

SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL REQUESTING DONATIONS

Dear _____,

I'd like to tell you about the University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center, an organization that has been of great assistance to my family. (Alternative: that has served over 100,000 people since 2001.) The Center is dedicated to raising diagnosis rates for celiac disease and meeting the critical needs of people with this condition through education, research and advocacy.

What is Celiac Disease?

Celiac disease is an inherited autoimmune disorder that affects the digestive process of the small intestine. When a person who has celiac disease eats gluten, a protein found in wheat, rye and barley, the individual's immune system responds by attacking the small intestine and inhibiting the absorption of important nutrients into the body. Undiagnosed and untreated, celiac disease can lead to the development of other autoimmune disorders, as well as osteoporosis, infertility, neurological conditions and even cancer. Celiac disease affects children and adults, and runs in families

Some Surprising Facts

Alzheimer's disease affects 2 million people in the U.S.— celiac disease affects at least **2.2 million** Americans. It is estimated that 97% of those with celiac disease remain undiagnosed, many of whom suffer from debilitating symptoms.

You may not know someone with celiac disease, but you know someone at risk.

There are over 200 signs and symptoms that increase a person's chances of developing celiac disease, from short stature in children to unexplained infertility in women as well as Down's syndrome and Type 1 Diabetes.

What is the University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center?

The University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center was created in 2001 by Dr. Stefano Guandalini, a leading expert on celiac disease known internationally for his contributions to celiac disease research and patient care. This national organization provides a spectrum of programs and services to educate doctors, identify people at risk and help them receive a diagnosis, and provide support and education to newly diagnosed families. They have one of only two research teams in the world working on important questions related to turning off the immune reaction in people with celiac disease, thereby preventing the intestinal damage that causes illness in people with this condition.

Would you like to learn more about celiac disease? You can call the University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center Information Line at 773-702-7593 or visit www.celiacdisease.net

I'm participating in (NAME OF EVENT), and I'm asking for your support. I'd like to make my participation in this event really count, so I'm asking for your pledges in support of the University of Chicago Celiac Disease Center. **By the time I cross the finish line, I hope to have raised (X) to support the programs and services of this worthy organization. For your convenience, donations can be submitted directly at www.celiacdisease.net**

Thank you so very much for you generosity.