



Morgellons Research Foundation®  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Entertainer Louise Mandrell Joins Morgellons Research Foundation

June 9, 2009 - (Nashville, TN) -Country Music entertainer Louise Mandrell has joined the Board of Directors of The Morgellons Research Foundation® (MRF).

Louise, who has contributed time and resources to a wide range of charitable causes, has offered to support the MRF by raising awareness of Morgellons disease and its effects on afflicted individuals and their families. After two years of ineffective diagnoses and treatments, Louise's husband, John Haywood, was diagnosed via the proposed defining criteria of Morgellons disease developed by the MRF.

Louise and thousands of other MRF registrants and their families continue to express grief about loved ones who have been misunderstood, misdiagnosed and ineffectively treated. Many individuals with this life altering illness are unable to work and may live their lives in partial or complete social isolation awaiting a cure.

Many health professionals continue to mistake Morgellons disease for a psychosomatic disorder, despite numerous laboratory and physical abnormalities including central nervous system, cardiac, pulmonary and kidney effects, and resetting of several autonomic and endocrine control loops.

The illness has been the subject of reports by major news outlets including CNN, NBC, ABC, NPR, The Washington Post, People Magazine and Newsweek as well as local news outlets around the world since the Morgellons label first appeared in 2002. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is also now conducting an epidemiological investigation of the illness.

The MRF encourages the efforts of the CDC and supports as much independent scientific research as possible to identify the cause of the illness, which will hopefully lead to a targeted treatment and cure.

More than thirteen thousand families from all fifty states as well as forty-five nations have voluntarily registered their symptoms with the MRF, suggesting this number represents only a fraction of the true number of families affected by the illness.

For more information about Morgellons disease please visit: <http://www.Morgellons.org/>

#### **About the Morgellons Research Foundation**

The Morgellons Research Foundation® (MRF) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 2002 in honor of a two-year-old child with an unknown illness, which his mother labeled "Morgellons disease". The MRF is dedicated to raising awareness and research funding for this poorly understood illness, which can be disfiguring and disabling, and affects people of all age groups including an increasing number of children.

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