



September 9, 2013

Dear Friends, Parents, Lacrosse Fans,

Thank you for your support for the **2013 Play for Parkinson's Lacrosse Series!** As you may know, this fantastic event is entering its fourth year as the top fall lacrosse event in the country. We are again hosting some of the country's top NCAA Men's and Women's Division I programs, as well as the U.S. Men's National Team, on October 5 and 6 at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, VA. The men's series on October 5 will include Georgetown, Towson, Richmond, Loyola, Air Force, and the U.S. Men's National Team. The women's series on October 6 will feature Duke, Georgetown, Penn State, Towson, Maryland, and James Madison.

As background, in August 2008, my mother, Diane, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Naturally, as a son, my first thoughts were, "how can I help" and "what can I do?" Having had the honor of playing lacrosse for Princeton University from 1995 – 1998, playing on the 2006 U.S. Men's National Team, and playing eight years in Major League Lacrosse, I hoped to leverage my love of lacrosse to combat this disabling disease. In 2009, my sister, Lauren, a former Davidson lacrosse player, and I established the ProjectSpark Foundation and the annual **Play for Parkinson's Lacrosse Series**. Our mother was our inspiration – always one to confront challenges head-on, she tackled her disease with optimism and energy, educated herself, earned certification as a National Patient Advocate for the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, and established two support groups in our hometown of Denver, CO for those recently diagnosed with the disease.

Parkinson's disease (commonly referred to as PD) is a chronic, progressive, pervasive neurological disorder characterized by physical, cognitive and psychological decline– with no known cure. It affects one in every one hundred people over the age of 60. PD already affects nearly 1.5 million Americans and each year some 60,000 more people in the U.S. are diagnosed with the disease. ProjectSpark seeks to complement the efforts of other institutions focused on the disease by finding points of leverage where a 'spark' will help to ignite the actions needed to unlock a cure. I have attached a document highlighting our initiatives, should you wish to learn more about the ProjectSpark Foundation.

All proceeds from the Play for Parkinson's Lacrosse Series will benefit the ProjectSpark Foundation and each participating institution has donated its time, facilities, and travel expenses toward the goal of creating a 'spark.' We think it fitting that Play for Parkinson's will highlight young men and women playing what has been called the "fastest game on two feet" to help those whose very ability to move is being compromised by Parkinson's disease.

We extend a personal invitation to you and your family to join us. The Play for Parkinson's website (www.playforparkinsons.org) includes periodic updates and information on the tournament. Additionally, we have again teamed with the **Hilton Garden Inn Shirlington / Arlington** (4271 Campbell Ave., Arlington, VA 22206 / 703.820.0440) to offer outstanding rates for tournament guests.

More information on purchasing tickets will be available on the website shortly.

Should you have any additional questions about the tournament, would like more information about ProjectSpark, or are interested in sponsorship / donation / volunteer opportunities, please contact me directly.

We look forward to a fantastic event this fall and my entire family looks forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Christian Cook
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