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Press Release

A Powerful Partnership to Educate the Public About Lupus

Excellence Girls' Club, Inc., The Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Inc. and The Lupus Foundation of America, Eastern Virginia Chapter team up to educate the public about Lupus

On Thursday, March 27, 2008 members of the Excellence Girls' Club, Inc., the Junior League of Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Inc. and the Lupus Foundation of America, Eastern Virginia Chapter will team up at local colleges to educate the public about the effects of Lupus. Excellence Girls' Club lost one of its members, Rudi Brown, to the disease on October 28, 2006 at age thirteen. This event profoundly impacted the young women of the Excellence Girls' Club and they felt it was their responsibility to bring awareness to this disease. The Excellence Girls' Club would like the public to be aware of what the disease is, how it affects the body and what resources are available to those suffering from the disease and their family members.

The following colleges allowed lupus related literature to be distributed to their student body: Norfolk State University, Virginia Wesleyan University and Christopher Newport University. Over 1,000 pieces of literature were disseminated.

Lupus is a chronic (long-lasting) autoimmune disease in which the immune system, for unknown reasons, becomes hyperactive and attacks normal tissue. Lupus can occur at any age, and in either sex. Nine out of ten people with lupus are women. Overwhelming infection and kidney failure are among the most common causes of death in people with lupus.

For further information contact Vickie Madison, Founder and Executive Director, Excellence Girls' Club, Inc. at 757-503-0910 or at vmad@excellencegirlsclub.org.

The Excellence Girls' Club, Inc is a non-profit organization which began June 2004. The Excellence Girls' Club, Inc. focuses on personal growth, community involvement, and leadership. Ideal members are middle and high school age females who have untapped academic and leadership potential. Its mission is to empower young women by exposing them to positive experiences while developing leadership skills that will enhance their ability to become future leaders in the community.