



MYASTHENIA GRAVIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC.

December 2012

Dear Friend,

*When my smile changed, I knew something was wrong.
Unfortunately, I was right.
That's when I learned I had myasthenia gravis – MG.*



MG is a chronic autoimmune disease, which causes antibodies to attack and destroy neuromuscular connections, weakening muscles that control basic movements that enable walking, swallowing, blinking, breathing, *and yes, even smiling.*

Five years ago, I was just starting my career as a magazine editor, working late to meet deadlines, and constantly on the go. I began to notice weakness around my mouth and saw that my smile did not seem as wide as usual. In addition, I was experiencing weakness in my arms and legs, but just assumed I was out of shape from working long hours.

My family and friends didn't agree about the change in my smile. However, when I showed my dentist photos from three years earlier, he recognized the difference in my smile and immediately sent me to a neurologist who in turn referred me to a neuromuscular neurologist.

I underwent a variety of tests, and within a month, was diagnosed with MG. Today, I have adjusted to living with MG, thanks to medication and learning about the disease. But back in 2007, I was scared. I had never heard of MG and didn't know anyone with the condition.

Fortunately, my doctors provided excellent care and also referred me to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA), the only national volunteer health organization dedicated to finding a cure for MG. I attended support groups in New York where I met other people living with the disease. In addition, I learned that the MGFA funds important research to develop better diagnostic techniques and treatments, and ultimately, a cure.

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I also heard about MG Walks—an annual MGFA fundraiser—and knew I had to become involved. Today, my family, friends, and I are deeply involved in raising funds through the MG Walks. In addition, I have designed a shoe in partnership with ShoeDazzle (shoedazzle.com) which will be sold online for one month starting in November with all proceeds benefiting the MGFA.

Every day, individuals of all ages, genders, and races are diagnosed with MG. As someone with MG, I understand what it's like for the 70,000 Americans also coping with the debilitating and potentially life-altering effects of this disease.

Please join me in supporting the MGFA. Your gift will help the MGFA fund desperately needed research for a cure; vital patient resources, support, and information through myasthenia.org, social media, local chapters, and support groups; advocacy efforts; and educational programs for the medical profession.

Together we can help the MGFA achieve its ultimate goal: A World Without MG.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely

Jasmine Snow

PS: Please help the Myasthenia Foundation of America fight MG. Kindly mail your donation in the enclosed envelope or give online at myasthenia.org today.

