



Neurofibromatosis, Inc. California

Supporting adults and children in California

Creating a community of support for those affected by NF through education, advocacy, coalitions, raising public awareness, and supporting research for treatments and a cure.

December 5, 2009

Dear NF Family and Friends,

What a year it has been! We have appreciated getting to know many of you at meetings, over the phone, and even via email. As we have spoken with NF Inc. members, it seems that a roller coaster is an accurate analogy for 2009. Although the pace and drama has kept us busy, most of us would have preferred the steady progression of an escalator. Gratefully, there has been progress in the NF community. Awareness of Neurofibromatosis is increasing and researchers are finding essential clues to get us closer to effective treatments. As a group, we have been able to reach out to many needing support and are excited to see activities develop in outlying areas.

These successes are a result of the NF community's efforts. It is uplifting to be a part of this movement. Thanks to our members, NF Inc. California is moving forward. Our members have strengthened us through sharing – sharing their stories, sharing their time, and sharing their resources. We appreciate their generosity and credit our success to those investments.

We look forward to 2010. There are many things to watch for throughout the next year – like additional resources on our website and increased awareness in the media. Our “What is it like to live with NF?” presentation is guiding efforts in this area. We thank those who participated in its creation and hope to build on this concept to better describe NF to California and the world. If you would like us to help you share your story or join us in television opportunities, let us know. We have access to several adorable children who love the spotlight but their experiences do not portray the full story of Neurofibromatosis. We need your help! 2010 will bring more CareGroup activities in more locations. From coffee house meetings, to barbecues, to educational symposiums, NF, Inc. is beginning to blanket California. We are reminded of the infamous line from *Field of Dreams*, “Build it and they will come.” This has been true in Vacaville, Huntington Beach, and Central California. Help us make it true in your area by inviting us!

Naturally, none of this would be possible without financial support. We thank our members for the donations that make these efforts possible. We *are* making a difference! And, with your help we can continue. We understand the varied needs of our members and appreciate the creative ways that they contribute. From regifting items for raffle prizes, to cash contributions, we love it! There are so many ways to support NFC. A slip is included for those who wish to participate through a direct donation. We also encourage members to join us as an NF Steps fundraising team – or host a fundraiser of their own.

As you join us in these efforts, you will notice board members working side by side – as a team. We serve voluntarily and for us it our passion – not our paycheck. NF affects our lives on a daily basis – either through our own diagnosis or through that of a loved one. We hope that you have felt our dedication as you have met with us and look forward to serving with you in 2010.

Sincerely,

President/Director for Northern California

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