



IMPACTFUL...MEMORABLE...INSPIRING...ENTERTAINING....

These are the emotions we know you will experience when you attend the 1st Washington DC metro **Dancing in the Dark** gala dinner to benefit the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB). On Sunday, March 12 at the Hilton McLean. Under the direction of a team of professional dance instructors, guests will be invited to the dance floor and learn how to dance safely and comfortably wearing room darkening eye shades. A challenging task meant to raise awareness about the impact of vision loss and the critical need for funding to move sight saving research forward.

Thirty-two years ago I thought I needed eye glasses because I was having trouble reading the newspaper. Instead I was devastated to learn that I had a degenerative retinal disease, retinitis pigmentosa, and was expected to lose my vision and go blind. As a young mother I could not fathom how I was going to manage. I connected with FFB and learned how their efforts to find cures and treatments for all blinding retinal diseases was helping to restore vision. Driven by passion and dreams of making a difference to others, the FFB No.VA Chapter has raised over \$1.2 million dollars supporting research programs that fund preventions, treatments and cures for the ten million Americans, and millions more throughout the world who are affected.

Age related macular degeneration (AMD) is currently the leading cause of blindness for those over 55; one out of every 30 people are projected to be impacted, AMD is something that touches all of our lives through the people we know and love.

The scientific momentum is great as very promising breakthroughs continue to help move potential treatments out of research labs and into clinical trials. Foundation funded doctors and researchers have achieved success on many fronts, leading more and more individuals to have their sight improved, and, in some cases, restored. We are thrilled by this incredible progress, but there is still much work to be done, and now is the time to do it. Proceeds from the **Dancing in the Dark** event will fund research and accelerate the timeline for cures.

We invite you to become an event sponsor, attend and or donate to what will be an amazing silent auction. It will be an enjoyable, memorable evening that you will never forget. Your generosity has the power to light the darkness for millions of people affected by retinal degenerative diseases.

Please join us on **Sunday, March 12** for a wonderful evening of fine dining, music, dancing and friendship!
Cordially yours,

Davida Luehrs
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