

Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.® (FIRST)
Informal, Personal Letter

Date:

Dear Friends **[insert personal name]**:

As many of you know, our **[insert name and relationship]** was born with a rare, genetic skin disease called ichthyosis. While the diagnosis has helped us to understand the disease, the symptoms are very difficult to deal with.

Ichthyosis is a rare, genetic skin disease characterized by dry, cracked, scaling and thickened skin. Dermatologists estimate that there are at least twenty varieties of ichthyosis, with a wide range of severity and symptoms.

[Insert personal paragraph here, i.e., (Name) has to apply a special cream on his/her skin four times per day, which stings and makes him/her cry every time. (Name) takes two-hour long baths every night to soften the scales, which makes them easier to remove. (Name) has been teased by his/her friends for having different looking skin.]

The good news is that there is hope. **I/We** are part of a national organization called the Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.® (FIRST). This Foundation provides support, advice, guidance, and research into ichthyosis. Through this group of people, we have been able to join other families and influence scientific progress much more rapidly than if we did it alone.

Please help us by giving \$15, \$25, \$50 or more. Kindly make your check payable to the Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.® and mail it directly to the Foundation at PO Box 1067, Lansdale, PA 19446-0687. Your donation will help FIRST continue to conquer this rare disease.

[Name] is so **[use descriptive words such as bright, happy, light-hearted, etc., include a sentence about something they are looking forward to.]** We are blessed to have (name) in our lives and look forward to a bright future.

With our deepest thanks,

Your Name