



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Resident Explains Life with a Rare Disease and Promotes Awareness for Rare Disease Day® on February 28

Atlanta, Georgia—February 20, 2015—Steph Palermo - local author and public speaker explains important awareness for Rare Disease Day® on February 28.

Steph Palermo was diagnosed at birth with Poland Syndrome. She spent most of her childhood in surgery to improve hand function to make everyday tasks less daunting. Palermo dealt with bullying, rejection and exclusion throughout her childhood and adolescence. Today, she has embraced Poland's Syndrome and uses it as a platform for talks and educating and motivating others to love and accept everyone regardless of their differences.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a disease is rare if it affects less than 200,000 people. One in 10 Americans have a rare disease—nearly 30 million people—and two-thirds of these patients are children. For the 7,000 known rare diseases, there are only approximately 450 FDA-approved 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.

For more information about Rare Disease Day, visit <http://rarediseaseday.us/>. To search for information about rare diseases, visit NORD's website, www.rarediseases.org. To learn more about rare diseases, visit NORD's website, www.rarediseases.org.

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