

#SupportSFGWDC Today on #GivingTuesday



#GI  ING TUESDAY™

Dear Friend,

Today, the Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC (SFGWDC) Chapter celebrates **#GivingTuesday**. As you consider the organizations that are dear to you, we hope you will **#SupportSFGWDC** and join this movement by making a gift to support our three-fold mission of "Support, Education and Research."

On behalf of the SFGWDC Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts. We are grateful for our members who inspire us with their strength and courage, our generous donors who help to sustain our work, and our dedicated volunteers who lend their time and skills to our efforts.

This year has been very exciting, and I am proud of the chapter's commitment to fulfilling our mission. Our executive director, Carole Bernard, and our board members have worked hard this year to ensure the chapter is providing individuals and their family members with important information about scleroderma through our conferences and communications vehicles. Our Support Groups are providing forums for individuals to come together to share stories, ideas, and to learn from speakers covering various topics. And our participation at local health fairs and community events, as well as our annual Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk/Run continue to raise awareness about scleroderma. We welcome new volunteers to help us, from assisting with social media communications to stuffing envelopes. No activity is too small, and all are worthy.

Some of this year's accomplishments are listed below:

Education

- Received the Patient Education Award at the National Scleroderma Foundation's 2016 Patient Education Conference in New Orleans for our 2015 African American Patient Education Conference.
- Hosted 2016 Patient Education Conference on October 8th at George Washington

Support

- Launched new Northern Virginia Support Group on October 29 to better meet the needs of our members.
- Hosted several Maryland Support Group meetings with informative speakers.

Awareness

- Raised over \$30,000 at the 6th Annual Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Walk/Run in Columbia, MD.

Communications

- Distributed professional e-newsletter that reaches more than 1,600 people and provides timely information about the chapter activities, the field of research, educational campaigns, and more.
- Engaged a broad audience through our social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter, which continue to grow in followers; Facebook "Likes" have increased by 43% since last year.
- Launched effort to recruit a Social Media Intern to expand our social media networks to widen our reach.

You can read more about our activities in our *2016 Year in Review*, which will be posted on our website and sent out in our e-newsletter in December. We are looking forward to building upon our 2016 accomplishments, and to your continued support of our work! With your generous gift, we can increase our efforts to provide critical support and educational services to improve the quality of life for scleroderma patients and their families. **To make a donation, you can mail a check to: Carole Bernard, Executive Director, SFGWDC, 5533 Mystic Court, Columbia, MD 20144 or visit our website at www.scleroderma/DC.org**

Thank you again for your support!

Mary Beth Tourbin
Board President

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Scleroderma Foundation **SHAPE THIS EMAIL** Washington, DC Chapter

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