

Rare Disease Day

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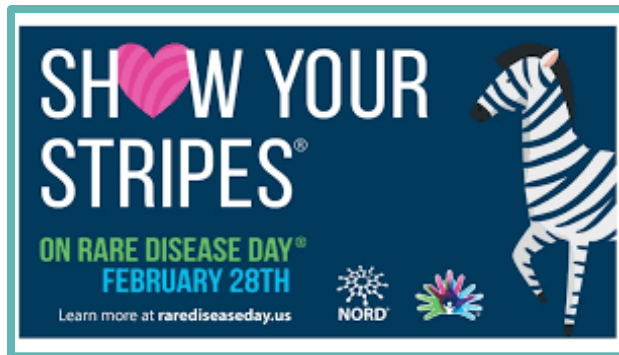
Imagine going to five doctors over four years and receiving three misdiagnoses before your medical condition is diagnosed. Once you have a diagnosis you then find that you are in the third of patients that do not have access to the medicine you need to feel better. According to

www.rarebeacon.org this happens to a lot of individuals with rare diseases. An individual could also find out that there is little research being actively done for their disease, insurance may not pay for treatments and medicines, and specializing doctors could be far from their town or out of the country.



There are over 6,000 rare diseases and include 1 out of 5 cancers and all pediatric cancers, according to www.rarediseaseday.org. Other rare diseases include cat eye syndrome, botulism, smallpox, achondroplasia, Huntington's disease, sickle cell, cystic fibrosis, and rickets.

Every year on February 28, or on February 29 on leap years – the rarest day of the year we celebrate Rare Disease Day. On this day we are advocates for health equity, to raise awareness in the public and with policy makers and to act for our families, friends, and coworkers. What can we do to help? Share stories, host, or attend events to share knowledge, and post on social media to raise awareness. If you know someone with a rare disease, be supportive and check in with them.



A simple thing Vizo Financial employees can do to raise awareness and to share support is to wear striped clothing, in honor of the official symbol, which is a zebra, on February 28, 2023. Share a picture of yourself with culture for the Good News email!

To find an event or for materials to help raise awareness please visit <https://www.rarediseaseday.org/>.

Click the image below to see the inspirational video winner from The Rare Diseases Are Not Rare! Challenge in 2020. This Challenge was led by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences' (NCATS') Division of Rare Diseases Research Innovation in search

of creative ways to raise awareness for all rare diseases, encourage collaborations across the community and highlight the importance of rare diseases research and the need for new treatments.

