**Neurofibromatosis Facts**

**What is Neurofibromatosis?**
Neurofibromatosis (NF) is a highly variable and progressive genetic disorder that can cause tumors to grow on the nerves anywhere at any time. It can also cause a host of other problems. While not all NF patients suffer from the most severe symptoms, all live with the uncertainty of whether they will some day be severely affected.

**How common is Neurofibromatosis?**
NF is the most common neurological genetic disorder caused by a single gene. It affects approximately 1 in 2,500 births and affects all races and gender equally.

**Is Neurofibromatosis contagious?**
No! Neurofibromatosis is a genetic disorder. While approximately 50% of NF cases are inherited, the other 50% are a spontaneous mutation (not inherited).

**Who gets Neurofibromatosis?**
Anyone can be born with NF! It affects all races and genders equally. You probably know someone with NF.

**What can I do to help?**
- Be supportive and understanding of people with NF.
- Go to www.nfmidwest.org and learn more about the Neurofibromatoses and the different ways people can be affected.
- Donate to NF programs and research.

**What else should I know?**
Neurofibromatosis research is on the forefront of the biomedical revolution. NF research benefits everyone including the millions of individuals who are affected by cancer, brain tumors, and learning disabilities. While we are on the verge of important breakthroughs, much work remains to be done in the battle against NF.

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**Support NF Research and Programs**

Neurofibromatosis Midwest supports those affected by Neurofibromatosis, raises awareness and promotes research for treatments and a cure.

This includes:
- Direct research grants
- Advocacy for additional NF research
- Clinic information and support
- Camp for kids with NF
- An understanding ear
- Events for NF-affected to meet and share experiences
- An annual educational symposium
- Educational “Ask the Doctors” opportunities
- Great Steps Walks for Neurofibromatosis
- Support groups
- Displays at medical conferences

Neurofibromatosis Midwest raises most of its money through fundraising. Receiving no direct government support, we rely on corporations, foundations and individuals for funding.

The faces of NF need your support, so please give what you can whether it’s your time, money, wisdom or simply by spreading the word.

Because Neurofibromatosis research also benefits those without NF, the support you give will eventually help someone you love.

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Neurofibromatosis has many faces.

The people pictured here have neurofibromatosis (NF). They have families and friends that love them and they are admired by many. Their hopes and dreams range from the child who wants to be a princess, to the teenage boy that wants to be a rock star, to the adult who seeks a life partner. While they will not let neurofibromatosis define them, they deal with the constant reality that they have NF and don’t know what difficulties the future may bring. As is typical of NF, people are affected differently. Below is a glimpse of how they could be affected.

- Skin and internal tumors
- Learning disabilities
- Scoliosis
- Seizures
- Motor delays
- Orthopedic issues
- Amputation
- Headaches

- Depression
- Severe pain
- Complete or partial hearing loss
- Cancer
- Paralysis
- Precocious puberty
- High blood pressure
- Discrimination

- Facial disfigurement
- Bone deformities
- Dural ectasia
- Speech problems
- Attention deficit disorder
- Complete or partial loss of sight
- Hydrocephalus
- Loss of balance

The symptoms of NF vary as much as their hopes and dreams.