



PPSG *Parkinson's Patients Support Groups, Inc.*

1170 Morse Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94089-1605

408.734.1593
www.ppsg.org

Dear Friend:

February 25, 2005

Volunteer organizations, whether faith-based or secular, national or local, provide much of the patient support for progressive diseases such as Parkinson's disease. PPSG (Peninsula Parkinson's Support Groups, Inc.) was formed in 1981 to serve Parkinson's patients, families and friends in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. This all-volunteer, non-profit, public benefits corporation works closely with local Parkinson's support group leaders, as well as directly with Parkinson's patients and their families.

PPSG now has 31 support groups over a 12,000 square-mile area from Monterey to Santa Rosa and from Tulare to Fairfield. In 2004, the name was changed to Parkinson's Patients Support Groups, Inc. to reflect PPSG's wider geographic scope. The area is divided into three regions: Northern (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa and Sonoma counties), Peninsula (San Francisco through Santa Clara) and Southern (San Jose – South).

PPSG's newsletter, contact lists and information sources are our major assets in supporting the support groups and in responding to inquiries from people new to Parkinson's or new to our area. Our website receives on average over 10,000 hits per month. Last year, we expanded our efforts to bring current information to specific segments of the Parkinson's community in various locations.

The expansion involves four programs:

1. Symposium for support Group Leaders

PPSG organizes an annual symposium in each of the three regions to provide an opportunity for support group leaders to discuss mutual problems, needs and experiences, and to add to the resources they can draw on in running their groups.

2. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Most outreach activities for Parkinson's patients rely largely on dedicated volunteers, as indeed does PPSG. Once a year we take pains to say more than just "Thank You" by hosting a special luncheon program for volunteers throughout the community.

3. Caregivers Recognition Luncheon

If there is a segment of the Parkinson's community that deserves special recognition, it is the caregivers who minister to the needs of family or friends stricken with this progressive disease. To recognize their contribution and to give them an opportunity to take a break and meet with their peers, we provide a luncheon program tailored to their interests. A separate program is provided for the patients who cannot be left at home.

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Le Sotir

4. Regional Seminars

PPSG collaborates with The Parkinson's Institute on its annual all-day seminar on basic research, clinical studies and treatment therapies. Although the seminar is well attended, many members of the Parkinson's community cannot travel to the site. This Fall, PPSG will organize half-day technical seminars presented by The Parkinson's Institute staff in each of the three regions.

These programs are costly, even with the many hours contributed by dedicated volunteers. PPSG depends entirely on the generosity of members and friends of the Parkinson's community. You have been generous in the past, and we count on your further support now to enable us to maintain and, yes, further extend our activities. Any donation will be helpful, and a pledge of scheduled giving even more so. Does your company have matching funds? Donation of securities may have tax advantages.

If you prefer to donate to a specific program or toward our newsletter, please make a note on your check. Your much-needed contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elliot Schrier
Chair, PPSG

P.S. One hundred percent of your tax-deductible contribution will help PPSG continue its support of the Parkinson's community.