Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF) is now celebrating ten years in existence. In February 2002, SPF was created for the HPS and PLS patient communities to Share the Knowledge, Provide Support and Find a Cure. We continue to work at these three goals and can be proud of what has been accomplished over the past ten years. Our sincere thanks go out to the heartfelt support of our community and general supporters.

As a result of your generosity, we have announced $300,000 for our 2012 Research Grant Program. Over 100 people attended our 2011 Annual Conference, held in Houston, TX, which featured Drs. John Fink and Jiny Andrews. TeamWalk Connections were held in California, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee. We encourage our community to consider expanding these important efforts to your hometown in 2012. Please contact us if you are interested in hosting a local TeamWalk Connection. As our central fundraising event, the 2011 TeamWalks raised over $100,000.

In September we kicked off our Million Rays of Hope Campaign. In 2011, approximately $100,000 was donated toward this effort. The Million Rays of Hope Campaign will continue through 2012. Other major fundraising events held in 2011 were the Drive Fore SPF Golf Outing ($60,000), the Magnificent Mile Race in Raleigh, NC ($40,000), the first annual Rosella Vigliotta Golf Outing ($20,000) and the ExxonMobil Favorite Charities Campaign ($24,600). We also received proceeds from our Annual Campaign, Learn to Windsurf Day, Corporate Sponsors and Synapse subscriptions.

Thanks to all of the above efforts, we raised over $460,000 in 2011. As many organizations have experienced during these difficult financial times, our 2011 revenues decreased as compared to 2010. A contributing factor is The Travelers Foundation activity. At both the 2009 and 2010 Drive Fore SPF golf outings, the Travelers Foundation announced that SPF would receive a $100,000 grant. The 2009 check was delayed and both checks were received in 2010. In 2011 The Travelers Foundation was unable to provide a grant and as a result of this our revenues were reduced by $200,000 as compared to 2010.

The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF) awarded $600,000 for the 2011 Research Grant Program. There were five research grants awarded, Four of the awards support investigation to discover the causes of Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia (HSP) and/or Primary Lateral Sclerosis (PLS). The fifth award supports research to discover how certain brain cells could provide important findings into cures not only for HSP and PLS, but ALS, spinal cord injury and other related neurological conditions.

Thanks to everyone who their hearts to help fund the research that will lead to treatment and eventually the cure for HSP and PLS!

Sincerely,

Annette Lockwood
SPF President
The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Inc. (“SPF”) is a Massachusetts not-for-profit corporation that is a nationwide, volunteer-run, health organization dedicated to funding cutting-edge scientific research to discover the causes and cures for hereditary spastic paraplegia and primary lateral sclerosis, and to diminishing suffering by education and support.

The SPF home corporate office is located at 4 Couture Rd., Southampton, MA 01073. A copy of our latest annual report or financial statement may be obtained by writing to the SPF at 4 Couture Rd., Southampton, MA 01073, or calling 877-773-4483.

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