

Mrs. Robert Morgan
Forsyth County Cystic Fibrosis
Volunteers
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Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Let me tell you how much I appreciate your inviting me to Winston-Salem to speak to the kickoff meeting for your Cystic Fibrosis campaign here in Forsyth County. I have been serving as Chairman of the State Cystic Fibrosis Drive now for almost two years, but I still get excited each time I meet with a different group to talk about Cystic Fibrosis and what volunteers can do to combat it.

I have often wondered what it is that motivates people to undertake volunteer work and give of their time and energy for a cause that receives almost no public recognition. Certainly, it must be something very noble.

I first became interested in Cystic Fibrosis at an organizational meeting in Wilson more than two years ago. That evening a mother from Charlotte stood before us and related the experiences she has had with her two Cystic Fibrotic children. I must confess that I was moved and only wish that I was able to convey to you as well as she could the heartache involved in having^a Cystic Fibrosis child. Unfortunately, I cannot, but I would like to try to relate to you what I know about Cystic Fibrosis

and the children's battle for life and breath. If I in some way can help motivate you or push this cause forward then my trip to Winston-Salem will certainly be worthwhile. If in turn, you make the children's battle for life and breath a personal one, as I know you will, and dedicate your time and remarkable talents to this effort then I can tell you that thousands of Cystic Fibrosis children, their parents, and their friends thank you from the bottoms of their hearts.

To these children, Cystic Fibrosis is an old, ^{but} unpopular acquaintance though my association with Cystic Fibrosis is much more recent. I have seen enough to know that it plays havoc with the hopes, ambitions and regretful lives of these tiny North Carolinians.

My introduction to Cystic Fibrosis was a shocking experience, for, like most people, I just didn't know how close Cystic Fibrosis is, to touching all of us. Most persons would not call it a "common disease". But let's look at the facts for a moment. Let's see if there is not good reason for every citizen of our State to be concerned about progress in research, treatment and in developing centers for concentrated therapy and care.

According to the American Medical Association Journal, one out of every thousand babies born in North Carolina is a

victim of cystic fibrosis. Of this number, only 50 percent of Cystic Fibrosis patients live beyond the age of ten (10) and 80 percent die before they are twenty (20) years old. And one of every twenty (20) adults is a carrier of this devastating hereditary disease.

These facts are alarming but they're true, and I think they point out so very clearly why we must bring Cystic Fibrosis into the public spotlight and enlist public support for our effort to control it.

Let me go back now and tell you how that mother in Wilson, that I mentioned a moment ago, described her day-to-day battle to keep her two little boys alive and breathing.