

Car Show Raises \$10,000 To Support Scleroderma Awareness and Funding For Research

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By: Christine Gaydos

Car enthusiasts including 167 car entries participated in the 2nd Annual “Cruise for a Cure” on April 21, 2013, in Wilmington, Delaware, to help raise awareness and research funding for scleroderma.



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Mt. Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware. Misunderstood, misdiagnosed, and underfunded. Far too many families in Wilmington, Delaware and surrounding Maryland, Southeastern Pennsylvania, and South Jersey understand these words when talking about scleroderma, a complicated, chronic, and life-altering autoimmune disease. Alvin and Angie Crowl have been advocating for scleroderma awareness for more than 5 years through the Scleroderma Foundation Delaware Valley Chapter. Even though they hold monthly support group meetings for scleroderma patients and their families, Al and Angie decided they wanted to do more. Their passion for restoring cars led them to the idea of holding a car show to raise money for scleroderma. It became apparent that several other families affected by scleroderma were also enthusiasts and together they created “Cruise For A Cure.” After a successful first try in 2012 raising \$6500, Cruise for a Cure gained momentum and last week raised over **\$10,000**. The success lies not only in the hard work of the Delaware scleroderma community who organized and ran the event, but in the contributions of over 35 local sponsors including silver sponsor Florence Auld, owner of The Women’s Club in memory of Roseann Krantz, WXCX 103.7 radio for donated air time to advertise the event, and Frazzberry Yogurt who held a fundraiser one week prior to the car show. Great music was provided by Andre Verlander, and great food from Backyard Louis’ Barbeque and Maui Wowi Smoothies. 40 trophies were awarded to 20 car classes with Best in Show going to Paul Personti with his 1928 Mercedes Roadster. It is clear that every year gets better and after taking a break, plans will start for the 2014 Cruise For a Cure.

For more information about the Cruise for a Cure 2014 contact Angie Crowl @ 302-425-5054 or the Scleroderma Foundation Delaware Valley Chapter 856-779-7225 or dvchapter@scleroderma.org.

Every Step Counts – Educate, Advocate, Cure

Scleroderma – misunderstood, misdiagnosed, underfunded – is a chronic connective tissue disease, classified as one of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases. The disease affects 300,000 people, 80% of which are women. The disease is complex and painful, and it has the potential

to affect every organ in a person's body. The disease can be localized or systemic. If it is localized it affects mainly the skin by hardening the skin. If it is systemic it can affect organs by hardening the organs. The cause is unknown, and there is no cure. The Scleroderma Foundation Delaware Valley chapter supports patients in 3 states, Eastern Pennsylvania, portions of New Jersey and Delaware, partnering with 3 centers, the Scleroderma Centers at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Jefferson Healthy System and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and supports the scleroderma community by promoting educating the community, advocating for research and patients, and fighting for a cure. The funds that SFDV raises go to these missions. We rely on the support and generosity of donors to support our community as well as the mission of the National Foundation which is also 3 fold - support, education and research. The National Foundation and its chapters are the leading source of scleroderma related research and allocates \$1.2 million annually through the Foundation's research program.