



To EVERYONE – especially Juvenile Myositis families:

I am excited to announce that **Cure JM Foundation will be holding a National Educational Conference and Fundraising event on Feb 12-14, 2010** in conjunction with the **Austin Marathon and Half Marathon in Austin, Texas**. The details of the weekend are attached, but in brief:

**EVENTS:** The weekend in Austin will offer great opportunities for JM families to learn more about the disease and get to know other JM families and friends:

- **A welcome reception** will be held Friday, Feb. 12
- **An educational forum** with leading experts talking about JM research developments and treatments will be held Saturday afternoon, including Dr. Lauren Pachman from Children's Memorial Research Center in Chicago, IL, Dr Ann Reed from the Mayo Clinic and Dr. Lisa Rider from National Institutes of Health.
- **A recognition dinner** will be held for all attendees on Saturday evening.
- **The Austin Marathon and Half Marathon**, featuring many Cure JM runners and volunteers takes place on Sunday, Feb. 14.

**NEEDED -- RUNNERS:** We need as many runners as possible participating on our Cure JM team for the Marathon and Half Marathon. Please share this information with any friends, family, co-workers, doctors, nurses or others you think would be interested in running. Interested **runners should REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** through [www.firstgiving.com/curejm](http://www.firstgiving.com/curejm).

**NEEDED -- VOLUNTEERS:** Whether you want to join us in Austin or want to be a fundraising "virtual volunteer," you must **register at [www.firstgiving.com/curejm](http://www.firstgiving.com/curejm)**. The more people who can be at Austin for the events, the better. Please invite friends, family or any others you would like to get involved in our cause.

Does this all sound familiar? Cure JM Foundation has held similar running and educational events the past three years with great success. These events have:

- Raised more than \$700,000. The money helped us establish a three-year grant to a JM research program at Children's Memorial Research Center in Chicago, we support The George Washington University Center for the Study of Myositis Disorders in Washington, D.C. and support other research studies.
- Connected more than 100 JM families to each other and leading JM doctors and researchers.

We want this upcoming event to be the biggest ever! We have many JM research ideas and requests for help; all we lack is funding. **Please get involved with this effort to help bring us miles closer to a cure!**

Watch our Web site ([www.curejm.org](http://www.curejm.org)) for more information. Contact event organizer -- Rhonda McKeever, [rhonda.mckeever@curejm.com](mailto:rhonda.mckeever@curejm.com) with your questions.

Sincerely,

Rhonda McKeever  
Cure JM Foundation Chairman



**Personal Quotes from JM Families from Prior Events:**

*“Spending time with JM families at the Cure JM fundraiser / educational event was wonderful! Emily had the opportunity to meet girls her age with the same concerns and problems she faces. Having her spend time with children who really understand how she feels was priceless! Having the opportunity to have more than one top ranked JM specialist to address the parents concerns was just remarkable. We feel very fortunate to be a part of this JM community!”.....Lori and her daughter with JM*

*"I got to meet kids who had JDM, just like me! It was so much fun!"..... Gracie, age 12, diagnosed 4/07*

*“Relatives, friends, neighbors, teachers, healthcare workers, etc. -- all who hated to see my daughter suffer with JDM were motivated to give towards a cure, so that someday there will be! That's what made fundraising so easy!”.....Annie mother of JM child*

*Going to the Cure JM panel discussion and gathering in Washington D.C. was a long trip from the Seattle, but well worth the effort, time and expense. I felt very supported by all the other JM families dealing with this difficult illness. I learned a tremendous amount from the panel of experts.....Suzanne, JM Mother from Seattle*

*“Every time we participate in a Cure JM event, it's been magical for us in many ways. My child makes new friends, who can relate to the same things he is experiencing. He gains more confidence and he feels less alone knowing that there are others just like him. My husband and I learned about the latest studies and treatment from leading doctors and researchers. When we tell people about Austin's disease, often they ask how they can help. At first we were hesitant about fundraising, we were so pleasantly surprised that many family and friends welcomed the opportunity to be a part of helping raise funds towards research for a cure”.....Jackie, mother of Austin, who was diagnosed in 2002 and now in remission!*

*"Joining Cure JM in Washington DC for the Marine Corps Marathon was the best thing I did in 2007. It was a great way to prove to myself that I was bigger than JDM as I crossed the 10K finish line with my mom".....Chylla, young adult with JM who was in remission and had a reoccurrence of JM*

*“Organizing these fundraising and educational events has had a tremendous impact on the Cure JM organization and has brought together many JM families – many who had never met another JM family before our event. My daughter has met many “JM friends” who she can share her medical stories and feel like she fits in – scars and all! Additionally, my family has been incredibly supportive (my mother, father, in-laws, aunts and uncles). For each event, they have come to learn more about JM, they have volunteered and they have helped us raise significant funds. Through these events, I think they feel they now can help out in a meaningful way.”....Rhonda, mother of Megan (diagnosed at 2 1/2 ; now 9 years old) and event organizer*

***Please Help Bring Us Miles Closer to a Cure!***