



Fall
2007

Advocacy News

Arthritis Foundation, Inc., New York Chapter • 122 East 42nd Street • New York, New York 10168-1898 • (212) 984-8700

New York City Council Partnership

The New York Chapter is thrilled to have received an additional \$63,000 from the New York City Council to continue providing disease management and educational programs to New Yorkers living with arthritis. This recent allocation marks the sixth year of the Chapter's New York City Capacity Building Partnership, a collaboration which has proven to be extremely successful in reaching underserved populations throughout New York City. Thanks to the efforts of Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn and Council Members Joel Rivera, David Weprin, Maria del Carmen Arroyo, and Alan J. Gerson, this new funding will allow the Chapter to further expand our reach into the community.

With the help of city funding, in the past five years the Chapter has reached over 2,379 New Yorkers through our evidence-based disease management and educational programs, including the *Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program* and *Tai Chi from the Arthritis Foundation*. In addition to the exercise programs, the Chapter has also provided public education forums at sites throughout the city. At these forums, noted rheumatologists and other medical professionals from the major medical institutions within New York City present on a variety of arthritis-related topics.

Programs for the New York City Capacity Building Partnership are held at community sites, such as senior centers and residences, libraries, places of worship and other neighborhood sites, in various districts throughout the city. By working closely with community organizations and holding programs at these sites, the Chapter establishes a stronger voice in these neighborhoods and continues to raise awareness about arthritis. To further strengthen this collaboration, the Chapter also provides each facility with a resource library of arthritis-related materials to be kept on site.

The Chapter's evidence-based disease management programs continue to prove how critical interventions such as these can be for people living with arthritis. Statistically analyzed pre and post-course participant questionnaires show clear improvements in pain management, increased confidence in symptom management, and a more informed view of the benefits of exercise. In addition, participants intend to make key lifestyle changes as a result of course participation. As one enthusiastic participant said in her course evaluation, "This course more than met my expectations! I plan to continue doing my exercises at home and hope to find a group of people to exercise with me on a weekly basis."

Action Alert

The following New York City Council Members have been instrumental in securing funding for the Chapter's New York City Capacity Building Partnership. Please take time to thank them for their efforts and allowing the Chapter to provide much needed services to New Yorkers living with arthritis.



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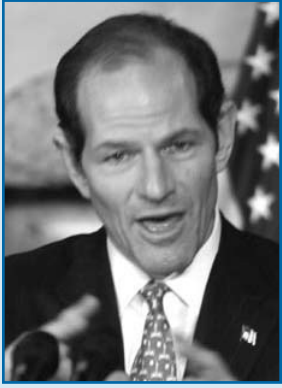


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If there are currently no arthritis disease management programs or forums in your neighborhood, contact your local council member and request that these services be offered in your area.

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New York State Accelerates Expansion



Governor Eliot Spitzer

A \$75,000 allocation from the New York State Senate Legislative budget, followed by a \$250,000 allocation from the Executive budget allowed the four New York State Arthritis Foundation chapters to greatly expand their disease management programs during this past year. Thanks to Governor Eliot Spitzer and Senator Kemp Hannon, champions for our cause, the Chapters were able to provide services to New Yorkers throughout the state. The Chapters reached more than 3,700 people in this year alone. This total, combined with those who have been reached in the past three years of state-funding, has brought the total number of participants reached through this partnership to an impressive 12,405 people!

This year, the Chapters held 215 disease management programs including the *Arthritis Foundation Self Help Program*, the *Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program*, the *Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program* and the *Tai Chi from the Arthritis Foundation* program throughout the state. Statistically analyzed questionnaires illustrate that participants in these programs showed marked improvements in many different arthritis-related areas, including: improved physical function, better knowledge of pain management techniques, increased ability to exercise, higher levels of self-confidence, and a general decrease in arthritis-related symptoms. Along with the disease management programs, this funding also allowed the Chapters to hold instructor trainings certifying 268 new instructors, implement a multi-tier marketing campaign centered on the distribution of the new "Moving in the Right Direction" brochure, as well as provide Chapter-specific public education programs in each region.

Due to the success of this partnership, this year New York State has once again allocated \$355,000 toward our efforts. The Chapter is grateful for the support of all the state government leaders, including Governor Spitzer and Senator Hannon, who have made this remarkable expansion possible.



Senator Kemp Hannon

Shortage of Pediatric Rheumatologists Arthritis Foundation Supports Critical Legislation

A new report released by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, revealed there is a severe shortage of pediatric rheumatologists in the U.S. The report calls for a 75 percent increase in the number of pediatric rheumatologists. HRSA partnered with the Arthritis Foundation to gather data from pediatric rheumatologists which was used to compile the results.

"This report confirms what we have known for some time, and validates our efforts to increase the number of pediatric rheumatologists through support of the Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act," said John H. Klippel, M.D., president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation. "Nearly 300,000 children have juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, but there are fewer than 200 certified pediatric rheumatologists in this country. We are firmly committed to narrowing this gap and ensuring access to treatment for every child who suffers from this devastating disease."

The Arthritis Foundation supports the Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act (S. 626, H.R. 1283) recently introduced legislation that would authorize loan repayment programs for pediatric rheumatology, an increase in the number and size of institutional training grants to institutions supporting pediatric rheumatology, and expansion of public-private partnerships to encourage pediatric rheumatology education and training.

More information about the HRSA report, the Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act and the Arthritis Foundation research program is available at www.arthritis.org.

Action Alert

If your local representatives are not yet co-sponsors of the Arthritis Prevention, Control & Cure Act, please contact them and ask for their support. For tips on how to contact your elected officials, please go to www.arthritis.org and click on Advocacy, or contact the Chapter's advocacy network at 212-984-8712.

NEW YORK CHAPTER



Arthritis Advocates in Action Training Session VIII

Please join the Chapter, this fall, at the 8th training session and develop new advocacy strategies for building successful collaborations at the city, state and federal levels. The program will include an overview of the Chapter's recent advocacy successes and a description of the highlights of the Chapter's Statewide Capacity Building Partnership. In addition, you will hear from other active advocates who have participated in the *Arthritis Ambassador Program* and learn about different ways of getting involved at the grassroots level. For more information about this exciting program, please contact Michele Greco at 212-984-8712 or mgreco@arthritis.org.