



People who have circled the sun living their life inside a morbidly obese body know many hard truths. They understand the bias and inequities that exist. They have been at the end of stares, and gawks and direct cruelty, most since childhood.

Often victims of physical, sexual or mental abuse, morbidly obese people long to be accepted, respected and loved like all other human beings. Biases in society, against obesity are strong; The Bias extends to the medical treatment of obesity. People seeking Weight Loss Surgery routinely hide this fact from friends and loved ones. The media often treat the doctors who practice bariatric surgery with less respect than other specialties.

Weight Loss Surgery patients with the success their treatment brings, gain confidence and acceptability in society. Many times they will begin to disclose their treatments to inquiring minds. The new found confidence is the thinnest patina of courage, like the most fragile eggshell it can be destroyed by people under the powerful spell of weight bias.

Not all weight loss surgery patients crumble in the face of bias! Many join together. Thousand have joined together to support our unique community and we are paying it forward.

Weight loss surgery patients working together are the **living testament, proof weight loss surgery works!** We are advocates for the medical treatment of obesity. We are talking in **unison** in the face of Bias and saying publicly and proudly **Weight Loss Surgery Saved Our Lives!** Together we formed the Weight Loss Surgery Foundation of America a 501 (c)3 public charity.

My Name is Antonia Namnath and I am the founder of the WLSFA. In 2009 I became a self pay weight loss surgery patient. My life changed in every way a life can be changed. I regained my health, my dignity and ambition to make a difference in this world. I knew I could not enjoy my happy new fate knowing how many people where without hope, trapped in their morbidly obese bodies. In April of 2010 I founded the WLSFA to help people less fortunate than I escape the cruel fate that morbid obesity brings.

*******SWITCH SLIDE (From Logo to Grant Class)**

The WLSFA is the only charity who's core mission is funding grants for bariatric surgery.

In 2011 we funded 5 surgery grants and we plan to double that number each year. Our class of recipients work as ambassadors to help raise awareness for the WLSFA and the benefits of weight loss surgery as a treatment for morbid obesity.

*****SWTICH SLIDE to Dr. Garth Interview

In an interview with Bariatric TV at the Obesity Help Conference here in Houston Dr. Garth Davis said...

QUOTE SLIDE

“There are charities all over the world for just about every other disease process but one of the biggest disease processes is obesity and there is nothing addressing that so if there is an organization that can address that issue I am behind it”- Dr. Garth Davis Houston Texas on November 13, 2010

How can the one of the largest disease processes not have a major charity to support it?” How can we as patients and physicians and allied health professionals turn the other way knowing how many morbidly obese people are being denied access to the medical treatment they need? How do we change the perception that weight loss surgery is illegitimate, for the money, a fad, the easy way out or even worse?

The answer is **CHARITY !**

Your participation in our foundations network of care illustrates the true importance of Bariatric Surgery, that is not simply about money, it is about saving lives. Compassionate patients, Generous Doctors, Caring Hospitals and Industry Partners are paying it forward.

SWITCH SLIDE to Twins with Garth

Texas has much to be proud of as trend setters in the bariatrics, putting together the first Weight Loss Surgery Summit for patients followed by organizing the first state chapter the Texas Association for Bariatric Surgery. WLSFA is proud of Dr. Garth Davis and Dr. Robert Davis and the Davis Clinic who contributed their time and performed our Inaugural surgery on May 23 of 2011. They allowed our grant recipient a chance to once again become an identical twin to her sister who had weight loss surgery 10 years before. For that we are **forever grateful!**

Become involved in the WLSFA network of care. Become a contributing Surgeon in the OR and with your charitable dollars! Allied Health professionals can encourage their colleges and patients to host a fundraiser for the WLSFA. How could any charity be closer to your heart?

The WLSFA Grants are given to patients you refer!

My job as CEO and Founder of the WLSFA is to demonstrate the value the WLSFA brings to the entire bariatric community both patients and doctors.

We award two types of Grants:

Full Grants: "An Episode of Care" Grants that fund all fees associated to surgery. We work with contributing surgeons who give us their time in the OR and support the patient for one year for minimal charge.

The WLSFA Funds all other fees: Hospital, Testing, Anesthesia, Medication and Complication Insurance even bariatric supplements are paid for. Full grants are awarded much less often one or two per year at this time. Participating surgeons will be asked to contribute once every five years ay most!

These grants are awarded to referred patient via a vigorous grant application process

Partial Grants :

Insurance Deductibles, co pays, suddenly unemployed COBRA Fees to name a few financial obstacles that can end a patient's trip to the OR for an otherwise fully insured and funded surgery.

The WLSFA asks you to refer these problem cases to us. Let us help keep these surgeries on the schedule!

You need a place to send your patients in these situations and you have a place the WLSFA!

We see that as a valuable asset to your practice!

These grants are awarded on a case by cases basis base on available funds

Our grant recipients participate in the process. They must raise part of the funds they request. Work as Ambassadors for the WLSFA and Pay it forward with contributions of time and money as they regain their Health.

We help patients get surgery. We help doctors keep patients.

******* Switch Slide Bill Board**

In Conclusion, the Weight Loss Surgery Foundation of America is today powered by thousands of weight loss surgery patients from across America and really our reach is far greater as we have worked for almost three years to leverage the incredible strength of social media where we host You Tube Channel Vlogs, Web Site Blogs, Face Book Groups and Fan pages and our supporters are themselves community influencers who help us raise funds for grants. As we launch our Chapter Program this month we are building regional Chapters to raise funds for local people in need. It is our goal to have bariatric practices associate to these local WLSFA Chapters.

Together we can save lives one grant at a time! Please join us.

Visit me at our Table and I will be happy to tell you about our Annual Fundraiser The **Mother of All Meet & Greets** Held in Las Vegas each May. Help us by informing your patients about the event, and consider attending yourselves!

Thank you for your time .