

**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR***Dear Friend of MGA:*

During a recent interview I was asked if I could communicate one message to the patients and families that MGA supports what would it be? My answer – “You are not alone.”

Without a doubt, the last 18 months have been extremely difficult. We have had to learn a new way of life – masking guidelines, social distancing, virtual meetings/appointments – all of these things were put in place to keep us safe, but in many ways created the opportunity for isolation and loneliness. The COVID-19 Pandemic has definitely highlighted the importance of human interaction and caring about one another.

If you are feeling the stress and anxiety related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, I want to honestly say to you that the MGA Team is here for you. Our physicians, physician extenders, staff and board members are all here and ready to support you. Supporting our patients and their families has been the mission and vision of MGA for over 66 years and it continues to be the driving force of what we do on a daily basis.

As you read this issue of the Keystone of Hope newsletter, you will learn about several opportunities to get involved with MGA – joining the #Strength4MG initiative, telling your MG story, participating in the upcoming MGA fundraisers, sharing the newly created MGA Education Video, or volunteering your time for the betterment of MGA – all of these things are vitally important to our organization and can show you that you are not alone!

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Keystone of Hope newsletter and I look forward to the opportunities that the coming months will bring for us to connect and collaborate.

Thank you for your continued partnership!

Jim Joyce, Executive Director  
MGA of WPA

**MGA Welcomes  
JACKIE KAYE**

*Our New Medical Assistant*



Earlier in the spring, MGA welcomed Jackie Kaye, a new Medical Assistant, to our team! We are so excited that Jackie decided to join MGA and we know she will be an excellent addition to the team!

*“Hi everyone, I’m so happy to be part of the MGA of WPA! I look forward to working alongside some of the most knowledgeable staff and doctors in the field of Myasthenia Gravis. For six years I was a caregiver for my cousin Florence Burka who was diagnosed with MG when she was 84 years old. I had to learn so much and I credit my success with the help I received from Dr. Rana and Cindy Spring, RN of the MGA Clinic. My hope is that I can help the doctors and staff as they continue their ongoing progress of helping patients with their care.”*

—Jackie Kaye



# CLARISSA JOHNSON SMITH'S MG STORY

## 1. Tell us a little information about yourself?

I am writing this story on behalf of my mother who passed away in March 2020. Clarissa Johnson Smith grew up in Woodstown, New Jersey as the only child of Jeanette and Ross Johnson. She and her husband, Earl Smith were married for 39 years and had three children Janell, Anthony, and Jeffrey. Earl and Clarissa were the proprietors of ServiceMaster by Earl Smith. In addition to running the family business, Clarissa was very active in her church and community (e.g., Sunday school teacher and fundraiser, co-leader of the youth arts & crafts, scouting, and 4-H programs, 20 year family health clinic volunteer).

Clarissa was also a woman of many passions. She loved traveling, shopping, and the arts, especially quilting, dressmaking, painting, and stenciling. A devoted family person, she regularly hosted family holidays and picnics, and documented family history. In fact, developing Myasthenia Gravis (MG) inspired her search into genealogy. Clarissa reflected in a family reunion booklet tracing her family lineage back to the 1840's,

*"I began this journey after I was diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis as a means to see if it was present in our family history. However, I became more and more intrigued as I talked with our family, researched census and county records, and gathered information through Ancestry.com"...*

Clarissa was diagnosed with MG about 18 months after she experienced increasing difficulties standing and walking. Although diagnosed at 80/81 years of age, my mother's symptoms most likely began when she was around 75. At that time there were occasional falls, which she attributed to clumsiness and brief periods where "her legs just wouldn't work" and we attributed it to stress.

Following a serious MG flare and bout of pneumonia, at age 83, Clarissa moved to Pittsburgh to live with her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. During this period, she had to regain strength in her upper body, re-learn swallowing and walking, and adapt to new health care providers, medical regimens, and living circumstances. However, by the next year she no longer needed a wheel chair, regularly attended Myasthenia Gravis of Southwestern Pennsylvania (MGSWPA) support group meetings, and joined the family church. Importantly, Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatments brought an increased normalcy to her life. Soon (age 84/85) she was walking and driving, belonged to three senior organizations within the church, two quilting and one genealogy club, and traveled regularly to New Jersey to visit family and friends.

Life with MG, even following serious MG complications in her 80's, was active, vibrant, meaningful, and fulfilling. What made this possible?

- Faith, spiritual connection, always having hope
- Purpose (e.g., family/friend connections, ongoing learning and teaching, researching family history)
- The support of others who were invested in her health and well-being
  - Family, friends, faith community, health care providers
  - Participation in a support group to learn and share information and strategies and listen to questions raised by others with MG
- Medical professionals who listened to her needs and advocated on her behalf.
  - For example, IVIG treatment was quite important but also very

## MY MG



*"To be a person is to have a story to tell."*

~ Isak Dinesen

**Myasthenia Gravis** is often called the **Snowflake Disease** because it impacts each person so differently.

Because each MG patient has a unique story to tell, MGA created the [\*\*My MG Story Initiative\*\*](#).

My MG Story is a new program being offered by MGA to allow patients as well as their families and friends the opportunity to share their stories, shine a light on our patients' lives, and better explain how MG has impacted them.

We hope you enjoy these stories and find strength and inspiration from them.

**Would you like to participate in the My MG Story Initiative?**

Contact the MGA Office at **412-566-1545** for more information!

expensive. The MG Clinic advocated diligently to obtain payment for these treatments through medical insurance.

- Prioritizing
  - Time to exercise, as able, to keep maintain muscle strength
  - Doing the most important activities early in the day when energy was strongest.
- And as per my mother by her 70's and 80's "having young friends".

During her nine and a half years in Pittsburgh she made many close friends and participated in a myriad of groups and activities. In the words of one dear friend, "Clarissa gave love and was so easy to love." We thank God for the years we had with her and for the beautiful memories we will always hold close to our hearts.

## 2. How old were you when you were first diagnosed with MG?

Clarissa was approximately 81 years of age when she was diagnosed at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

## 3. How long did it take to get your MG diagnosis?

Clarissa's diagnosis occurred approximately 18 months after symptoms began occurring with greater frequency (approximately age 79). However, in looking back, my mother's symptoms most likely began when she was about 75 years of age. Things started with occasional falls, which she attributed to clumsiness and progressed to very brief, intermittent instances in which she was unable to stand or walk.

## 4. What advice would you give to someone recently diagnosed with MG?

- Enlist the support of family and medical staff. Write down your questions in advance of appointments,
- Participate in a support group to learn and share information and strategies and listen to questions raised by others with MG.
- Keep brief notes to help you share what is happening with you and your care with your different medical providers.
- Always remain hopeful.

## 5. Are there any tricks/tips you use to manage your symptoms throughout the day?

- Prioritize your activities and engage in the most important ones at times when your energy is highest.
- As you are able, make time to do prescribed exercises to keep your muscles as strong as possible.



## 6. How has MG impacted your life?

A. Relationships with family, friends, co-workers? Following a MG crisis and unplanned move to Pittsburgh, maintaining contact and communication with family and friends from the past was vitally important as was becoming engaged in new activities and forming new friendships. Support from family around medical and non-medical issues was critical, as was making time to simply have fun.

B. Other life decisions? Continue spiritual growth, remain active and engaged, always continue learning, and make time to give back and help.

## 7. How has MG impacted your priorities and expectations in life?

It strengthened Clarissa's commitments to spiritual growth, learning, remaining active and sharing knowledge with her fellow quilters. Developing MG was also the impetus for an initial search into similar symptoms in other family members, which in turn led to both sides of her family and her husband's family trees.

# MGA To Host Online Auction

The **Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA (MGA)** is hosting an on-line auction to benefit MGA's FREE patient support services.

The on-line auction will be available from **8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 23, 2021 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28, 2021** and features over 40 items including signed sports memorabilia, jewelry, signed movie/music memorabilia, vacation packages, gift baskets and home décor. There are multiple ways to register for the auction including:

- 1) Call the MGA office at **412-566-1545** and request a link to participate in the auction;
- 2) Register directly on the auction website at <https://zoomgive.com/3190/c/fallvariety>;
- 3) Text the code "fallvariety" to **802-210-4992**;
- 4) Scan the QR code found in this article.



Myasthenia Gravis Association Presents

A Silent Fall Virtual Variety Auction

SEPTEMBER 23RD-28TH 2021  
8 AM- 8 PM (EST)

Featuring Jewelry, Trips, Memorabilia, Gift Baskets, Sports Items and more!

Scan QR Code or Click Link in Descriptor

The poster features a central image of a smartphone displaying the auction website, a laptop showing a scenic fall landscape, and a QR code. The MGA logo is also present.

## MGA Virtual Education Program:

MGA is partnering with **Alexion Pharmaceuticals** to offer a virtual education program to our patients and their family members. The program will take place on **Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** Megan Miller, Patient Education Manager with Alexion Pharmaceuticals will be discussing "**Your Role in Your Care: Myasthenia Gravis Activities of Daily Living.**" In addition, attendees will also learn about a new book titled "**Introducing Klara's Talent (a book about families living with MG).**" The program is **FREE**, but registration is required. To register, please contact the MGA Office at **412-566-1545** or [mgaoffice@mgawpa.org](mailto:mgaoffice@mgawpa.org).

# STRENGTH 4 MG CAMPAIGN

During the month of June, in honor of Myasthenia Gravis Awareness month, MGA initiated the **#Strength4MG** campaign. For the campaign we are asking everyone to support MG patients by showing your strength of MG! The goal of the campaign is to bring awareness to this disease and with everyone's help, get closer to finding a cure. Please join MGA in showing your strength for MG by posting/sharing how you stay strong and using the hashtag **#Strength4MG** - post a video, picture, quote, etc. that represents your strength or encourages you. Share your story and support!

## WAYS TO GET HELP – A CALL TO ACTION!

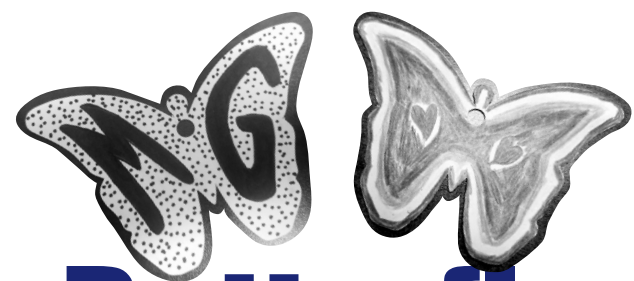
★ Join the **#Strength4MG** campaign — share your **#Strength4MG** on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter - be sure to tag MGA (**@MGAWPA**)



★ Volunteer your time — MGA needs your help! Whether it's once a week or once a month, MGA can utilize your skills — whatever they may be. Go to our website (<http://mgawpa.org/>) and complete a volunteer application under the "Get Involved" tab.

★ Join or start a fundraiser — there are many ways you can fundraise to help MGA. Go to our website (<http://mgawpa.org/>) and check out our Third Party Fundraising information under the "Get Involved" tab.

★ Contact Us — go to our website (<http://mgawpa.org/>) to contact us about any questions/ideas or to donate to the cause.



# Butterfly TRIBUTE TREE: 2021

*"The wings of hope carry us soaring  
high above the driving winds of life."*

~ Ana Jacobs

In 2020, as a part of our **Butterflies of Hope** program, MGA established the Butterfly Tribute Tree. The Butterfly Tribute Tree provided individuals and families with a meaningful way to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend with whom they have shared special memories with over the years. Based on the positive response that we received regarding the Butterfly Tribute Tree, we decided to make this an annual event that would coincide each year with **National Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month**.

In June 2021, a butterfly shaped ornament was mailed to past donors and supporters of MGA. They were invited to decorate the ornament as they wished – potentially including their loved one's name, some special words or something meaningful in the decoration and maybe a small photo. All returned ornaments were then placed on the Butterfly Tree Mural which was created by MGA Board Member Reita Derrick.

**The Butterfly Tribute Tree will be displayed at the MGA office between now and June 2022.** Our hope is that patients, families and other visitors to the MGA office will be inspired by the tree and what it represents.

If you are interested in receiving a butterfly ornament to decorate for the Butterfly Tribute Tree, please contact Donna Kalisek at **412-566-1545** or **donnak@mgawpa.org**.

**"I HAVE A TIP THAT CAN TAKE 5 STROKES OFF  
ANYONE'S GOLF GAME. IT'S CALLED AN ERASER."**

ARNOLD  
PALMER

Join MGA for a frightfully good time at the MGA Halloween Mini-Golf Outing on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021** at **GLEN'S FROZEN CUSTARD** located at 400 Pittsburgh Street, Springdale, PA 15144.

**8:00 a.m. – Registration/Pre-Event Breakfast**

**9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start**

**11:00 a.m. – Post-Event Tailgate Party/Awards Ceremony**

For your \$35 donation, you will receive a pre-event **breakfast**, **18 holes of mini-golf**, a post-event **tailgate party**, an event **T-shirt** and a Halloween **goodie bag**. In addition, there will be **hole-in-one contests** with a chance to win a **tabletop arcade game** and a **\$100 Amazon Gift Card**. You will also have chances to win spooktacular prizes during our silent auction, basket raffle and 50-50 drawing! Trophies will be awarded for lowest team score, best team costume and best individual costume.



**Space is limited to 72 golfers,**  
so reserve your spot quickly! For more  
information or to register for the event,  
**call the MGA Office at 412-566-1545.**



MGA is proud to release a new education video designed to teach patients, their families and friends, as well as the general community about Myasthenia Gravis and how MGA can assist them. The video was produced by Point Park University student **Ben Tenuta** (@bentenutaproductions), who is majoring in Broadcasting and Media Production. Our sincere thanks to Ben for all of his efforts with this video.

Special thanks to **Donna Kalisek**, **Bill Murtha** and **Dr. George Small** for participating in the video and lending their expertise about MG and MGA to the final product!

**Contact the MGA Office at 412-566-1545 for a link to the video.** Please watch it and share it via email or social media with as many people as possible to help us get the word out. Thank you!

# Thank you to all of our generous donors!

*The following donations were received between January 1, 2021 and July 30, 2021.*

Ablauf, Gary  
Adamowski, Mary  
Adelkoff, Carol  
AHN Home Infusion  
Amazon Smile  
Anonymous  
Bakerstown UM Church United Methodist Men  
Barker, Michael & Melissa  
Barnes, Gerald  
Barr, Jo Beth  
Bartley, Sue & Sam  
Bauer, Jacqueline  
Beal, Maret & Lorne  
Beehn, Charles & Sally Ann  
Beeson, Raymond  
Behe, Greg  
Benevity/Microsoft Rewards Giving Platform  
Biehl, Ed & Julianne  
Blayney, Lester  
Blinkhorn, Stephanie  
Block, John & Norene  
Blume, Elizabeth  
Blumm, Cecile  
Bohcali, Patricia  
Bonasso, Kristin  
Buckshaw, John E.  
Caceci, Casper  
Carr, David & Jill  
Castoro, Michael & Theresa  
Christian W Klay Winery  
Cohen, Lillian  
Colaianne, Chris  
Collet, Bob and Juanita  
Connors, Margaret  
Connolly, Tim  
Cooper, Charles  
Covert, Gloria Jean  
Cribbs, Robert  
Daday, Mark S.  
Danehy, Sylvia & Bob  
Davis, Deborah  
DeBona, Brent  
DeBone, Donna Jean  
Dehring & Family, Beverly  
Denny, William E.  
Dermitt, Laurie  
Derrick, Reita  
Diclemente, Mark & Amy  
Dods, David  
Donahue Jr., M/M Thomas R.  
Dudas, Gerald  
Duffy, Russell  
Federer, Brian K.  
Felice, Gerri  
Findle, Theresa  
Foley, Sean & Mary  
Forbes, Margaret Jameson  
Freeh, Gary  
Freeman, Kimberly

Gamidi, Anitha  
Gandjos, M/M William  
Giant Eagle Inc.  
Ging, Don & Georgia  
Glass, Michael W.  
Glover, Jay  
Golden, Tom  
Grafton, Doris  
Graham, Roy & Janet  
Gross, Bernard  
Gross, James & Rhonda  
Guenther, Kathryn & Fred  
Guerrera, Jeanne  
Gullborg Insurance Inc.  
Guminski, Edmund  
Guzzetti, John A. (Guzzetti Optometric Serv PC)  
Gwin Dobson & Foreman Consulting  
Hendricks, Cheryl  
Heveker, Nancy  
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Highmark Health  
Hollenbaugh Jr., David W.  
Hope Jr., Paul  
Housing Authority Of Beaver Cty  
Hubbard, Metaxia  
Ickert CPA, Donald  
Izzo, Katherine  
Jacobson, Robin  
Jones, Erica  
Joyce, Irene  
Joyce, Jim  
Kaczorski, Stan  
Kalick, Sheryl  
Kalisek, Donna  
Kaminer, Len & Gloria  
Klingensmith, David  
Krawchick, Fred & Susan  
Krewsun, Vera  
Kuban, William & Darlene  
Kulik, Joseph  
Kwasniewski, Ken & Jane  
Lavin, Gene & Elizabeth  
Lazzara, Frank  
Lingenfelter, Charles & Cheryl  
Lopes, Thomas & Ann  
MacLachlan, Robert & Nancy  
Madrishin, Robert  
Maletic, Sheryl A.  
Marsinek, James & Rita  
Marteeny, Donald E.  
Martinelli, Barbara  
Martinetti, Barbara Youcis  
Mason, Robert and Jane  
Maus, Edwin "Bud" & Lorraine  
McCafferty, Cheryl L.  
McFadden, Sharon  
McIntyre, Mike & Wendy  
McRoberts, Mel  
Menk, Robin

Merlo, Charles  
Metz, Lauren  
Miller, Richard H.  
Moriarty, James  
Morrison, Donna  
Moss, Joshua  
Mrosco, Phyllis  
Muir, Beth A.  
Murtha, J. William  
Neal, Donald & Barbara  
Neofes Jr., Bill  
Nusser, James  
Olaharski, Alfred & Susan  
Order Of AHEPA/Beaver Valley Chapter  
Orr, Samuel & Eva  
O'Toole, John Robert  
Paige, Diane  
Papst, Dolores M.  
Parris, Alva  
Patton, Nancy  
Plutto, Patricia M.  
Popichak, Robert  
Quinn, Dolores  
Quinn, Michael & Kathleen  
Quinn Hodal  
Randolph, Louise  
Reuse, Robert  
Revay, Cynthia  
Ritchie, John  
Roskovich, Elizabeth  
Roskovich, Kevin & Sarah  
Rowe, Donald & Geraldine  
Rubin, Andrew & Margery  
Russell, Ken & Mary  
Sadowski, James & Julie  
Santicola, Marc & Beverly  
Santulli-Barone, Debra  
Sayenga, Mattheu & Michelle  
Schafer, Marianne  
Schaier, Rita R.  
Schapira, Karl & Bonnie  
Schiffbauer, Judy & Wayne Schweitzer

Schott, Ron & Carolyn  
Scozzaro, Theresa  
Seibel, Nick  
Shastri, Karen  
Shellhammer, Randy  
Shields, John & Corinne  
Shir, Hope  
Simon, Robert  
Slee, Mary Beth  
Slovak Catholic Sokol  
Small MD, George  
Smith, Lisa  
Soleo Health Holdings Inc.  
Soltys, Kathleen M.  
Somma, JoAnn  
Sopher, Everett & Gertrude  
Stees, Richard & Kathleen  
Stinnie, Tiffany  
Stoker, Alvin  
Swenson, Swen E.  
Tarr, Audrey  
The Hillman Co.  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Therault, Deborah  
Treskovich, Patricia  
Valas, Vince  
Viafora, Doug & Kimberly  
Vuono, Louise  
Waltower, Keith  
Weatherbee, Barbara J.  
Weber, Janet  
Weinschenker, Maurice  
Werner, Curtis  
Weyand, Travis  
Weyandt, John  
Weyandt-Bohm, Bernadette  
Willome, David & Donna  
Winkler, Paul & Constance  
Winters, Kenneth V.  
Wu, James and Sandra  
Yatchyshyn, Gene  
Zuccher, Vivian

## KEYSTONE *of Hope*

Keystone of Hope is published twice a year by the Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western PA, and direct mailed to patients, donors and friends. It is also available at [www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org).

**Editor:** Jim Joyce, MGA, Executive Director

**Editorial Assistant:** Donna Kalisek, MGA Administrative Coordinator

**Contributor:** Cindy Spring, RN, CCM, MGA Patient Support Coordinator & Jackie Kaye, MGA Medical Assistant

**Designer:** PilarDesigns

**Printing:** Courtesy of Highmark Print Shop

MGA, 490 East North Avenue, Suite 410, Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
(412) 566-1545 • [www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org)

# Honorariums & Memorials from January 1, 2021 to July 30, 2021

## PERPETUAL GIFT

In memory of **Ronald Clair Grafton**  
by Doris Grafton & Family

## HONORARIUMS

**JoBeth Barr**

by Doug & Kimberly Viafora

**Sally Ann Beehn**

by Charles & Sally Ann Beehn

**Edward J. Buckshaw**

by John E. Buckshaw

**Jay Glover**

by Beth A. Muir

**The "Hope" Family**

by Paul Hope Jr.

**Susie Hudachek's Birthday**

by Carol Adelfoff

**Donna Kalisek**

by Kevin & Sarah Roskovich

Stan Kaczorski

Judy Schiffbauer & Wayne

Schweitzer

**MGA Staff & Physicians**

by Lester Blayney

**Mary Lou Miller**

by Richard H. Miller

**My sister Wendy**

by Ken & Jane Kwasniewski

**Mitch Robbins**

by Andrew & Margery Rubin

**Cindy Spring**

by David W. Hollenbaugh Jr.

## MEMORIALS

**Dr. Robert P. Blume**

by Stan Kaczorski

Judy Schiffbauer & Wayne

Schweitzer

**Louis Bonasso**

by Kristin Bonasso

Gwin Dobson & Foreman

Consulting

Mary Beth Slee

**Susan L. Brown**

by Donna Jean DeBone

Barbara J. Weatherbee

**Florence Burka**

by Cecile Blumm

Marianne Schafer

Vince Valas

**Rosemary Caceci**

by Casper Caceci

**Ann Claypoole**

by Don & Georgia Ging

**Johan Clydesdale**

by Margaret Jameson Forbes

**Hazel E. Dods**

by David Dods

Ken & Mary Russell

Curtis Werner

James & Sandra Wu

**Anna Mae Duffy**

by Russell Duffy

**Dr. & Mrs. Francis Foldes**

by James & Rita Marsinek

**Wayne Freeman**

by Kimberly Freeman

George Small, MD

**Rosemary Greenberg**

by Robert & Nancy MacLachlan

**Jack Hyatt**

by David & Jill Carr

**Arline Deutschman Jacobson**

by Robin Jacobson

**Bessie Kalick**

by Sheryl Kalick

**Ed & Dolores Kalisek (Mom & Dad)**

by Donna Kalisek

**Annamarie Lazzara**

by Frank Lazzara

**Carol Lynn and George Sayenga**

by Ed & Julianne Biehl

**James C. Lynn Jr.**

by Bakerstown UM Church

United Methodist Men

Tim Connolly

James & Rhonda Gross

The Hillman Company

Stan Kaczorski

Donna Kalisek

Thomas & Ann Lopes

Louise Randolph

Mattheu & Michelle Sayenga

Rita R. Schaier

Judy Schiffbauer & Wayne

Schweitzer

David & Donna Willome

**Pearl G. McNall, MD**

by James & Rita Marsinek

**Russell McQuiston**

by Alfred & Susan Olaharski

**Diane Mohr**

by Donald Ickert CPA

**Ronald W. Neal**

by Donald & Barbara Neal

**Thomas Quinn**

by Mary Adamowski

Michael & Kathleen Quinn

Hodal

Dolores Quinn

**Edward Riley Sr.**

by Donna Kalisek

**Kenneth Rowe**

by Donald & Geraldine Rowe

Richard & Kathleen Stees

**Joyce Sarver**

by Maret & Lorne Beal

**George Sayenga & Family**

by James & Rita Marsinek

**Luke Senise**

by Robert Simon

**Raymond L. Smith**

by Lisa Smith

**Karen E Swenson**

by Swen E. Swenson

*Please note: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list of donors. If you see an error or omission, please let us know.*

## YOUR VOICE MATTERS!



Are you a **caregiver of, or patient** diagnosed with **myasthenia gravis**?

**LOCATIONS** Philadelphia, Chicago and Pittsburgh

### We want your input.

At Design Science, we're seeking feedback on a medical device that could improve the lives of patients. We are looking for patients with symptoms of muscle weakness that extend beyond the eyes. Symptoms include weakness of the face, problems speaking or swallowing, and weakness of the arms or the legs. We are also looking for caregivers of patients with myasthenia gravis

Studies are simulated (acted out). You will not administer any active drugs or medication. You will only provide feedback and you will not take the device home with you.

**Compensation starts at \$125 for 1 hour of your time.**

### HONORARIUM

#### Patients

- One 1-hour session = \$150 + parking
- Two 1-hour sessions = \$300 + parking

#### Caregivers

- One 1-hour session = \$125 + parking
- Two 1-hour sessions = \$250 + parking

**Please contact us at:**  
[ihaveavoice@dscience.com](mailto:ihaveavoice@dscience.com)



**Sign up!**



Myasthenia Gravis Association of Western Pennsylvania  
at Allegheny General Hospital  
490 East North Avenue, Suite 410  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 442

SAVE THE DATE



SEPTEMBER

**MGA Online Auction**  
**SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 -**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

*Details on page 4*

**MGA Virtual**  
**Education Program**  
**SEPTEMBER 29, 2021**

*Details on page 4*



OCTOBER

**MGA Halloween Mini-Golf**  
**Outing**

**OCTOBER 16, 2021**

*Glen's Frozen Custard \**

*Springdale, PA*

*Details on page 5*



**Visit or follow us:**

[www.mgawpa.org](http://www.mgawpa.org)

and on our facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/mgawpa](https://www.facebook.com/mgawpa)



NOV / DEC

**65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and**  
**Education Seminar**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2021**

*More details to follow*



**MGA Annual Appeal**  
**goes out**

**DECEMBER 2021**

*Please give generously!*