“The butterfly symbolizes heroism in its continued survival against enormous odds. From its incredible transformation and rebirth, to its amazing existence despite facing great opposition, this fragile creature is the embodiment of Hope.

Like the butterfly, the Lupus patient continues to survive in a complex world, triumphing over adversity each day with tremendous grace, dignity, and courage.”

Kathleen A. Arntsen

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Our mission is to advocate for those affected by lupus and allied diseases through awareness and research program initiatives to improve quality of life.
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease in which a triggering agent causes the immune system to attack the patient’s own tissue. It can affect virtually any organ system of the body and there is no known cause or cure. Lupus ranges from mild to life threatening and is a leading cause of kidney disease, stroke, and premature cardiovascular disease in young women and is unpredictable, highly individualized, often debilitating and potentially fatal. An estimated 1.5 million Americans suffer from lupus, women are affected 9 times more often than men, it disproportionately affects women of color, and 80% of new cases develop between the ages of 15 and 44 during the prime of life.

Public and professional knowledge of the symptoms and effects of lupus and autoimmune diseases are often lacking, resulting in delayed diagnosis and proper medical intervention. We realize that early diagnosis and treatment are vital components in reducing the physical and economic impact of these conditions and are committed to increasing community and health professional awareness.

Founded in Utica, NY in 1978, the Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc. is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization. We are dedicated to improving quality of life for those impacted by lupus and allied diseases and conditions of unmet need by fostering collaboration among stakeholders and promoting progressive and promising advocacy, awareness and biomedical research program initiatives.

We understand the isolation and fear individuals often feel when they are first diagnosed. We also recognize the impact lupus and diseases of unmet need can have on other family members, loved ones, and caregivers. Our awareness, public education and advocacy programs are designed to not only empower patients to actively participate in their own health care but to also become engaged in the public policy process in order to influence positive change and enhance their quality of life.

We are passionately committed to ensuring that all Americans receive the most appropriate therapies as directed by their providers and that public policy keeps pace with biomedical research innovation. Because current research for diseases of unmet need like lupus is under-funded and deficient, and treatment options are totally inadequate, we are expanding our collaborative efforts with other healthcare stakeholders to promote patient-centered care and patient-engaged research to ensure the pace of biomedical research and development and drug discoveries accelerate rapidly to improve quality of life.

Our organization strongly supports innovative research initiatives that include cross-sector collaborations, public-private partnerships and robust basic, clinical and translational projects that enable scientists to: investigate disease pathogenesis and physiology, design better clinical trial methodologies, improve diagnostic tests, identify biomarkers, develop safer, more effective treatments, prevent complications, and ultimately discover cures.

We are a member of:
- Alliance for Transparent & Affordable Prescriptions (ATAP)
- The National Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups (NCAPG)
- The NIAMS Coalition
- Coalition for Accessible Treatments
- Lupus Federal Working Group
- Research!America
- Alliance for Safe Biologic Medicines
- Partnership for Part D Access
- Protect Medicare Part D Working Grp
- ASP Coalition
- MAPRx Coalition
- Patient Protections Coalition
- I Am Essential Coalition
- Coalition for Clinical Trials Awareness
- KeepMyRx Coalition
- New York BIO
- BIO NJ
- NY State Rheumatology Society
- Lupus Agencies of New York State
- Numerous state advocacy coalitions

Organization services include:
- Annual local and national publications
- Current treatment and research information
- Representation on important access to care, research and healthcare advocacy issues
- Participation in awareness, advocacy and fundraising events

Please take a moment and consider supporting our organization and help us to continue providing programs designed to improve quality of life for those affected by Lupus and Allied Diseases and Diseases of Unmet Need.

Thank you for your interest and support.