

WALKING IN HONOR

In March 1998, **Leonora Snead's** mother, **Denise Snead**, was officially diagnosed with scleroderma, and her sister **Sherice Snead-Jones** was diagnosed with lupus in December 2015. Over the years, Leonora has learned a lot about both autoimmune diseases and has made a commitment to increase awareness through her radio program, the "Miss Lee Experience."

As the CEO of Trinitee Entertainment and the host of the "Miss Lee Experience" radio program, Leonora focuses on bringing her audience quality programming in radio, print, and television/film that will inspire, motivate, and encourage individuals to be impactful in their daily lives. The logo of the "Miss Lee Experience" has two colors, teal and purple, representing scleroderma and lupus. Last month, Leonora and SFGWDC formed a media partnership to have her platform help in our mutual efforts to inform and educate individuals about scleroderma and the chapter's activities and resources for scleroderma patients, their family members and caregivers.



The Snead family is participating in this year's Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma 5K Walk/Run on May 20, 2017 in honor of Denise Snead.

"This will be our first year participating in the Walk, and my family and I are so excited to support the work that is being done by the chapter and to help to raise critical funds for research," says Leonora. "I have a passion to impact the world with my love of media and I am so happy that I can combine my passion with the causes that are important to me." Leonora also will broadcast live from the event!

[Register today to join Team Neicey's Peacocks and others at our 2017 Walk!](#)

A WALK TRIBUTE TO DENISE SNEAD

Denise Snead was born July 13, 1960 in Newark NJ. As a middle child, she often struggled with the "middle child" syndrome, but always fought for her happiness in life and aspired for greatness. She was accepted into college in Florida, but could not afford to go. She then met her husband David Snead and became a mother to two girls. Her marriage ended in 1998, and towards the end of her marriage there were some health challenges.

She was first treated and tested for multiple sclerosis, and after a few tests, she was finally diagnosed with scleroderma. "When my mom was diagnosed, she didn't tell my sister and me much about scleroderma," says Leonora. "All I really knew was that there was no cure, and there had to be changes to her lifestyle." Denise had to eat differently. The winters and weather changes affected her negatively, and she was sensitive to sunlight and temperature among other changes. "My mom went through so many different treatments, from holistic to experimental, to medical, and even taking a break from medicine all together. I never understood what was really going on with her. At times it seemed like she was a guinea pig - being tested and put on various medicines to control



scleroderma, including chemotherapy."

Leonora says she has seen her mother change physically, mentally and spiritually. Even though her physical health is not as strong as it was, her mental and spiritual health have become the strongest. "My sister, dad, and I have seen her fight through the hair loss, weight loss and gain, skin changes, surgeries, lung issues, hospital stays, and rehabilitation stays - and through it all we have appreciated her strength, courage and tenacity." Denise is a strong example of a scleroderma fighter who understands her body and is still learning along the way- oxygen tank and all. She tells her daughters all the time, "Don't let my situation stop you from achieving your dreams".



"My mom and my sister are the fuel to my movement," says Leonora. "She has always been open and positive to those who criticize her appearance, stare, and judge. We know that there is more struggle ahead, and each day she prays for a cure, a new treatment, and opportunities to overcome it." Denise's next fight is to get strong enough so she can potentially be a candidate for a lung transplant, as scleroderma is now affecting her lungs.

"My mom has also been the first to educate those who treated her negatively. It's important that we all do our share to educate, inform and support all that is in the fight. Let's continue to do our part - big or small. Every little bit helps."

CAROLE BERNARD INTERVIEW on "Miss Lee Experience" Radio Station on April 28th

SFGWDC's Executive Director Carole Bernard will be interviewed on the "Miss Lee Experience" radio show to promote the 7th Annual Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma May 20th Walk. Bernard also will provide Leonora Snead's listeners with an overview of the chapter's activities and programs.

The interview is on Friday, April 28 at 8:30pm EST. To access the interview, just click [here](#) to listen on your computer!



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