UNIFIED PARKINSON’S ADVOCACY COUNCIL

The Parkinson’s disease (PD) community works together to advance policies that benefit people with Parkinson’s, their families and care partners through the Unified Parkinson’s Advocacy Council (UPAC). The UPAC comprises representatives from state, regional and national PD organizations to gather field-wide input on priorities and policy matters. UPAC members include:

American Parkinson Disease Association
The American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA) is the largest grassroots network dedicated to fighting Parkinson’s disease (PD) and works tirelessly to help the approximately one million people with PD in the United States live life to the fullest in the face of this chronic, neurological disorder. Founded in 1961, APDA has raised and invested more than $207 million to provide outstanding patient services and educational programs, elevate public awareness about the disease, and support research designed to unlock the mysteries of PD and ultimately put an end to this disease. Learn more about the support APDA provides nationally through our network of Chapters and Information & Referral (I&R) Centers, as well as our national Research Program and Centers for Advanced Research at www.apdaparkinson.org.

Brian Grant Foundation
The Brian Grant Foundation (BGF) provides tools to help improve the well-being of people with Parkinson’s. BGF’s programs focus on exercise, nutrition and mental health, to encourage people with Parkinson’s to get moving, eat healthy and feel their best. BGF was founded by former NBA player Brian Grant, who was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson’s disease in 2008. Learn more at www.briangrant.org.

Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society
Since 1978, the Dallas Area Parkinsonism Society (DAPS) has served people impacted by Parkinson’s disease living in Dallas, Collin, and Tarrant counties by providing free exercise and speech classes, caregiver support groups, and health-related educational meetings. Fueled by our mission to impact and improve the lives of people with Parkinson’s disease, DAPS continually explores opportunities to meet our community’s needs. Examples of the kinds of programs DAPS offers include traditional strength, flexibility, and stretching exercise classes, Dance for Movement Disorder classes, aquatic exercise classes, non-contact boxing, and cycling. Our newest program Move.Laugh.Connect (MLC), recognizes the value of the physical, emotional, and social dimensions in one’s total well-being. You can learn more about DAPS at www.daps.us.

Davis Phinney Foundation
The Davis Phinney Foundation was created in 2004 by Olympic medalist and retired professional cyclist, Davis Phinney, to help people with Parkinson’s live well today. The organization’s focus is to provide programs, resources, and experiences that offer inspiration, information, and tools that enable people living with Parkinson’s to take action that can immediately improve their quality of life. Through The Victory Summit® event series, Every Victory Counts® manual, Healthy Parkinson’s Communities™ initiative, Ambassador Leadership program, funding of quality of life research, and extensive online content, the organization impacts hundreds of thousands of individuals each year. Learn more at www.davisphinneyfoundation.org.

Friends of Parkinson’s
Friends of Parkinson’s is a Nevada based organization that supports healing, care, and lifestyle management that applies to various forms of mental illnesses and the families, friends, and communities that support them. Professionally facilitated support groups are offered at no cost to individuals living with Parkinson’s and their caregivers to share their experiences in a warm, friendly environment. Learn more at www.friendsofparkinsons.org.

Hawaii Parkinson Association
The Hawaii Parkinson Association (HPA) is a non-profit volunteer group comprised of people with Parkinson’s, caregivers, family members, health care professionals, educators and leaders in the business community. The mission of the Hawaii Parkinson Association is to assist Parkinson patients, their family and friends live the best life possible by uniting people, organizations, and resources to treat Parkinson’s symptoms and ultimately find a cure. The Hawaii Parkinson Association was established in 1996 and serves the Parkinson community statewide. Learn more at www.parkinsonshawaii.org.
Houston Area Parkinson Society
Since 1974, the Houston Area Parkinson Society (HAPS) has offered comprehensive services and innovative programs free of charge to individuals with Parkinson’s and their families in the greater Houston area. The organization provides social services, education, support and therapeutic exercise programs to help manage the challenges of this progressive neurodegenerative disease. HAPS remains an independent nonprofit, not a local chapter of a national organization, whose breadth and scope of services fill critical gaps in care. HAPS makes significant community impact through its mission to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by Parkinson’s disease through services, education and advocacy. Learn more at www.hapsonline.org.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research
As the world’s largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson’s research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) is dedicated to finding a cure for the disease and ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson’s today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson’s patients, business leaders, policymakers, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. To date, MJFF has funded more than $1 billion in Parkinson’s research. Learn more at www.michaeljfox.org.

Michigan Parkinson Foundation
Michigan Parkinson Foundation is the premier education and support organization in Michigan for people with PD, their care partners, and the physicians and allied health professionals that diagnose and treat PD patients. Every person with Parkinson’s and related disorders shall receive responsive compassionate quality care and support. Learn more at www.parkinsonmi.org.

Northwest Parkinson’s Foundation
Northwest Parkinson’s Foundation is the lifeline of HOPE to over 100,000 impacted by Parkinson’s in the Northwest. We transform the way people live with Parkinson’s in WA, AK, ID, and MT through community connections, awareness, and advocacy. As your local, independent Parkinson’s organization, we listen to our communities: we ensure FREE access to critical healthcare, individualized care consultations with licensed social workers, regionally-tailored education and programs, and support. Our staff is committed to partnering with all people affected by Parkinson’s, including those living with the diagnosis, care partners, family, friends, and service providers, so no one walks the Parkinson’s journey alone. You can learn more at NWPF.org.

The Parkinson Alliance
The Parkinson Alliance is the umbrella organization for the Parkinson’s Unity Walk, the largest single-day community fundraising event, and Team Parkinson. We are dedicated to raising funds for research to end Parkinson’s disease, support the development of new therapies and improve the quality of life for those living with the disease. The Parkinson Alliance also directly funds and conducts patient-centered outcomes research in its own right, focusing on both motor and non-motor symptoms, and other aspects of well-being such as resilience and coping skills. Together with the Parkinson’s Unity Walk and Team Parkinson, The Alliance has funded more than $30 million in research to date. Learn more at www.parkinsonalliance.org and www.unitywalk.org.

Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance (PMD Alliance)
The Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance is an independent, national non-profit organization that provides opportunities for people impacted by Parkinson’s and other movement disorders to learn, live life more fully, and connect with others. PMD Alliance reaches across all communities and partners with many organizations, institutions, and movement disorder specialists. We seek to address the needs of the people we serve by providing innovative solutions that inform, inspire and empower - today. These include experiential opportunities, educational programs and workshops, and growth-oriented social interactions for Support Group Leaders, care partners and adult children. A hub of information, our website provides the only national list of support groups representing all 50 states. Learn more at www.pmdalliance.org.
Parkinson Association of Alabama
Founded in 1978, the Parkinson Association of Alabama (PAA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to a singular mission: To improve the quality of life for patients, caregivers, and families affected by Parkinson’s disease in the State of Alabama. We do this in a variety of ways that include: providing support, distributing information, increasing awareness, amplifying local programs, encouraging collaboration, and supporting research to lead to new and improved treatments for Parkinson’s disease that will ultimately lead to a cure. Learn more at www.parkinsonalabama.com.

Parkinson Association of Central Florida
The Parkinson Association of Central Florida serves as a focal point to raise funds for support programs and services to enhance the quality of life for all those affected by Parkinson’s disease in the Orange, Seminole, Lake and Osceola Counties and to support the research of new treatments for the symptoms and hopefully someday, find a cure. Learn more at www.parkinsoncf.org.

Parkinson Association of Northern California
The Parkinson Association of Northern California (PANC) is an organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with Parkinson’s, their families and care partners throughout our region. We live our motto, “Building Community for the Journey.” Learn more at www.panctoday.org.

Parkinson Association of the Rockies
The Parkinson Association of the Rockies connects and empowers people with Parkinson’s to thrive. Through support groups, exercise classes and in-home consults with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, the Association connects people to the community and critical resources. Exercise classes, education, newsletters, and equipment loan services further empower people with Parkinson’s to thrive. Advocacy efforts empower, engage and connect people with Parkinson’s to use their voice and passion to enhance the care and services available for all people living with this disease. The Association celebrates people with Parkinson’s defining their disease rather than letting the disease define their lives. Learn more at www.parkinsonrockies.org.

Parkinson Voice Project
Parkinson Voice Project is a nonprofit speech therapy clinic solely dedicated to preserving the speech and swallowing of those with Parkinson’s. The organization developed “SPEAK OUT! & The LOUD Crowd,” a program that helps people with Parkinson’s regain and maintain their communication skills while minimizing swallowing complications. The vision of Parkinson Voice Project is to make SPEAK OUT! & The LOUD Crowd accessible worldwide. To learn more about Parkinson Voice Project, visit www.ParkinsonVoiceProject.org and participate in their free online “Parkinson’s Speech Exercises.”

Parkinson’s Foundation
The Parkinson’s Foundation makes life better for people with Parkinson’s disease by improving care and advancing research toward a cure. In everything we do, we build on the energy, experience, and passion of our global Parkinson’s community. We are leaders in ensuring expert Parkinson’s disease care; educating and empowering the Parkinson’s community; and driving the understanding of Parkinson’s through research. As a national organization with a local presence and impact, we bring help and hope to individuals who are living with Parkinson’s. Learn more at www.parkinson.org.

Parkinson’s Resources of Oregon
Parkinson’s Resources of Oregon (PRO) was founded in 1980 when a group of Parkinson’s patients organized the first regional support group specific to Parkinson’s disease. PRO has since grown and expanded with services now offered from three offices in the Pacific Northwest. We work with the singular focus of improving quality of life for residents living with Parkinson’s by balancing hope for the future with education and services for today. Services include a deep network of Support Groups, ongoing professional and lay Education, Exercise and Wellness classes, Social Work and Counseling, as well as personal support and advocacy. Learn more at www.parkinsonsresources.org.
**Power for Parkinson’s**
Power for Parkinson’s is a non-profit organization that provides free weekly exercise, dance, and singing classes for people with Parkinson’s and their care partners in Austin, Texas and surrounding communities, as well as globally through our YouTube home video series. Our mission is to engage people with Parkinson’s in regular exercise to slow or even reverse the effects of Parkinson’s disease, improve their overall sense of well-being, provide opportunities for socialization, and help prevent depression and isolation that often accompanies the disease. Research has shown that exercise is the one thing individuals can do to delay the progression of Parkinson’s disease, and we aim to have the most fit group of people with Parkinson’s in the country! Learn more at www.powerforparkinsons.org.

**Wilkins Parkinson’s Foundation**
Wilkins Parkinson’s Foundation was granted a 501(c)3 charity status in 2010 and is dedicated to accelerating the cure and treatment of Parkinson’s disease. Our goal is to increase collaboration from the entire Parkinson’s Community and to encourage Patient Participation Activism to emphasize the importance of the Patient Voice. Additional strategies include directing funds to Research, Education and Awareness and advocating for the entire community. Learn more at www.wilkins-pf.org.

**Wisconsin Parkinson Association**
Wisconsin Parkinson Association provides hope, community, support, and resources for people with Parkinson’s and their loved ones. WPA holds educational programs around the state of Wisconsin, and coordinates and assists support groups and exercise groups for people with PD and caregivers. As the largest provider of free Parkinson’s-specific exercise in Wisconsin, WPA has a big impact on people with PD and their families. For more information visit https://www.wiparkinson.org/

The Unified Parkinson’s Advocacy Council is managed by the public policy department of The Michael J. Fox Foundation. For more information, please contact policy@michaeljfox.org.