

December 1, 2015



Top row from left to right: Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson IV, Brenda Blackmon, Jennie DeScherer, Michelle Ifill, Richard DeScherer, Kenneth Farber, Margaret Dowd; Bottom row from left to right: Susan Golick, Megan Hilty

**Close to \$3 Million Raised Last Night for Lupus Research
*Today's Giving Tuesday -- Let's Set a New Research-Giving Record!***

We are deeply grateful to the nearly 600 guests who raised close to \$3 million last night at the first joint Gala dinner that heralds the upcoming merger of the [Alliance for Lupus Research](#) (ALR), [Lupus Research Institute](#) (LRI) and [S.L.E. Lupus Foundation](#). Every dollar funds innovative research that can transform patients' lives while advancing to prevention and a cure.

Michelle Ifill accepted the Corporate Leadership Award on behalf of Verizon Communications, Inc. for their long-time support of the ALR's research initiatives. The 2015 Visionary Award recognized the outstanding contributions and ceaseless fight of two extraordinary women with lupus - S.L.E. Lupus Foundation founder **Susan Golick** and **Jennie DeScherer**, dedicated member of the Boards of the Foundation and the LRI. **Three-term Mayor of New York City, entrepreneur and philanthropist Michael R. Bloomberg** described Jennie as an "inspiring example of someone who won't let this disease get in the way of living her life to the fullest." Presenting the Visionary award to Susan, LRI and S.L.E. Lupus Foundation Board member **Jerry Chazen** thanked her for launching the lupus movement in America 45 years ago and for her continued involvement in helping propel the organization's growth.



Susan Golick (Left), Jennie DeScherer (Right)



Jennie DeScherer, The Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg



From left to right: Richard DeScherer, Robert Ravitz, Bob Pittman, Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson IV

Richard DeScherer, LRI Board leader and President of the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation as well as Chief Legal & Compliance Officer, Bloomberg L.P., co-hosted the evening with Robert J. Ravitz, Chairman, LRI, Bob Pittman, Chairman and CEO, iHeartMedia, Inc., and ALR Founder and Chairman and CEO, New York Jets, **Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson IV**.

Television broadcaster and lupus advocate, **Brenda Blackmon** served as emcee with inimitable warmth and charm. Having formed the Kelly Fund for Lupus in honor of her daughter, Brenda donates funds raised to the ALR and LRI to promote awareness of the disease.

Broadway, film and NBC's *Smash* singer/actress Megan Hilty brought the audience to its feet with her powerful voice and Hollywood glamour. Having starred in *9 to 5: the Musical*, and *Wicked*, Megan returns to Broadway this December in the revival *Noises Off*.

Though only a portion of supporters could attend this fundraiser last night, everyone who is affected by lupus was there in spirit...And everyone is with us today as we recognize **Giving Tuesday**, a day when people give whatever they can to help organizations like ours fulfill our mission. Let's set new research-giving records – and go over \$3 million -- as we fund the new innovative research that is already saving lives while driving toward prevention and a cure for lupus.

Text RESEARCH to 50555 to make a \$25 donation that helps provide a place where people with lupus can go for information, referrals, strength and support. Where scientists can find grants to devote their careers to lupus research. Where families find inspirational hope grounded in solid science.



Megan

Hilty

[Watch this video](#) to learn how the ALR, the LRI and the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation are **Moving Forward Together to Fight Lupus** with scientific discoveries that move lupus research to unprecedented levels. Until the day we no longer need to fight, the day we find a cure and the day we realize Life Without Lupus!

* Photo Credit for all photos: Matthew Carasella



About the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation

The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation is the preeminent lupus organization providing direct patient services, education, public awareness, and funding for lupus research.

About the Lupus Research Institute

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI), the world's leading private supporter of novel research in lupus, pioneers discovery and champions scientific creativity as it has successfully demonstrated the power of innovation to propel scientific solutions in this complex autoimmune disease.

www.LupusNY.org | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Email Preferences](#)