

Four Year Anniversary of The Dorough Lupus Foundation Support Group

On August 27, 2002 the very first Lupus Support Group met at Arnold Palmer Hospital. Four years later it's still going strong.

At this month's meeting members looked back over the four years and shared how the support group has touched their lives.

For many it is a place to come to share their struggles and their successes. For others, it is a place to network and get information. For all it is a place to remind them, they are not alone.

"When Caroline was living with Lupus, there was no support group for her to attend." Paula, better known as Mama D. explained. After Caroline's death, she and the rest of the Dorough family wanted to find a way to bring something good out of their loss.

For Mama D, it was to start a support group in the Orlando area where others could come to find support and education in their battle with lupus.

Four years later, the group still meets and has proved to be invaluable to the members.

The support group has two functions, to educate and to support its members. Each month a guest speaker provides information on a variety of topics including: medicine, health and wellness, insurance, and research.

Secondly, and most importantly, the group provides the needed support for patients diagnosed with lupus as well as their families. A social worker facilitates sharing and offers more assistance if needed.

After four years, there have been many ups and downs in the lives of the support group members, but having somewhere to turn has made things a bit easier.

New members are always welcome.



Happy Birthday!

And

**congratulations on
4 wonderful years!**

A special thanks to Patti for the Cake and Val for her dedicated service over the past 4 years.

Upcoming Meetings

September, 26, 2006

October 24, 2006

November 28, 2006

December 26, 2006

January 23, 2007

February 27, 2007

Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at

Arnold Palmer Hospital

Classrooms 1 & 2
92 W. Miller St.
Orlando, FL 32806

Meeting Overview:

- Presentation of resources for the uninsured and the underinsured in Orange County.
- Celebration of the 4 year anniversary of the support group.
- Sharing from group members.

Next Meeting's Topic:

- TBA

Did You Know?

Some Facts About Lupus

- A survey of Lupus Foundation of America members suggests that more than half of those afflicted with lupus suffered at least four years, and saw three or more doctors before obtaining a correct diagnosis of lupus.

- Nearly half of the survey participants (49%) received their diagnosis of lupus after being examined by a rheumatologist, a medical specialist who treats diseases of the connective tissue.

- Four of ten lupus patients are treated by three or more doctors, and take six or more medications to treat symptoms of the disease.

- People with lupus named other family members (84%) and friends (72%) as their primary support network.

Source: <http://www.lupus.org/education/stats.html>