Dear Friends,

Your support of the Vasculitis Foundation (VF) has helped us empower and comfort people with vasculitis around the globe. Together, we have remained committed to our shared mission of earlier diagnoses, new treatments and, ultimately, a cure. I am asking you to keep the momentum going by making a gift today.

Vasculitis is a family affair. It changes the lives of those diagnosed with it, shaping their body, their work, their relationships, their sense of self and meaning. These are profound changes, but they are not theirs alone. When someone you love gets vasculitis, it impacts your world, too.

Take Annaruth and John. They met in high school, and found their way back together six years ago. Strange symptoms had followed Annaruth her whole life, but it wasn’t until the fall of 2021, when she was 32, that her mystery was given a name: Takayasu arteritis (TAK). It upended their world; she went from feeling “kind of ok” to “flat on her back.” Her TAK is stubborn and isn’t responding to treatment.

Today, Annaruth and John rely on communication, his positivity, her pragmatism, a highly developed sense of humor, and keeping things in perspective. They’ve had to reimagine what partnership looks like: when to lean on each other and how much? When to ask for help. Today, John takes on more of the physical tasks, from household chores to helping Annaruth up the stairs to getting her water bottle from another room. Annaruth has learned what contributing to their relationship means for her: she offers love and humor, her fierce commitment as a mother, and support in her own ways.

They also rely on the VF for information and support groups. Annaruth is certain she couldn’t have done this without the support of others living with vasculitis. John says, “It’s lonely over here.” Talking with other care partners has been invaluable. Annaruth attends every webinar she can to gather as much information as possible. In fact, she brought one VF presentation to her doctor to advocate for an updated treatment plan.

The realities of life with vasculitis aren’t always pretty. But there is hope. When we join together, we fuel the future: innovative research, better treatments, earlier diagnosis, and a richer quality of life. The VF is here for people like John and Annaruth. You can be, too.

Please consider investing in the mission of the VF. Every dollar donated is a step towards a better life for someone living with vasculitis and their families. To join us on this journey, please visit: VasculitisFoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Kullman
Executive Director