

# Speak Out. Get Involved. Inspire Action.

**Advocacy is just one more way you can make a difference for people with CF.  
Inspire your elected officials.**

"The messages of families living with CF are a powerful call to action that resonates in Washington, DC and reminds all of us of the urgent need to find a cure for this devastating disease. As co-chair of the Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus, I can tell you that elected officials need to hear from their constituents dealing with CF so they can understand how you feel and how important this issue is." --**Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus Chair Edward Markey (D-MA)**

In 2011, the Advocacy Committee, led by State Advocacy Chair and CF Patient, Melissa Shiffman, and supported by the staff of Greater NY Chapter of CF Foundation, began to build its advocacy efforts by meeting with several of the 21 Congressional members that represent communities in Long Island, New York City, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange counties. Advocates also met with staffers from both Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Senator Charles Schumer's offices.

During these meetings families put a face to and educated the staffers about cystic fibrosis, asked their representatives to protect health care coverage for cystic fibrosis patients and advocated for other important issues from the Foundation's public policy agenda. Most importantly, these meetings which occurred all over the country resulted in many successes. Please click [CF Advocacy](#) to learn more.



Sahili Sheth and Melissa Shiffman, CF Cousin and CF Patient, outside Repr. Jerrold Nadler's office



John and Theresa McMahon, and Debbie Konner, CF Parents with Sonal Shaw, Repr. Nita Lowey's District Representative.

"Our meeting with Gracey Stoddard in Carolyn Maloney's office was such a positive experience. Like many people, she was unfamiliar with Cystic Fibrosis. Sharing my story was an extremely important step in educating a member of Congress about the various issues that surround CF in a way they can relate to. Ms. Stoddard let us know that Representative Maloney is very devoted to healthcare issues for personal reasons and talked with us for a long time about healthcare, inquiring more about CF and about how their office could help us. Two weeks later, Ms. Stoddard attended the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Scientific Update to learn even more. We can make a difference." -- **Melissa Shiffman, CF Patient**

Other meetings: Rucha Desai, Constituent Liaison Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; Veronica Duron, Senator Charles Schumer

**If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Melissa Shiffman at [cffgnyadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:cffgnyadvocacy@gmail.com).**