



FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Tipping the scales in the right direction



Founders Vision Statement



My name is Antonia Namnath and I am a Weight Loss Surgery recipient. Not that long ago I was 303 pounds, suffering from Pickwickian Syndrome, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and starting to lose mobility. I was struggling to find the right solution for myself. My solution was Gastric Bypass, and I have lost over one hundred pounds and I am once again a healthy person enjoying life.

Many people on their Weight Loss Surgery (WLS) path post video blogs on You Tube to document their journey and to support each other. While viewing these videos and creating my own, I connected with hundreds of people in the “WLS Community” and decided to attend an informal Meet & Greet for Weight Loss Surgery patients in Las Vegas.

While attending the Meet & Greet I had an epiphany. There needed to be a Nonprofit Organization by and for the WLS Community to benefit our WLS Community!

Weight Loss Surgery in any form is costly and while some can afford their surgery many do not have that option. Although they are perfect candidates, their insurance denies their claims for many reasons. The WLS community grows by more than 250,000 in the United States each year. The vision to organize our community to raise funds to grant surgery and help people escape the fate of obesity came into focus as I watched our joyful gathering of people who were loving life once again.

On April 26, 2010 the Weight Loss Surgery Foundation was founded.
<http://wlsfa.org>

MEET THE BOARDS

2010 National Board of Directors

As a nonprofit organization, the WLSFA is governed by the authority of a volunteer National Board of Directors. The National Board is responsible as fiduciaries for directing the organization and its activities, setting policy, long-term plans for the association and ensuring that all programs and initiatives are in the interest of the WLS community.

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Amy Burnham, CFO

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Erin Brewster, VP of Events

Nicole Buckley, VP of Communications

Beth Plone, VP of Volunteers

Toni Towe, VP of Programs

Wendy Sims, VP of Fundraising

Lauren Curtis, Secretary

Katiria Rivera, VP of Mental Health Programs

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Life Coach, Founder of the Ryd Foundation

Vic Giaconia

CEO Celbrate Vitamins

Identical Twins | Identical Twins

Inspiration in creating the WLSFA and the need to raise funds for surgery for those denied for financial reasons came from these two women: Rosemary and Connie, identical twin sisters.

Connie and Rosemary both suffered from Morbid Obesity

In 2004 Connie decided with her doctor's advice that she wanted to have Gastric Bypass Surgery. She also suggested the procedure to her twin sister Rosemary. At the time Rosemary and Connie had the same insurance company, different policies. Connie was denied surgery because her policy exempted Weight Loss Surgery. Rosemary was given approval and within one month underwent Gastric Bypass Surgery.

Connie Six Years Later...

Connie weighs three hundred and fifty pounds. She has been turned down for weight loss surgery three more times. She suffers from Type 2 Diabetes, Arthritis, High Blood Pressure and several other health issues related to being morbidly obese. Connie needs to have surgery on both knees due to her weight. She suffers from very limited mobility and exercise is difficult and on some days impossible. Connie has been told she can not have knee surgery because of her weight. Connie is of limited means and paying for the surgery or getting a loan is out of the question.



Connie today: weighs 350 lbs was not able to attend the Las Vegas Meet & Greet because she can not travel on planes because of her weight.

Identical Twin Sisters

One receives Weight Loss Surgery, One is still waiting

Rosemary Six Years Later...

Rosemary is now a post-operative Gastric Bypass patient and weighs 168 pounds. She now maintains a healthy weight and is able to enjoy life fully. She is able to travel, exercise, work, and inspire others.



Rosemary no longer suffers from Type 2 Diabetes and the effects of her arthritis are minimal. She is a vivacious woman who provides support and advice to the WLS community but alone can not give Connie what is necessary.

Rosemary weighs 168 lbs and is enjoying a healthy life.

Connie's Future

The story must not be over for Connie or for the hundreds of other people in similar situations. Luckily, Connie is still with us, still fighting and still hopeful. This heart breaking situation is what coined our catch phrase "Going from Surviving to Thriving." Connie's future will hopefully be living out that catchphrase as WLSFA's first fiscal goal is to raise funds and resources to provide Connie Weight Loss Surgery and a year of follow-up care with a Bariatric Center of Excellence. We will be able to watch these twins become identical once again. The inaugural grant Connie will receive is named the **Alice Neff Grant** in honor of Alice Neff who lost her life in 2007 waiting for Weight Loss Surgery.

The WLSFA released a documentary "Surviving to Thriving" about the twins, it can be viewed at: <http://wlsfa.org/view-surviving-to-thriving/>

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The WLSFA needs your help to reach all of its goals.

About the WLSFA

The WLSFA, a community of Weight Loss Surgery Patients and those affected by obesity that met and connected on the internet via YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites. They came together and realized the WLS community was missing a key avenue of support. The formation of this non-profit organization is to specifically address this unique community and to assist with their very special needs. The Weight Loss Surgery Foundation of America has thousands of web site and social network members. The WLSFA has built a database of hundreds of active volunteers and expects that number to grow ten fold by years end.

Goals

- To grant weight Loss Surgery to people who can not obtain it on their own.
- To grant reconstructive plastic surgery to WLS recipients who can not obtain it on their own.
- Raise awareness and education surrounding Weight Loss Surgery.
- Assist with research to benefit our community.

Upcoming Events

Please check <http://wlsfa.org> for all upcoming WLSFA events.

Help Spread the Word

Find us on Facebook: Weight Loss Surgery Foundation of America

Find us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/wlsfa

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/wlsfa

Our web site: <http://wlsfa.org>

SUPPORT THE WLSFA

We will succeed in helping those effected by obesity with your generous donation.

How can you help the WLSFA?

Become a member of our web site and receive our newsletter

Donate send checks to: WLSFA 417 Mace Blvd., Suite J-236 Davis, CA 95618
-or- at wlsfa.org visit our “Donate” page under the “How to Help” tab

Volunteer: Donate your time, skills and ideas. Host your own fundraiser.

Become a personal sponsor of the WLSFA!

Losers Bench - \$500 - Is a place WLS patients join together for support
» Name Added to the Losers Bench Web Page » One ticket to the Mother of All Meet & Greets» Priority seating at WLSFA events

ONEDERLAND - \$1,000 - A point on the scales WLS patients work hard to reach
» Name Added to the ONEDERLAND Web Page » Two Tickets to the Annual Mother of All Meet & Greets » Priority seating at WLSFA events » Certificate of appreciation » Your name in the Mother of All Meet & Greets Program » Paper Wonder Woman hat and sparkler

Become a Corporate Sponsor of the WLSFA!

Platinum - \$20,000 » Grant named after your company for that years grant cycle » Your company Logo and Banner on the WLSFA web site for two years » Six tickets to the Annual Mother of All Meet & Greets » Priority seating at WLSFA events » Framed Certificate of appreciation presented on stage » Your Company Name and Logo in the Mother of All Meet & Greets Program

Gold - \$15,000 » Your company Logo and Banner on the WLSFA web site for one year » Four Tickets to the Annual Mother of All Meet & Greets » Priority seating at WLSFA events » Framed Certificate of appreciation presented on stage» Your Company Name and Logo in the Mother of All Meet & Greets Program

Silver - \$10,000 » Your company Logo and Banner on the WLSFA web site for one year » Two Tickets to the Annual Mother of All Meet & Greets » Priority seating at WLSFA events » Framed Certificate of appreciation presented on stage » Your Company Name and Logo in the Mother of All Meet & Greets Program

Bronze - \$5,000 » Your company Logo and Banner on the WLSFA web site for one year » Two Tickets to the Annual Mother of All Meet & Greets » Priority seating at WLSFA events » Framed Certificate of appreciation » Your Company Name and Logo in the Mother of All Meet & Greets Program

*The WLSFA is a sponsored program of the BLIS Foundation a 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization.
Your donations are Tax deductible.*



Mission Statement

*Ending obesity by empowering people to move from surviving to thriving through weight loss surgery, education and support. Performing charitable services and supporting research to find solutions to enhance the quality of life in the morbidly obese community.
Helping to raise awareness and funds for surgery.*

Contact the WLSFA

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<http://wlsfa.org>

BLIS FOUNDATION 
PROVIDING FREEDOM FROM OBESITY

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