

*Contact* Julianna L. Shapiro  
*Telephone* 949.613.5044  
*Email* [media@chronicallyawesome.org](mailto:media@chronicallyawesome.org)  
*Website* [www.chronicallyawesome.org](http://www.chronicallyawesome.org)

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**The Chronically Awesome Foundation Supports Rare Disease Day® and Joins Global Movement to Raise Important Awareness for Rare Diseases**

**Aliso Viejo, CA—January 23, 2017**—The Chronically Awesome Foundation has joined forces with 30 million Americans and health care advocates worldwide for Rare Disease Day® on February 28. Rare Disease Day is an annual awareness day dedicated to raising public awareness of rare diseases and calling attention to the special challenges people face.

The Chronically Awesome Foundation is dedicating Rare Disease Day to education and awareness by encouraging artistic expression from our members that portray living with a rare disease. Submissions such as blogs, short stories, photography, poetry and other works that Chronically Awesome will publish on our social media platforms and website: [chronicallyawesome.org](http://chronicallyawesome.org).

Julianna Shapiro, the Founder and Executive Director of The Chronically Awesome Foundation stated that, “Chronically Awesome is looking forward educating and raising awareness of rare diseases using artistic expression.” She continued, “We hope to see blogs, personal stories, photos and other works on our website and social media platforms.”

If you want to tell your story, submit your blog, photography, poetry, or any other artistic work email [contact@chronicallyawesome.org](mailto:contact@chronicallyawesome.org).

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a disease is rare if it affects fewer than 200,000 people. Nearly 1 in 10 Americans live with a rare disease—affecting 30 million people—and nearly half of these patients are children. There are more than 7,000 rare diseases and only approximately 450 FDA-approved medical treatments.

Rare Disease Day takes place every year on the last day of February (February 28 or February 29 in a leap year)—the rarest date on the calendar—to underscore the nature of rare diseases and what patients face. It was established in Europe in 2008 by EURORDIS, the organization representing rare disease patients in Europe, and is now observed in more than 80 nations. Rare Disease Day is sponsored in the U.S. by the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)®, the largest and leading independent, nonprofit organization committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare diseases.

The Chronically Awesome Foundation is a fiscally sponsored 501c3 whose mission it is to cultivate and support the Chronically Awesome Community through artistic programs as well as to provide support programs both in a group or peer-to-peer settings. For more information about The Chronically Awesome Foundation, go to <http://www.chronicallyawesome.org/>.

For more information about Rare Disease Day in the U.S., go to [www.rarediseaseday.us](http://www.rarediseaseday.us). For information about global activities, go to [www.rarediseaseday.org](http://www.rarediseaseday.org). To search for information about rare diseases, visit NORD’s website, [www.rarediseases.org](http://www.rarediseases.org).

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**Media contacts:**

Julianna L. Shapiro, Chronically Awesome Foundation, 949.613.5044, [media@chronicallyawesome.org](mailto:media@chronicallyawesome.org).

Jennifer Huron, NORD, 203-744-0100, [jhuron@rarediseases.org](mailto:jhuron@rarediseases.org)