



Name: Julie Crego

Professional Affiliation: Wayne State University, Senior Human Resource Consultant

What is your direct relationship to the scleroderma community?

My son is a juvenile linear scleroderma encoup desabre patient. Just weeks

after his diagnosis we participated in our first Stampede Scleroderma event. Afterwards, we formed Team Courageous Crego, and organized 25+ Stampede participants for each annual event, at which we have been one of the top fundraisers. We also host our own personal fund-raising event from our home annually, with all proceeds going to the Scleroderma Foundation. My son and I are Scleroderma advocates. We participate in medical student education efforts, and I have been involved with efforts to reach out to local politicians to advocate for the disease and foundation. My son has been interviewed several times, for Scleroderma Foundation, MI Chapter public relations initiatives. Additionally, I am connected with a worldwide Scleroderma parent group,



which offers encouragement and support on a more personal level. I recently participated in a panel discussion among physicians and juvenile scleroderma parents. It is safe to say that the Scleroderma Foundation, Michigan Chapter has been a big part of our life these past four years.

Why have you chosen to serve as a member of the board for the Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter?

My family is committed to the mission of the Scleroderma Foundation, Michigan Chapter. We believe in the importance of research, patient support, and physician education, and want to do our part to contribute. Our experience with the anxiety and fear of a misdiagnosis, and even after the correct diagnosis, is not something I want others to experience. Throughout my life, I have advocated for people. Be it in my occupation, volunteer efforts or personal life. Scleroderma has touched and changed my family. Since my son's diagnosis in 2017, we have learned of two other extended family members who have Scleroderma. This is a life altering condition without a cure. I will do whatever I can to help make a difference, and to generate hope for patients and families.

What else would you like us to know about you? Being a mother of three has been the very best part of my life, and I would not trade it for anything. I have a



heart for people, which has kept me active in my personal and professional life. In fact, it propelled me into an occupation that is very people oriented, and into service opportunities that are centered on disenfranchised populations. Over the years I have learned how important it is to put myself in the shoes of others. To walk in humility and authenticity, and show care for those I encounter in the world.