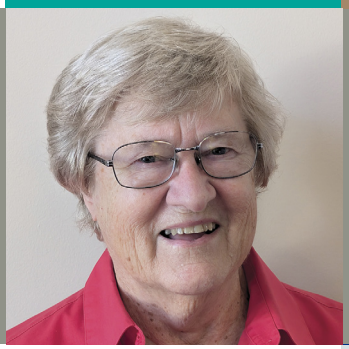
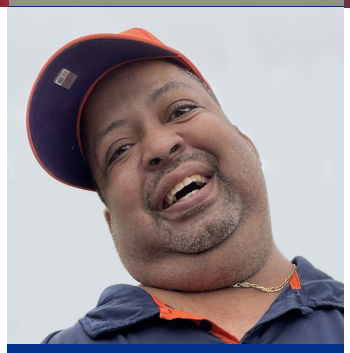
Myasthenia Gravis
Strikes at Any
Age • Income • Ethnicity





CONQUER MG

2025 IMPACT REPORT

Our Focus: Understanding myasthenia gravis (MG)

Myasthenia Gravis (MG) is a chronic, fluctuating neuromuscular disorder causing weakness in the voluntary muscles of the body. Symptoms are highly varied—often described as "the snowflake disease"—and can include:

- Fluctuating weakness in the arms and legs.
- Drooping eyelids (ptosis) and blurred or double vision (diplopia).
- Difficulty with essential functions like chewing, swallowing, and speaking (dysarthria).
- In severe cases, difficulty breathing.

The unpredictable nature of MG—with symptoms changing hour-to-hour and day-to-day—underscores the critical need for timely diagnosis, robust patient support, and ongoing education.

Our Core Commitments

Mission Statement

To facilitate the timely diagnosis and optimal care of individuals affected by myasthenia gravis and to improve their lives through programs of patient services, public awareness, medical research, professional education, advocacy, and patient care.

Vision Statement

Eliminate myasthenia gravis.

Values

We achieve our mission and vision through our organizational values of: Care, Hope, Inspiration, Awareness, and Advocacy.

Our History: Rooted in Local Support

Conquer Myasthenia Gravis (Conquer MG) was established in 1972 by a dedicated, grassroots group of patients, family members, and physicians (originally as the myasthenia gravis Foundation of Illinois).

The founders recognized that local patients needed direct access to communication with peers and the most current information. Since our inception, we have expanded our reach to serve patients across Illinois, northwest Indiana, and southeast Wisconsin. In June 2016, we adopted the name Conquer Myasthenia Gravis to reflect our proactive and determined spirit. We remain a strong, independent nonprofit organization, deeply rooted in our original mission to empower those living with MG.

Board Chair's Message: A Year of Community and Progress

As we enter into 2026 and a new year I am hopeful that Conquer MG's mission "to facilitate the timely diagnosis and optimal care of individuals affected by myasthenia gravis and to improve their lives through programs of patient services, public awareness, medical research, professional education, advocacy and patient care" will continue to be the guiding principle of our organization.

When I became Board Chair in June of 2025, our board was in and continues to be in transition. We are growing both in members and outreach through our resource events, partnerships, and support groups.

I am proud of the fact that Conquer MG is one of the only advocacy groups that puts patient assistance as a priority and that we are expanding our patient advocacy program to allow for more funds to reach those impacted by myasthenia gravis.

Looking ahead, we hope you will join us in our advocacy work through attending our events, making a donation or joining our Board as we are always looking for new voices.

Please feel free to reach out to myself with any questions you may have as I am here to support our Board, and our community as we journey this road together.

Thankfully,

Alicia J Peconio

Alicia J. Peconio
Board Chair, Conquer MG

Patient Assistance Program: A Critical Lifeline

The Patient Assistance Program remains a core pillar of Conquer MG's mission, directly translating our commitment into tangible support for individuals managing myasthenia gravis (MG).

Unmatched Support for Financial Stability

Conquer MG is proud to be the only patient advocacy organization offering a program of this kind. We are dedicated to helping defray the costs of expensive medications and treatments—both direct and indirect—associated with MG.

While new therapeutic advancements are transforming the MG landscape, the high costs of modern care continue to impose an overwhelming financial burden on many families. This program serves as a crucial bridge, reducing financial stress so patients can focus on their health rather than their medical bills.

2025: A Year of Impact

Thanks to your generosity, 2025 was a landmark year. We successfully funded 25 individuals, distributing a total of $17,826 to help our community members access the medications and care they need to live well.

At Conquer MG, we know that while new medical breakthroughs offer incredible hope, they often come with a heavy price tag. That's why our Patient Assistance Program remains a top priority—providing a financial bridge for those managing the high costs of myasthenia gravis treatments.

Looking Ahead: More Support in 2026

We recognize that the financial burden on patients continues to grow. To meet this challenge, we are thrilled to announce that for 2026, we are increasing our maximum individual grant from $1,000 to $2,500 (based on need).

This expansion ensures that Conquer MG remains a steady partner in your health journey, reducing stress so you can focus on what matters most: feeling better.

Do you need assistance or know someone who does? Learn more and apply here.

Bringing Our Community Together: Events for Fun and Education

13th Annual Viking Challenge For MG

The 13th Annual Viking Challenge for MG is in the books—a successful friend-raising and fundraising event that brings MGers, families, and friends together to show their support and raise money for programming, education, and research funding for MG patients.

We are thrilled to continue the tradition of bringing our community together and look forward to reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as the Viking Challenge transitions to the Snowflake Shuffle in 2026!

Education and Resources: Bridging the Knowledge Gap

In 2025, Conquer MG hosted two dedicated Resource Fairs in Illinois, designed to bring life-changing educational tools and expert insights directly to the MG community. Our goal is simple: to provide our community with a deep dive into the latest therapeutic advancements and practical daily management strategies—empowering every attendee to take a proactive role in their own care.

The collaborative effort of the 2025 Resource Fairs in Chicagoland (Lombard/Burr Ridge) and Springfield represents a unique "three-pillar" approach to patient advocacy. By bringing together healthcare professionals, pharmaceutical representatives, and the MG community, these fairs create a 360-degree support system that addresses the medical, financial, and personal aspects of the disease.

The Three Pillars of Collaboration

- **Medical Experts:** Neurologists and MG specialists provided the deep dives into clinical research and the science behind the "snowflake disease." This bridge allowed patients to ask direct questions to top-tier clinicians outside of a rushed office visit.
- **Pharmaceutical Companies:** Rather than just being "sponsors," companies like Alexion, Argenx, Johnson & Johnson, and UCB served as resource partners. They provided technical information on the latest FDA-approved biologics and navigated the complex world of bridge programs and co-pay assistance.
- **The MG Community:** The fairs acted as a "Community Health Fair," where those affected by MG could meet peers. This peer-to-peer connection is vital for reducing the isolation of a rare disease, allowing attendees to share "spoon-saving" tips and emotional support.

Fostering Connection: Creating Safe Spaces

Myasthenia gravis is not a condition most people encounter in their day-to-day lives. For many, it is something you learn about quickly and unexpectedly, then spend time trying to understand, often without many people around you who truly recognize what it feels like. As Linda Loland, Chicago North MG Support Group leader, put it, "There are so few of us with MG, and you feel like you're in an autoimmune information desert if you go it alone."

Support groups shift that experience. Creating accessible, safe spaces for people living with MG and their loved ones is at the core of our work. They offer something both simple and meaningful: a space, virtual or in person, where understanding comes more easily. "With a support group you can commiserate, laugh, vent, whatever you feel like doing with a group of people who completely understand what it is like," Linda said.

Patients who attend support group meetings and share their stories have a profound sense of empowerment, knowing that their lived experience offers comfort and critical guidance to others in similar situations.

"Having support especially early in your diagnosis is beyond helpful as you have so many questions and are likely feeling overwhelmed. The support groups help you feel less alone and gives you a safe, nonjudgmental place to be however you are in your diagnosis." — *Alicia Peconio*

"This is an amazing way to meet others who have similar experiences. Support group members are able to empathize and share what could help them cope. Not only do they get support, but they can get resources about myasthenia gravis, medications, and new research." — *SeAndrea Ferguson*

"When I was first diagnosed, I was hesitant to go. It was my mom, my caregiver, who talked me into going, and I was incredibly grateful. We were met by a group of loving individuals that let us know we were not alone. We have both been going faithfully ever since." — *Kelly Aiken*

Our Funders

We are grateful to our generous supporters who make our work possible. Thank you for contributing to the cause!

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Maria Zepeda-Godinez
Clifford Zolna

2025 Impact

2025 Funding

Thanks to individual donations and the commitments of our generous corporate partners, Conquer MG was able to continue it's educational and financial support of MG patients and caregivers across Illinois, northwest Indiana, and southeast Wisconsin. We are especially proud to have distributed $17,826 in financial assistance to our community members for medications and care.

Financial Snapshot

Contributions/Sponsorship	**73%**	**$552,526**
Individual Donations		$281,451
Corporate Partners		$171,075
Other Income/Events	**27%**	**$208,786**
Investment Income		$190,014
Event/Fundraising/Other		$18,775
Total 2025 Income		**$761,312**

Patient Support	**52%**	**$91,201**
Patient Services/Programs		$73,375
Patient Grants		$17,826
Operational	**48%**	**$83,631**
Sponsorship Outreach/Fundraising		$47,432
Management		$36,199
Total 2025 Expenses		**$174,832**

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