on when biologics are indicated, and continued advocacy for policies that lower out-of-pocket costs for specialty lupus therapies.

Lupus Texas Gulf Coast is committed to closing this gap — connecting patients to the treatments they are entitled to, educating providers and communities, and advocating for a healthcare system where access to biologic therapy is determined by medical need, not by zip code, race, or ability to pay.

By the Numbers

<35% Diagnosed patients receiving any treatment

96.53% of ED treatment encounters — Standard-of-care therapy (Plaquenil)

0.02% of ED treatment encounters — Biologic therapies (Benlysta + Saphnelo)

Sources: Texas Department of State Health Services emergency department lupus treatment encounter data, 2022–2024, collected and analyzed by University of Houston Honors College students through the UH Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Unit. Diagnosis-to-treatment figure drawn from LBJ Hospital patient data for Houston Super Neighborhood 52. ED figures reflect the share of recorded treatment instances for lupus patients presenting to the emergency department, not overall disease prevalence or outpatient prescribing.

The Lupus Foundation of America strategically invests in research that focuses on discovering the breakthroughs that can lead to early intervention, better therapies, and even disease prevention. Here is a list of 12 research grantees we awarded funding to this year:

Gina M. Finzi Student Summer Fellowship Program

GRACE CROSSLAND *(Mentor: Sladjana Skopelja-Gardner, PhD)*
Dartmouth College, Geisel School of Medicine
Project Title: Defining the role of mucosal-associated invariant T (MAIT) cells in cutaneous lupus erythematosus

VANESSA ESTRADA *(Mentor: James J. Pestka, PhD)*
Department of Microbiology, Genetics, & Immunology, Michigan State University
Project Title: Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Omega-3 Effects on Interferon Gene Methylation in Lupus Macrophages

ROHAN GUPTA *(Mentor: Betty Diamond, MD)*
The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research Project Title: Determining the Role of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AHR) in NPSLE

JERIK LEUNG *(Mentors: S. Sam Lim, MD, MPH; Cam Escoffery, PhD, MPH, CHES)*
Emory University
Project Title: Using Photovoice to Understand Self-Management Behaviors in Lupus

SARA SMITH *(Mentor: Gabriela K. Fragiadakis, PhD)* **The Regents of University of California, San Francisco** Project Title: Uncovering the Molecular Underpinnings of Lupus Nephritis with Multi-Omic Analysis

EMMA WELTER *(Mentor: Montserrat Anguera, PhD)*
The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania Project Title: Investigating the Impact of Lupus-Like Disease on the Inactive X Chromosome in Age-Associated B Cells

JIN XUAN ZHOU **(***Mentor: Andrea Knight, MD, MSCE)*
Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
Project Title: Diffusion Tensor Imaging Metrics and Neurocognitive Function in cSLE

Gary S. Gilkeson Career Development Award

JARED GRAHAM, PHD, *(Mentor: Karen Gould, PhD, MEd),* **University of Nebraska Medical Center** Project Title: Assessing the Role of SHP2 on B Cell Proliferation

JACQUELYN NESTOR, MD, PHD *(Mentors: Andrew Luster, Ph.D.; Alexandra-Chloé Villani, PhD; April Jorge, MD)*
Massachusetts General Hospital
Project Title: Unraveling CD4+ T cell imbalance in SLE

Pediatric Lupus Research Grant

NAYIMISHA BALMURI, MD, *Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,*
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Project Title: Does Air Pollution Influence the Baseline Characteristics of Pediatric SLE?

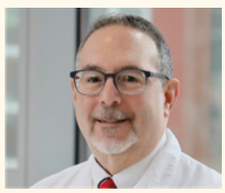
REBECCA SADUN, MD, PHD, *Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics,*
Duke University School of Medicine
Project Title: Validation of a Survey to Assess Barriers to Medication Adherence in cSLE

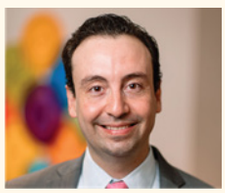
Lupus Canada Catalyst Award

MOHAMED OSMAN, MD, PHD, *Associate Professor of Rheumatology,*
University of Alberta
Project Title: Defining the molecular drivers of fatigue in lupus: a pilot study

Honoring the Pioneers Driving Scientific Progress

In 2024, we hosted the Evelyn V. Hess Reception and proudly celebrated three distinguished research leaders whose significant contributions continue to shape the future of lupus science and inspire the next generation of innovators. The honorees were Dr. Brad H. Rovin of Ohio State University, recipient of the Evelyn V. Hess Award; Dr. Alí Duarte-García of the Mayo Clinic, recipient of the Mary Betty Stevens Young Investigator Prize; and Dr. Anca Askanase of Columbia University, our Medical-Scientific Advisory Council (MSAC) honoree.


Dr. Brad H. Rovin


Dr. Alí Duarte-García


Dr. Anca Askanase

Access to Care – Lupus Texas Road Map to Improved Lupus Outcomes

Lupus Texas Gulf Coast serves nearly 50 counties across the Texas Gulf Coast, from Nacogdoches to Beaumont, Galveston, and Houston along with Victoria, Corpus Christi, and the Rio Grande Valley – with many stops in between. We believe in the mission to shorten the time to a lupus diagnosis, and to provide access to high-quality health care regardless of a patient's level of insurance or ability to pay. This past year, we partnered with the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute at the University of Houston to gain a stronger understanding of just exactly WHERE our diagnosed lupus patients are.

We discovered a heartbreaking trend. Out of nearly 110,000 patients diagnosed in Texas in an 18-month period, only 39,000 of them received lupus treatment.

That means **65% of lupus patients** diagnosed in a hospital system or clinic in Texas **received no lupus treatment** for their diagnosis.

Our team at **University of Houston**, many of them student researchers, developed a tool allowing us to identify, by zip code, where patients are being diagnosed and the zip code where they reside. Knowing where to find these patients allows us to have a direct impact on patient quality of life while living with lupus through meaningful community efforts.

In addition to University of Houston, we also partner with **Bee Busy Wellness**, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), providing access to lupus testing and treatment regardless of a patient's ability to qualify or ability to pay through our **Patient Access to Health (PATH) program**. For those without any insurance, we partner directly with the free clinic, **San Jose Clinic**, providing patient referrals and funding for any services incurred if the patient is unable to pay for their visits, treatments, or prescriptions. Both clinics provide low- or no-cost prescriptions diagnosed by and filled within their clinics. Each of these opportunities is

provided through private foundation funding and through our many donors who help us care for their community. This includes access to transportation to health appointments, treatments, and pharmacies through programs like **Uber Health** for patients without access to reliable transportation.

Our work to advocate and educate toward a cure for lupus is benefited by partnerships including the **Consortium for Translational and Precision Health (CTPH)** from the CTSA program at the National Institutes of Health, a research opportunity between **Baylor College of Medicine** and **University of Houston**. The CEO of Lupus Texas Gulf Coast, Anne Marie Blacketer, serves on the Community External Advisory Board for the CTPH, and serves as the community representative on the Executive Board of the CTPH. This work, developed to improve research outcomes through community engagement, is a seven-year grant toward this work. It also affords unique opportunities to provide lupus **education sessions for Baylor College of Medicine and Harris Health physicians** as well as for specialty physicians and care teams, supporting our mission to shorten the time to lupus diagnosis.

This work is necessary and impactful, and we are grateful for your support in allowing us to bring this important work to our lupus community.


Saleemah


Do you have unexplained symptoms?
Butterfly Rash
Brain Fog
Kidney Failure
ASK YOUR CARE PROVIDER
WHAT IF IT'S LUPUS?
Help Us Solve The Cruel Mystery
LUPUS
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER


WALK TO END LUPUS NOW
LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMER
I WALK

Increasing Access to Treatment and Care

LUPUS TEXAS GULF COAST — CHW HUB – ROADMAP TO CARE AND MORE

Every patient has a diagnosis story. For many, the journey is long, uncertain, and frustrating — and the sooner an accurate diagnosis is received, the sooner treatment begins. In lupus, that timeline can mean the difference between saving organs, avoiding needless pain, or saving a life.

Alongside the Lupus Foundation of America, your independent Lupus Texas Gulf Coast Chapter is focused on one goal: shortening the time to diagnosis and building a clear path from "what is wrong" to diagnosis, treatment, and living well with lupus. Across the region, we work through Community Health Workers (CHWs) — the trusted bridge between patients and quality care — to deliver that path in six connected parts.

The Roadmap to Care

1. Testing
We work with partner clinics, community health centers, and CHWs to close the gap between symptoms and an accurate diagnosis. Through "What If It's Lupus" office and clinic posters, new-patient information kits, and CHW-led education, we help patients and providers recognize lupus earlier and connect patients to testing options to testing sooner.

2. Treatment
Once diagnosed, patients need a clear next step. Our CHW Hub helps connect patients to clinics, treatment options, lupus flare kits — including guidance on which area hospitals offer Rheumatology services for emergency care — so no one is left navigating treatment alone.

3. Transportation
Access to specialty care means little if a patient can't get there. Through our Patient Access to Healthcare (P.A.T.H.) program, we provide transportation support so appointments and pharmacy visits can be kept.

4. Financial Support
Insurance gaps, transportation, and the cost of specialty care are among the biggest barriers our patients face. The CHW Hub and P.A.T.H. grant applications connect patients to financial support designed to keep cost from standing between a patient and their care.

5. Support Groups
Patients across the Texas Gulf Coast gather in Lupus Circles — informal meetups, often over coffee — to find community, kinship, and support close to home. These groups give patients a place to be understood by people who share their experience.

6. Peer Mentors
Our Community Health Workers do more than connect patients to services — they walk alongside them. With over 8,600 CHWs across Texas and more than 100 patients in each CHW's portfolio, these trained, community-embedded mentors support patients from first symptom through diagnosis and long-term care.

Built on Training and Reach
This roadmap is powered by ongoing investment in our CHW workforce. In partnership with the University of Houston Honors College CHW Initiative, we developed three CEU-eligible courses covering lupus symptoms, testing, treatment, and disease progression — helping CHWs earn continuing education credit while deepening their ability to serve patients. Combined with our participation in more than 60 community outreach events each year, this training ensures CHWs are equipped to guide every patient along the roadmap, from testing through peer support.

We are measuring both short- and long-term outcomes of this work and look forward to sharing results as this roadmap continues to grow.

Empowering People, Advancing Access

From local support groups to national coalitions, the Lupus Foundation of America (LFA) reaches thousands of people with education, tools and advocacy to improve life with lupus. More than **7,000 people** participated in **Lupus & You National Webinars**, gaining trusted guidance on topics like pain, fatigue, flares and relationships, plus 1,500 joined in-person, **Lupus & You Empowerment Conferences** nationwide. Our **support group network** remained a cornerstone of connection and encouragement, with **70 groups, 142 trained facilitators, and 1,500 participants** this year. We also established new support groups focused on kidney care, military families, central nervous system lupus and more. Our self-management program, **SELF: Strategies to Embrace Living with Lupus Fearlessly**, continued to grow, with more than **11,500 people registered** and new print guides developed to reach individuals with limited internet access. More than **2,300 people from 63 countries** turned to our **Health Education Specialists for support**—receiving personalized help with diagnosis, finding physicians, and navigating daily challenges of living with lupus. Together, these resources reflect the LFA's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every person with lupus — and their family and loved ones — have access to the information, tools and support they need.

Protecting Access to Research and Care

This year, the LFA was a strong and persistent voice in Washington — leading national efforts to protect and advance policies critical to people with lupus. With funding and access at risk, our advocacy was more urgent—and more relentless—than ever.

We led efforts to preserve research and public health funding, safeguard Medicaid and Medicare, and protect access to care, prescription drugs and telehealth. Our team engaged all levels of government to ensure the lupus community's voice was heard.

As convener of the MAPRx coalition of 60+ national organizations, we defended access to medications for people with chronic conditions. We also provided leadership and joined other coalitions, advocating for lupus priorities at the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense, the Office of Minority Health, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Food and Drug Administration.

In the Community:

The Lupus Foundation of America's **National Lupus Advocacy Summit** brought more than 300 lupus advocates from across the country to Capitol Hill to share their stories and urge Congress to expand research funding and protect access to care. Shortly after, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved legislation to fund critical lupus programs in 2026. Building on this momentum, the LFA led a Congressional recess grassroots campaign in August, mobilizing advocates to meet with lawmakers locally to advocate for lupus priorities as the legislation process continues.

Advocate. Educate. Cure.

We serve the Texas Gulf Coast as an independent chapter for Lupus Foundation of America.
Advocate. Educate. Cure.

Your giving supports **local** Texas Gulf Coast area programs and education, outreach, and support services across multiple communities. We work with county health departments, community clinics, and other health advocacy nonprofit organizations with the aim to:

- **Advocate**
  Support for patients to have access to high-quality healthcare throughout their lupus journey, supporting their journey with referrals, appointment support, and direct patient advocacy. We also work with state legislature to provide funding to support improved lupus patient counts to result in higher funding and access to appropriate care.

- **Educate**
  One of our top priorities is to educate community members and healthcare professionals (including community health workers) of the signs and symptoms of lupus to help shorten the time to diagnosis.

- **Cure**
  Supporting our community to help fund research toward finding a cure for lupus.

Join the fight against lupus with your local support today!

In the Community: Being a Part of the Movement

In 2025, our Lupus Texas Gulf Coast staff supported over 80 community health events across our service areas and trained more than 32 Lupus Texas Gulf Coast Ambassadors.

Sharing our Third Tuesday program flier engaged deeper understanding of lupus with well-qualified physicians and partners, a significant step toward understanding disease progression and ways to help.

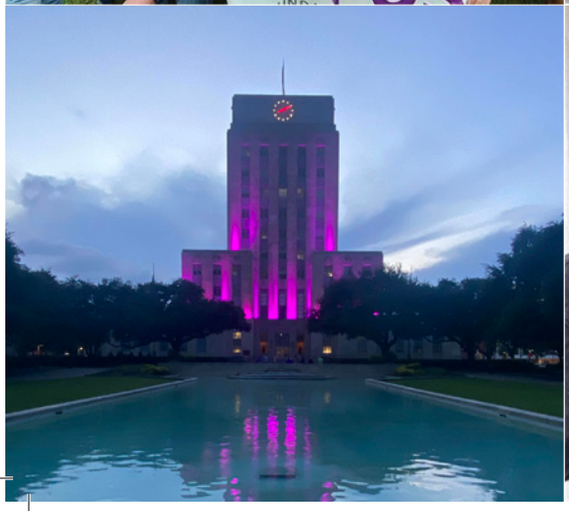
We partnered with Texas Southern University, bringing health and hope to Houston's Third Ward.

In 2025, we supported four lupus walks across the region, bringing together thousands of Lupus Warriors and their support tribes.


I Wear
Purple
for ME
Lupus
Awareness


I'm Helping to Solve
the Cruel Mystery.


Lupus
Awareness
LUPUS



Ways to Give and Get Involved

There are many ways to make a difference in the fight to end lupus, from making a donation and becoming a monthly donor to incorporating the Lupus Foundation of America into your planned giving or becoming a fundraiser through an event. Here are just some ways you can make an impact:

Make a Gift

Make a difference by sending your donation payable to the Lupus Texas Gulf Coast, 440 Louisiana St Ste 900, Houston, TX 77002 or make your gift online at **LupusTexas.org/give-today**.

Workplace Giving

Many workplaces have programs where they will double or even triple your donation. Find out if your company has a matching gift program, and other ways to give through your workplace. **Lupus.org/workplace-giving**.

Become a Champion for Hope

Become a Champion for Hope and your monthly gift will provide year-round support for life-changing research and compassionate support to people living with lupus. Begin your monthly giving at **LupusTexas.org/give-today**.

Walk to End Lupus Now®

Bring your family, friends, and community together by starting a team for Walk to End Lupus Now. Join the world's largest lupus walk and take meaningful steps toward ending lupus. Register at **LupusTexas.org/walk-to-end-lupus-now**.

Team Make Your Mark™

Run, walk, bike or swim on your own - or with your favorite group of people - through Team Make Your Mark. Every mile brings us closer to ending lupus. Get started at **Lupus.org/TeamMakeYourMark**. Designate to Lupus Texas Gulf Coast.

Livestream for Lupus

Use your platform to raise awareness and funds with a charity stream or join Game On! to End Lupus in May. Visit **Lupus.org/Livestream** to get started and stream for a cause. ***Designate to Lupus Texas Gulf Coast.***

Raise Your Voice

Join the fight by raising your voice for lupus advocacy. Over the past five years, we've helped secure more than $785 million for lupus research. Become an advocate today at **Lupus.org/Advocacy.**

Become a Corporate Partner

Support the fight against lupus while benefiting your organization through fundraising, matching gifts, direct donation, event sponsorship and in-kind gifts. To explore corporate partnership opportunities, contact Anne Marie Blacketer via email at **annemarie@lupustexas.org**.

Honor a Loved One

Honor a loved one affected by lupus with a meaningful donation. Your donation will help to solve the cruel mystery of lupus. **Visit lupustexas.org/Pay-Tribute**.

Planned Giving

Create a lasting legacy by helping those affected by lupus through planned giving. You can support lupus research and care with your estate planning goals. **Visit Lupus.org/Planned-Giving** or Anne Marie Blacketer via email at **annemarie@lupustexas.org**.

Donate a Vehicle

You can donate your car, truck, boat or RV to the Lupus Texas Gulf Coast and receive a tax deduction while supporting the mission to end lupus. Find out more at **Lupus.org/donate-a-vehicle.** ***Designate to Lupus Texas Gulf Coast.***

- facebook.com/lupustexas
- youtube.com/user/lupustexas
- bsky.app/profile/lupustxgulfcoast.bsky.social
- instagram.com/lupustexas/?igshid=9d7vf1updzu0
- linkedin.com/company/lupus-foundation-of-america-texas-gulf-coast-chapter-inc
- mastodon.social/@lupustexas
- threads.com/@lupustexas

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Phong Nguyen, Devon, PA
Tim Nolan, Miami, FL
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Christine Smith, Houston, TX
Dawn Thomas-Semanko, Council of Chapter Professional Staff Representative, Milwaukee, WI

Council of Professional Staff Representative

Dawn Thomas-Semanko, Milwaukee, WI

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Joan T. Merrill, M.D., Chief Advisor, Clinical Development

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Joy Buie, Ph.D., MSCR, RN, Vice President, Research
Mike Donnelly, Vice President, Communications

National Network

National Headquarters
DC, Maryland and Virginia Regional Office
Georgia Chapter
Greater Ohio Chapter
Heartland Regional Office
Lone Star Chapter
Midwest Regional Office
Northeast Regional Office
North Carolina Chapter
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
Pennsylvania Delaware Valley Regional Office
Southeast Regional Office
California Regional Office
Texas Gulf Coast Chapter
Wisconsin Chapter

Medical-Scientific Advisory Council

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Feinstein Institute for Medical Research
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Isabelle Ayoub, M.D., FASN
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University of Maryland
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University of Calgary
Karen H. Costenbader, MD, MPH
Brigham & Women's Hospital
and Harvard Medical School
Cassandra Dolecki, Pharm.D., BCACP, TTS
Autoimmunity Institute Allegheny Health Network
Andrea Fava, M.D., Ph.D.
John Hopkins University
Candace Feldman, M.D., M.P.H., ScD
Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital
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Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
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NIH/NIAMS
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Washington University in St.
Mimi Kim, MS, ScD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
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Emory University
Chandra Mohan, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Houston Department of Biomedical Engineering
Joseph F. Merola, M.D., MMSc
UT Southwestern
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Hospital for Special Surgery
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University Health Network/Toronto
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Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
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George C. Tsokos, M.D.
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Victoria Werth, MS, M.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Jessica Williams, M.D.
Washington University in St. Louis and Novartis
Jinoos Yazdany, M.D., M.P.H.
University of California, San Francisco

Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

2025-26 Board Members

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Dr. Biruh Workeneh, Secretary (MD Anderson)
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Mr. Eyal Muscal
Dr. Philip Waller

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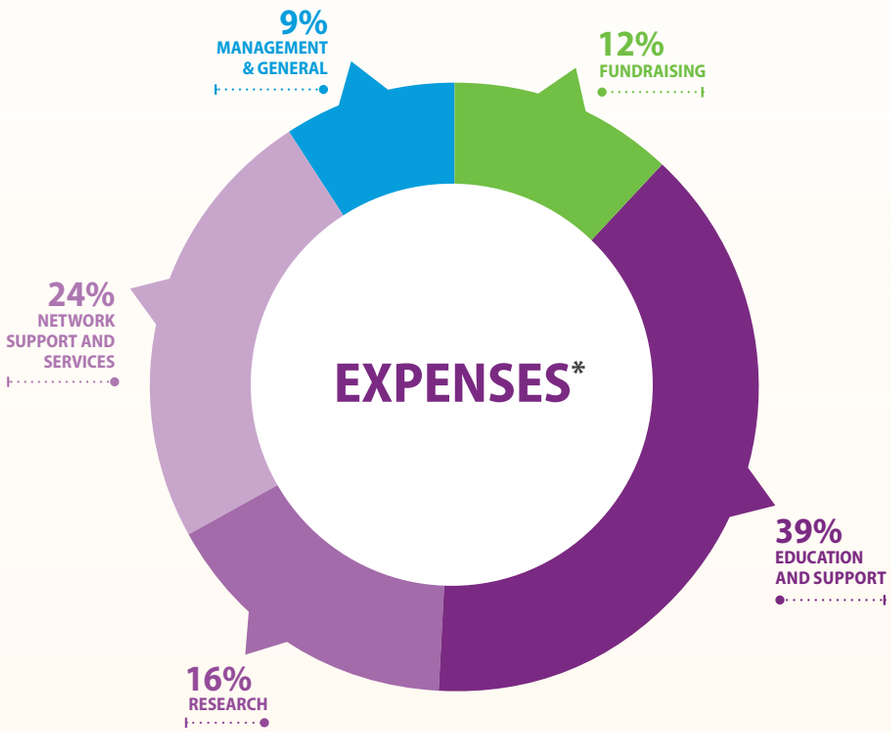
Jennifer Burke, CRM Administrator/Annual Fund
Makenna Martinez, Social Media Coordinator
Nichelle Lewis, CHW, Community Health Worker Instructor/Program Coordinator
Jometra Hawkins, CHWI, Community Health Worker Instructor
Kevin Blacketer, Volunteer CFO

Financial Highlights

79¢ of every $1 fuels our mission.
Your gift goes where it matters most—into research, education, advocacy, and life-changing support for people with lupus and their families. This strong commitment to accountability and transparency has earned the highest recognition from respected charity evaluators, including ***Charity Navigator, the Better Business Bureau, and the National Health Council***. Your donation isn't just a gift—it's a sound investment in creating a future without lupus.



LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended September 30, 2024

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
EXPENSES	
Program Services	244,147
Education and Support	–
Network Support and Services	–
Research	–
Management and General	79,821
Fundraising	21,121
TOTAL EXPENSES	**345,089**
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**(48,244)**
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	**(11,061)**
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	**(59,305)**

LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA & NATIONAL NETWORK

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended September 30, 2024

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	**16,853,348**
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Education and Support	8,272,491
Network Support and Services	4,296,251
Research	2,835,184
Management and General	1,866,707
Fundraising	2,535,726
TOTAL EXPENSES	**19,806,359**
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	**(2,953,011)**
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	**10,032,418**
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	**7,079,407**

*A copy of the audited financial statements is available online or upon request from the Lupus Foundation of America National Office by calling 202-349-1155, or writing to Lupus Foundation of America, 2121 K Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036

We envision

A LIFE FREE OF LUPUS

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus through programs of research, education, support and advocacy.

Increase organizational structure and funding to achieve strategic outcomes.

Reduce the time to disease diagnosis

Ensure people with lupus have an arsenal of safe and effective treatments

Expand direct services and increase access to treatments and care

Greatly expand funding to achieve our mission

Help Us Solve
The Cruel Mystery

LUPUS™

FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
TEXAS GULF COAST CHAPTER

440 Louisiana St Ste 900
Houston, TX 77002
Main: 713-529-0126
Email: info@lupustexas.org

LUPUSTEXAS.ORG