

New Jersey Rett Syndrome Association
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Dear Friends,

December, 2020

I hope this letter finds you well and making the most of 2020. As you may already know, the annual Silent Angels gala is our largest fundraiser of the year. This year although we cannot meet in person, the 29th NJ Silent Angels Gala to benefit Rett syndrome (RTT) research will be held on March 6, 2021, virtually, anywhere and everywhere. Covid 19 has not changed the need for research, and we hope we can count on you for your help. So be on the lookout in February for your virtual gala invitation.

Rett syndrome (RTT) is a neurological developmental disorder that occurs almost exclusively in females but can also be seen in males. The child with Rett syndrome starts out as a happy, healthy baby until 12-18 months of life. Then something goes terribly wrong. She may lose the ability to speak, to walk, and use her hands; she makes constant hand washing or hand wringing movements. By the time she is three years old, the child with Rett syndrome is severely handicapped. Since the discovery of the gene that causes RTT in 1999 and the reversal of RTT symptoms in mice in 2007, there are now several human drug trials enrolling children around the world that are providing promising results. Your contribution helps us continue to support our families as we work toward that cure.

NJRSA was established in 2007 to contribute towards an improved quality of life for girls and women affected by Rett syndrome, support families dealing with the disorder, increase awareness and support ongoing research for treatment and cure of Rett syndrome. With your help, NJRSA has given over \$500,000.00 to the research funds at the International Rett Syndrome Foundation, Rett Syndrome Research Trust, and the Rett Syndrome Center at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. Our partnership with the Program for Research and Support for Rett Syndrome at Monmouth University is providing speech therapy and evaluations as well as family support and educational seminars for parents and professionals.

Donating now can also help you have enough tax deductions for 2020. Note that donations made before December 31, 2020 count toward the 2020 tax year, even if the charge isn't made until 2021. Getting a tax deduction because you've made a charitable donation means that your taxable income will be reduced in 2020. Also, inquire if your company has a donation matching program.

We look forward to your support and thank you for helping us move closer to our goal, a cure for Rett syndrome. Your help is our hope!

Very truly yours,

 Executive Director

The Common Meadow Violet, the New Jersey state flower, symbolizes the beauty and fragility of our girls and women with Rett Syndrome and their ability to flourish.

ENCLOSED IS MY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE
GIFT OF \$ _____

AMOUNT \$ _____ CHARGE TO MY VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

CARDHOLDERS NAME _____

CARD _____ EXP DATE _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

- CHECK (please make checks payable to NJRSA)
 CASH
 CREDIT CARD