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Founder's Service Award

WASHINGTON, DC – March 25, 2011 – In its 25th anniversary year, Genetic Alliance pays tribute to its past and looks forward to the future of genetics and advocacy by honoring Betsy Anderson of Family Voices with the Founder's Service Award.

“Betsy exemplifies the dedication and enthusiasm of Genetic Alliance's founder,” said Sharon Terry, Genetic Alliance president and chief executive officer. “Like Joan, she is the mother of a child with a congenital condition. And like Joan, she has used her passion, intelligence, and talent as an advocate and professional to improve the lives of not just her own children, but all individuals and families with special healthcare needs.”

Anderson's interest in family-professional collaboration is longstanding and well recognized. On the family side, she has three adult children, one of whom was born with spina bifida. Professionally, she directs the Family Voices IMPACT Project, which focuses on maternal and child health policies and programs that promote and improve the health and well-being of all children and families.

She has been active regionally and nationally in areas relating to Bright Futures, healthcare reform, genetics, ethics, Title V, special education, and more. She has written articles for both family magazines and professional journals and has received numerous distinctions, including awards from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration; the New England Regional Genetics Group; Children's Hospital, Boston; and the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

“Genetic Alliance does not offer a Founder's Service Award every year; it is awarded only to individuals who have served patients and families deeply, consistently, and over a long period of time,” said Joan Weiss. “I am excited and honored that this special woman who has made such immense contributions to our community will receive this award.”

The Founder's Service Award will be given at the Awards Dinner, taking place June 25, 2011, during the Genetic Alliance Annual Conference: *25 Years of Innovation*. The conference is part of a [year-long 25th anniversary celebration](#) that also includes a 25th Anniversary Celebration in September as well as salons, webinars, innovator videos, and more. In addition to the Founder's Service Award, Genetic Alliance will honor Art of Advocacy, Art of Listening, and Art of Reporting awardees. For more information and registration for the conference and the Awards Dinner, go to <http://www.geneticalliance.org/conference2011>.

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About Genetic Alliance

Genetic Alliance improves health through the authentic engagement of communities and individuals. In

this, our 25th year, we celebrate innovation on our journey toward novel partnerships, connected consumers, and smart services. For more information about Genetic Alliance, visit <http://www.geneticalliance.org>.