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MOM ON A MISSION CREATES ADVOCACY GROUP TO FIGHT FOR LYMPHEDEMA INSURANCE COVERAGE

JHE PRODUCTION GROUP SUPPORTS NONPROFIT IN ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

HARRISBURG, N.C. (Oct. 7, 2014) – A mom on a mission, Heather Ferguson set out to fight for insurance coverage after one of her twin sons, Dylan, was born with lymphedema in 2006. Lymphedema is an incurable but treatable medical condition caused by injury, trauma or congenital defects in the lymphatic system.

Like any parent who learns a child has an incurable disease, Ferguson was devastated. The feeling was exacerbated by a lack of awareness about lymphedema. After a four-month battle of trying to diagnose the condition Dylan was born with, doctors sent Ferguson and her family home without any direction, specialist referrals or explanation on how to manage lymphedema. To make matters worse, they soon learned that insurance wouldn't cover the medically necessary supplies needed to manage the chronic condition.

“After a nine month battle with our insurance company, I realized that if someone didn't fix the underlying problems Dylan would be forever fighting for what he needed to live a normal and otherwise healthy life,” said Ferguson. “So I made up my mind that, while I couldn't cure him, I was going to do everything in my power to make this disease easier for Dylan to live with. I would fight this battle now, so that he would never have to.”

Ferguson set out to create an all-volunteer group to fight for lymphedema sufferers nationwide, now called the [Lymphedema Advocacy Group](#). In the five years she has been advocating for insurance coverage, she has heard stories from countless patients who weren't as fortunate as Dylan. Without proper, consistent treatment the disease is progressive, leaving patients prone to disfiguring and disabling swelling, chronic pain and serious infections that can sometimes require hospitalization and, occasionally, result in death.

“During a recent trip to D.C. to meet with lawmakers, I met a family who had lost three of their four children to lymphedema,” said Ferguson. “My heart aches for this family. I can't bear to think about what my son's life might have been like had he not had the benefit of diagnosis and treatment. In the world of lymphedema, Dylan is one of the lucky ones.”

Raising awareness and educating the public is a critical part of Lymphedema Advocacy Group's mission to ensure that patients nationwide will someday have coverage for their medically necessary supplies.

[JHE Production Group](#) (JHE), an award-winning event production company, is thrilled to be supporting the Lymphedema Advocacy Group in its fourth annual [Golfing 4 Good](#) tournament Oct. 14 at Cabarrus Country Club in Concord, North Carolina.

Golfing 4 Good was established in 2011 to benefit members of the JHE family and local community who are dealing with adversity in their life. The 2014 beneficiary is no different as JHE employee Brian Ferguson is Heather's husband and Dylan's dad. JHE completely funds the tournament so that 100 percent of its proceeds, more than \$90,000 over the past three years, can be donated directly to the selected beneficiary.

To make a donation, sponsor a hole or participate in the upcoming tournament, please contact Erin Nosker at enosker@gojhe.com or 704.455.8888.

To set up an interview about the Lymphedema Advocacy Group or JHE Golfing 4 Good tournament, please contact Samie Roberts at samie@aspirecommunications.org or 704.560.1250.

About Lymphedema

Lymphedema is an incurable medical condition caused by injury, trauma or congenital defects in the lymphatic system. This chronic but treatable disease results in an accumulation of lymph fluid or swelling in parts of the body where lymph nodes or lymphatic vessels are damaged or inadequate. Compromised immune function puts patients at high risk for serious infections and other complications. Among the many causes, damage from cancer treatment is the most common, making lymphedema one of the most prevalent and significant survivorship issues.

About Lymphedema Advocacy Group

The Lymphedema Advocacy Group (LAG) is an all-volunteer nationwide organization of patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals and industry partners. Its mission is to advance lymphedema care in the United States by advocating for improved insurance coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of the disease. For this purpose the organization works to increase awareness of and education about lymphedema amongst lawmakers, insurance providers and other relevant entities. LAG supports attempts to improve coverage at both the state and federal levels and encourages all members of the lymphedema community to become active participants in this process.

About JHE Production Group Inc.

Founded in 1987, JHE Production Group Inc. (JHE) is an award-winning event production company specializing in live entertainment, experiential activation, special events, opening ceremonies and corporate event production. Serving a myriad of Fortune 500 and national sports marketing clients, JHE creates lasting memories through its unparalleled expertise with concerts, consumer engagement opportunities, meticulously planned and executed mobile tours, festivals, hospitality and more. Engage with JHE's authentic, in-house experts at www.gojhe.com and on [Facebook](#), [Twitter @JHEProduction](#) and [Instagram @JHEProduction](#).

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