

December 2015

Dear Myocarditis Families and Supporters,

I want to take this opportunity to share with you the wonderful achievements of the Myocarditis Foundation this past year, as well as the exciting plans and projects for 2016, all helping to achieve our mission of Education, Funding Research and Emotional Support of those affected by myocarditis. Thank you for helping make this happen.

2015 marked our 10-year anniversary as a 501(C)3 Corporation.

Dr. Cooper continues to travel nationally as well as internationally, educating physicians on Myocarditis. Early in the year, Dr. Cooper moved to the Jacksonville, Florida, Mayo Clinic location and became the Chair of the Cardiovascular Department. He also brought Dr. DeLisa Fairweather from her myocarditis research lab at Johns Hopkins and relocated her lab to the Jacksonville location where she is the Director of Transitional Research for the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine.

We relocated our office to Kingwood, Texas and hired our first Full Time employee. Prior to this, the work of the Director was accomplished with part time employees and pro-bono assistance.

We held our most successful Family Support/Researcher Meeting in September, where over 60 families joined us to hear the experts and researchers in the field as well as family member's stories and supportive talks by the local chapter of Compassionate Care. Attendees had access to speak to the experts which made it a very personal experience overall. We have doubled our attendance from last year and hope to do so again next year.

With the help of our families and friends, we were able to raise funds to support our 15th MF Fellowship Research Grant, which is specific for research in myocarditis.

We consulted with a college based marketing group, 180 Consulting, on how to reach the young adult population that so often are lost to the sudden death complication of this disease. We made changes to our website as per their suggestions, making it easier for someone to find someone their own age who was affected by the disease. We will continue to seek assistance with funding in 2016 so that we can reach out to educate the young adult population on college campuses, through college-based online media publications.

With the help of the St. Jude's Medical Foundation, we were able to accomplish our biggest success for the year of making a video about the MF, and another one where families share their stories on how myocarditis affected them. We are planning on rolling these out in early 2016 via our Website, Facebook page and other Social Media marketing. We believe that these will help raise awareness of the disease.

We have big plans for awareness programs in 2016! We are looking at a conference in Houston, Texas, in association with the Texas Children's Hospital. One of our Board Members, Dr. Jack Price, is the Director of the first ever in the U.S., Pediatric Heart Failure Intensive Care Unit there.

We are planning our 1st annual Gala in June at the Mandarin Hotel, with the help of our newest Board Member, Chris Corso. We are hoping to raise the bar for awareness through this event.

Dr. Cooper and the Myocarditis Foundation will have a presence at the International Society of Cardiomyopathies and Heart Failure in Kyoto, Japan, later in the year.

Guidestar has honored us with their "Gold Star" status. Guidestar is an organization that monitors non-profits for how well they run their companies and that these companies are appropriately utilizing their funds.

Due to our many accomplishments and highly successful year, the Myocarditis Foundation is growing at an astonishing rate. With growth come more responsibilities, costs and needs. The Myocarditis Foundation is seeking to increase our endowment fund to guarantee the Myocarditis Foundation will be sustained for the future. We have made many strides in the world of myocarditis, but we have so much more to do before we complete our mission and goal of saving lives.

Please consider donating to the Myocarditis Foundation so that we can make 2016 the best year yet. Remember, the Myocarditis Foundation is the ONLY organization dedicated entirely for the benefit of myocarditis patients and their families, and ALL our research grants go directly to myocarditis-specific research. We want to save more lives from this disease, and it is only through your support that this is possible.

I wish you the best this holiday season and a happy and healthy new year for 2016.

Sincerely,
Genevieve Rumore
Executive Director
The Myocarditis Foundation