



# ARDS Foundation of Illinois

UNITED in HOPE

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome

### CIRCLE OF SUPPORT:

*The organization serves many people at various stages:*



HELP US MAKE MORE MIRACLES

### ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME-THE UNKNOWN KILLER

Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) is the sudden, often fatal, acute process by which there is a moderate to severe loss of lung function. This occurs following another acute medical condition, such as pneumonia, sepsis, trauma, or any number of other precipitating causes. Once the ARDS occurs, the other medical condition is often minor in comparison. There are approximately 150,000 cases of ARDS in the United States each year. Almost 75,000 of those people do not survive. There is no prevention or cure for ARDS.

◆ Support for those who have lost a loved one to ARDS through our local monthly SUPPORT meeting, as well as offering online support by making connections with others or by posting their ARDS STORY or a MEMORIAL on the website.

◆ Educating the public by sponsoring fundraising events, in addition to attending local classes, speaking about ARDS or about the foundation, plus maintaining an online MEDIA KIT.

◆ Assisting physicians and researchers who want to do Post-ARDS research by providing a SURVIVOR REGISTRY.

◆ Post-ARDS, the organization offers support for SURVIVORS with various resources, a DISCUSSION FORUM that connects survivors to each other, articles that discuss issues such as Post-ARDS rehabilitation, pulmonary rehab, post-traumatic stress disorder, and a periodic newsletter.

◆ During ARDS crisis, the foundation offers Facts, both online and through the mail, a support network, by connecting family and friends to those in the ARDS community via email, and a discussion forum. Through the Patient and Family Care Center, the foundation offers suggestions about what families can do while their loved ones are in a medically induced comatose state and while being weaned from the ventilator. Suggestions are also provided to caregivers on what they can do for themselves and what other family and friends can do for the main caregivers.

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The ARDS Foundation of Illinois is a not for profit organization composed of a group of individuals, all volunteers, who have been personally affected by ARDS. We are dedicated to increasing public awareness, education, and financial assistance to those engaged in medical research. Our mission is to provide a forum where ARDS patients and families around the world can find support, information, and assistance. Our outreach extends beyond Illinois, touching the lives of people everywhere.

### HISTORY OF THE ARDS FOUNDATION OF ILLINOIS:

The ARDS Foundation of Illinois was incorporated in December 2000, and received its tax-exempt number in February 2001. The organization was created as a result of a need that exists within the community that lacks sufficient information and education geared towards support for family and friends who often endure the lengthy hospitalization of loved ones that Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) often require. The President of the organization, Eileen Rubin Zacharias, is an ARDS survivor from 1995; the Vice-President, Paula Blonski, lost her sister, Marybeth Monaghan, to ARDS in 1998.

### ARDS FOUNDATION OF ILLINOIS

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Sponsored by: *Lilly*

