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Central Florida Stroke Club Elects New President

ORLANDO, Fla. (July 8, 2013) – Central Florida Stroke Club (CFSC) members unanimously voted **Valerie Greene**, an internationally recognized stroke survivor, advocate and author, into the position of chapter president. After overcoming grim diagnostic odds, a result of two debilitating strokes that nearly took her life at the young age of 31, Greene became the Founder & CEO of Bcenter; an Orlando based non-profit which provides stroke recovery resources, hope and direction.

“It is an honor and privilege to serve our community as president of this organization, along-side Vice President, Karen Kalich, a Recreation Therapist at Florida Hospital. Together, we know the struggles of recovering from a stroke and how vital it is to have someone and somewhere to turn to during this journey. I am proud to contribute to the life-changing efforts that CFSC established and continues,” said Greene, a resident of Winter Park. “This volunteer leadership role is a true extension of my life’s work – personal and professional – to empower survivors to never give up!”

In honor of the club’s commitment to stroke awareness and prevention, the Scott Coppersmith Stroke Foundation is presenting CFSC with the Hero of the Year Award during its 4th annual Gala to be held on **July 13, 2013 at The Westin in Lake Mary**, Florida. Greene will accept the award on behalf of the Central Florida Stroke Club.

For more than 40 years, the Central Florida Stroke Club, in conjunction with the American Stroke Association and area hospitals, has been a safe place where experiences, expertise and understanding about the potentially life-altering disease are shared, while also educating the community about our nation’s number four killer, including common misconceptions, such as strokes only strike the elderly population. To the contrary, a stroke can occur to individuals of any age, race or gender. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2011, 42,508 Orlando residents and 527,413 Florida residents suffered a stroke.

“We never realized just how many young stroke survivors there are in our community. Our daughter was only 29 when she suffered a massive stroke (two years ago). Having support for her and our family has been so helpful,” stated Diane and Steve Johnston, CFSC members.

Complementary to the clubs efforts to parlay recovery opportunities and information, it is the vision and plan of Greene’s non-profit, Bcenter, to build a world-class stroke recovery facility and retreat in Central Florida to serve survivors and caregivers worldwide. Through the work of the Central Florida Stroke Club and Bcenter (www.Bcenter.com), the local community will have the necessary support and programs essential for stroke survivors and their families to thrive and improve their lives in the aftermath of a stroke.

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About CFSC: Central Floridians have been welcomed with both understanding and open arms to the Central Florida Stroke Club (CFSC) since 1973, when a group of stroke survivors and their caregivers joined to form a support group where through their experience; they can give insights for better ways to deal with stroke and live changes. Our group has grown over 40 years, but its foundation remains the same: A place of understanding, friendship, sharing of knowledge, and acknowledging the importance that smiling and enjoying oneself has in the recovery process.

About the Bcenter: The Bcenter’s mission is to empower, educate and light the path to recovery for stroke survivors and families. We are dedicated to providing treatment resources, hope and direction.