



Fanconi Anemia
RESEARCH FUND, INC.

FUNDRAISING

FOR

FA RESEARCH

Supplement 1:
Sample Fundraising Letters

It can be difficult to write when starting with a blank page. With this in mind, the following letters are samples of actual and successful fundraising letters written by FA parents and patients. Feel free to use all or part of one or more of the sample letters to tailor a fundraising letter to fit your family's circumstances. Or simply read the letters for inspiration towards creating your own original letter!

The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund offers the following to further assist your letter campaign:

- Provide additional sample letters
- Edit your fundraising letter
- Scan a photograph of your choice onto your letter
- Print a personalized FA brochure to enclosure (optional)
- Address the envelopes, using your mailing list
- Provide postage and mail the letters
- Provide you with a list of donations made in response to your letter or event
- Send a thank you letter and tax receipt to your donors on behalf of the Fund

You might consider sending your letter by email. You can personalize your email letter with photos, and creative fonts and borders. In addition to saving the costs of printing and postage, a benefit of an emailed fundraising letter is the ability to link to the Fund's "Donate" webpage, making it easy for your donors to donate online. Some FA families have found that their email letters are forwarded by their contacts, thereby expanding the scope of your message and increasing your fundraising ability.

Dear

We are writing to ask your help in funding research into a devastating disease that directly affects our family. That disease is Fanconi anemia (FA). While Fanconi anemia is a rare disease, research into FA may well hold the key to diseases that affect millions worldwide, such as leukemia and oral, breast and ovarian cancers.



Photo

Fanconi anemia has had a personal and profound impact on our family. Our beloved, seemingly healthy son/daughter, _____, was diagnosed at age ___ with FA, a disease about which we knew nothing. We soon learned that FA is a cruel and fatal genetic disorder which leads to bone marrow failure, leukemia, and certain kinds of cancer. Youngsters with Fanconi anemia usually do not live to adulthood. Since _____'s diagnosis, we have realized that we cannot passively accept this fate, but have to do all we can to beat this disease. Thus, we are working hard to raise funds for the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, which was founded in 1989 for the purpose of funding research to find a cure for FA.

Because of the generosity of countless donors around the world who have heard of this disease from FA families, the progress that has been made since the Research Fund began has been remarkable. For example:

- When the FA Research Fund was founded in 1989, no FA gene had been found. It's impossible to understand a genetic disorder without first understanding the function of the gene or genes which cause the disease. With grants from the Research Fund, researchers have discovered 14 FA genes.
- In 2002, scientists announced that an FA gene, *FANCD1*, is also the breast cancer susceptibility gene, *BRCA2*. The recent discoveries of other FA genes, including *FANCF* and *FANCG*, have expanded the key role of FA genes in genomic stability and their significance to the development of cancer in the general population.
Research into our orphan disease is now beneficial to all.

Despite these discoveries, our race against the clock to help _____ has never felt more urgent. We desperately need to find a cure for him/her and other youngsters with FA.

We ask your help. It is hard to ask others for financial support but, for all FA patients, continued research is their best hope. **Our entire population is at risk for cancer. Fanconi anemia research may be the best biological model for understanding and treating certain malignancies.**

Please be as generous as you possibly can. The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund has an exemplary record of stewardship of funds. In fact, the Fund's combined administrative and fundraising costs for 2009 were only 8.2%.

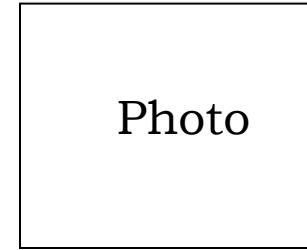
Please accept our profound thanks for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Information about the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund is available on its website, www.fanconi.org.

SAMPLE #2

Dear Friends (or put in the names of individuals),



As many of you know, in _____ (year), I/we learned that _____ (name of child) has a rare disease called Fanconi anemia. While the diagnosis helped to explain previous medical problems, the news was devastating.

Fanconi anemia is a genetic disorder which typically results in severe bone marrow failure. Because of this disease, my/our child is also at an extremely increased risk for leukemia and other forms of cancer. Presently, _____ (name) is under the care of physicians to monitor his/her very low blood counts. Although his/her condition is stable at this time, in the future he/she is facing a bone marrow transplant, if a donor can be found.

The good news is that we have cause for hope. I/we are part of an international support organization called the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund. The Fund, through the efforts of families such as ours, raises money and awards grants for scientific research into this disease. Through this organization, we are able to join other families and influence scientific progress much more rapidly than we ever could as one family. We are writing to ask you to help support research to find effective treatments and a cure for Fanconi anemia.

Since 1989, the FA Research Fund has awarded over \$12 million in research grants to forty-six prestigious research facilities worldwide. As a result, fourteen FA genes have been identified and bone marrow transplant success rates for FA patients have improved substantially. Although FA is an extremely rare disease, scientists have discovered that FA genes play a key role in the repair of DNA. Thus, research funds directed toward FA research now have a direct impact on the lives of millions in the general population who are susceptible to certain kinds of cancer, including breast, pancreatic and ovarian cancers. For more information on the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, please see www.fanconi.org.

I/We would very much appreciate it if you could help advance research into this disease by making a contribution. Just make your check payable to the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund and mail it to the Fund in the enclosed envelope. The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund has an exemplary record of stewardship of donations. In fact, the Fund's administrative and fundraising costs for 2009 were only 8.2%.

_____ (name) is so _____ .
(Descriptive words about your child, such as: bright, happy, loves school, etc. Include a sentence or two about what he/she looks forward to or likes to do.) We are so blessed to be his/her parents. With your help, _____ (name) can look forward to fulfilling his/her dreams for the future.

With my/our sincere thanks,

Dear Friends:

SAMPLE #3

Many races are run each year. There are the Boston and New York Marathons as well as the Indy and Daytona 500s. But none is as important as the one we've been racing—the race against the clock and a deadly disease called Fanconi anemia. We are writing to ask for your help in winning this race.



As you may or may not know, our son/daughter _____, age _____, suffers from Fanconi anemia, a rare disease that claims the majority of its victims through cancer, leukemia and bone marrow failure while they are still children or young adults. _____ has been running the race for his/her life as we've been working to help science find a cure.

[Here you may wish to write a bit about your child: his/her activities, school progress, likes or dislikes, etc.]

It is always hard to raise money for a problem like Fanconi anemia that affects so few people directly. It's been a small, private fight, shared with other afflicted families—and with friends like you. However, in the last few years scientists have discovered that FA genes play a key role in the repair of DNA and genomic stability. **In fact, more and more scientists believe that beating Fanconi anemia may be the key to beating cancer itself.** But they can't do it without help, and that's why we are writing to you. If you have to choose a cause for which your contribution has a chance to do the most good for the most people, this may well be it.

I/we are part of an international support organization called the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund (www.fanconi.org). The Fund, through the efforts of families such as ours, raises money and awards grants for scientific research into this disease. Please join our race against Fanconi anemia and cancer. Just write a check to the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund and forward it in the enclosed envelope. Your tax-deductible donation may help find a cure for cancer in our lifetime.

And that's a race worth winning for us all.

Thank you for your generosity.

With sincere thanks,

Some donors welcome the tax advantage of gifts of appreciated stock. If you wish to make such a gift, contact financial advisor Mark Reifschneider at Wells Fargo Advisors at 866-951-6246.

The following quotes of praise for the Fund may be used in your letter if you wish.

“The Fanconi Anemia Research Fund is the single best orphan disease research support group in the world. It is a model for demonstrating how a small group of dedicated families can speed the pace of scientific progress and bring realistic hope to patients with an otherwise fatal disorder.”

David Nathan, MD, Distinguished Professor, Harvard Medical School; former Director, Dana Farber Cancer Institute; Winner, National Medal of Science, 1990.

“The tireless efforts of the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund have demonstrated that a rare genetic disorder can provide a vital key to understanding the basic biological process of cancer itself. The importance of these efforts to the advancement of medical science cannot be overstated.”

Lee Hartwell, PhD, President and Director, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA; Winner, Nobel Prize, 2001.