

## **Lupus Foundation of America Now Offering Statewide Services in South Carolina**

(November 20, 2015 – Columbia, SC) The Lupus Foundation of America (Foundation) today announced it is expanding services and resources for South Carolinians living with and affected by lupus. The Foundation and a committed group of volunteers in South Carolina have joined forces to provide an array of support, education, advocacy, and outreach programs statewide beginning this month.

“With this new partnership, the Lupus Columbia South Carolina is now a community partner of the Lupus Foundation of America,” said Hetlena Johnson, Chief Volunteer Officer with the LFA South Carolina, a Lupus Foundation of America Community Partner based in South Carolina. “We have expanded our services throughout the state with one-on-one and group support programs and collaborative educational programs with medical professionals and are hosting fundraising events that not only raise money for lupus research but will bring us together as a community to raise awareness about this cruel disease.”

The group hosted a successful third annual lupus walk on Saturday, October 24 at the Charles Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, South Carolina. A 2016 event is being planned. More info on other upcoming walks is available at <http://www.lupuscsc.org/event/walk>.

The event will bring together community members – people with lupus, friends, families and health care providers – to raise money for lupus research and education programs, increase awareness of the disease and rally public support for those who feel its brutal impact.

For more information, call Hetlena Johnson at 803-563-8117 or email [info@lupuscsc.org](mailto:info@lupuscsc.org).

### **About Lupus**

Lupus is an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that ravages different parts of the body. It is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with and a challenge to treat. Lupus is a cruel mystery because it is hidden from view and undefined, has a range of symptoms, strikes without warning, and has no known cause and no known cure. Its health effects can range from a skin rash to a heart attack. Lupus is debilitating and destructive and can be fatal, yet research on lupus remains underfunded relative to diseases of similar scope and devastation.

### **About the Lupus Foundation of America**

The Lupus Foundation of America is the only national force devoted to solving the mystery of lupus, one of the world’s cruelest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases, while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact. Through a comprehensive program of research, education, and advocacy, the Foundation leads the fight to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus. Learn more about lupus, *Lupus Science & Medicine* Journal and the Lupus Foundation of America at [lupus.org](http://lupus.org). For the latest news and updates, follow us on Twitter and Facebook.