

## Big Name, Big Heart

By Erin Wiles

**W**hen Howie's sister Caroline Dorough-Cochran died in September of 1998 after a 14-year battle with lupus, there was very little financial and emotional support for the disease. Fans and leading doctors in the field who heard about Howie's loss encouraged him to use his celebrity status to raise awareness about lupus. "With me being a celebrity, I could make a difference by reaching out to others to promote increased awareness of lupus," says Howie. "Hopefully I can save other families from having to go through the same loss that my family experienced." And so, in response to Caroline's death, the Dorough family, with Howie in the lead, established the Dorough Lupus Foundation.

Every penny raised goes directly toward the fight against lupus, which Howie considers a "hush-hush disease." Through the foundation, which also sponsors support groups for lupus patients, Howie says he wants to "promote as much awareness as possible and raise money for research." Even though the foundation is relatively new, it has already seen success in its annual fundraising events, including a celebrity concert, golf tournament, and Caribbean cruise.

*While many celebrities use their names to get into crowded restaurants or to score free designer clothes, Backstreet Boy Howie D. uses his fame for a more important cause.*



"Young people of all ages can help us promote awareness, encourage early testing, or volunteer in local fundraisers for lupus. Anything and everything is always appreciated."

—Howie D.

You can help Howie fulfill his vision to make his organization the "most prominent and compassionate lupus advocacy group around the globe" by logging on to [doroughlupusfoundation.org](http://doroughlupusfoundation.org).