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# Thousands Join Lundbeck and the Hereditary Disease Foundation to Build Hope for Huntington's Disease

Campaign supports families in Venezuela who made possible groundbreaking Huntington's disease research

DEERFIELD, III. November 14, 2012 - Today, Lundbeck announced the results of its third annual *Build Hope for HD* campaign, benefitting the Casa Hogar Amor y Fe (House of Love and Hope), a unique clinic that provides care for people affected by Huntington's disease (HD). *Build Hope for HD*, which launched on August 1, 2012, consisted of an online awareness campaign that included an opportunity to click, triggering a donation on <u>BuildHopeforHD.com</u>. Participation from thousands in the HD community and beyond helped spread awareness about this important cause, and resulted in Lundbeck making a donation of \$50,000 to the clinic. These funds will allow the clinic to continue to provide treatment, food and medical care to thousands of family members with HD who live along the shores of Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela.

"The support from Lundbeck and the HD community allow the Casa Hogar to continue to provide treatment and care to thousands of people affected by HD living around Lake Maracaibo," said Dr. Nancy Wexler, President of the Hereditary Disease Foundation (HDF) and Higgins Professor of Neuropsychology, Columbia University. "These families are living in extreme circumstances of poverty and duress, and the support from *Build Hope* helps provide them with basic medical necessities."

Opened in 1999,<sup>1</sup> the clinic was built in gratitude to the families whose help was critical to researchers who identified the HD gene in 1983 and isolated it in 1993.<sup>2,3</sup> The clinic is now home to over 65 people and provides care and food to many more from the surrounding community. For more than a decade, HDF has continued to support the costs of medicine, supplies, salaries and other expenses at this unique clinic.

This year marks Lundbeck's third year of support for the clinic, which supports a community that has played such a pivotal role in the scientific understanding of Huntington's disease. In total, the *Build Hope* campaigns have resulted in \$220,000 in donations from Lundbeck, and funds have been used to renovate and update the clinic's facilities, purchase new hospital equipment and assist in the general day-to-day operations of the facility.

"We are inspired by the unwavering dedication of HDF and the Casa Hogar clinic to bring urgently needed care and support to these families living with HD," said Staffan Schüberg, president of Lundbeck in the U.S. "We look forward to continuing our support of important initiatives that assist the HD community."

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# About Huntington's Disease

Huntington's disease is a hereditary neurodegenerative disease characterized by a triad of progressive motor, cognitive and emotional symptoms.<sup>4</sup> These symptoms vary from person to person. The survival time after the onset of symptoms can range from 10 to 30 years<sup>5</sup> and currently there is no cure.<sup>5</sup> The HD gene, whose mutation results in the disease, was localized in 1983 and isolated in 1993.<sup>2,3</sup>

### About the Hereditary Disease Foundation

The Hereditary Disease Foundation aims to cure Huntington's disease by supporting research aimed at developing new treatments and cures. HDF was started by Dr. Milton Wexler in 1968 when his wife was diagnosed with Huntington's disease. The Foundation uses a variety of strategies – workshops, grants, fellowships, and targeted research contracts – to solve the mysteries of genetic disease and develop new treatments and cures. HDF initiated the International-Venezuela Huntington's Disease Collaborative Research Project and played a key role in the discovery of the HD gene, which was localized in 1983 and isolated in 1993.<sup>2,3</sup> For more information, visit <u>www.hdfoundation.org</u>.

# About Lundbeck in the U.S.

Lundbeck in the U.S., headquartered in Deerfield, Illinois, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of H. Lundbeck A/S in Denmark. Lundbeck is committed to accelerating our work in central nervous system (CNS) disorders such as Huntington's disease, for which few, if any effective treatment options are available. In 2010, Lundbeck initiated the HD Research Initiative to identify and ultimately commercialize therapies that may slow or halt the progression of the Huntington's disease. This research is driven by collaborations with academic institutions and companies with promising compounds in development. For more information, visit <u>www.lundbeckus.com</u>.

### About Lundbeck

H. Lundbeck A/S (LUN.CO, LUN DC, HLUKY) is an international pharmaceutical company committed to improving the quality of life for people suffering from psychiatric and neurological disorders. For this purpose, Lundbeck is engaged in the research, development, production, marketing and sale of pharmaceuticals across the world. The company's products are targeted at disorders such as depression and anxiety, schizophrenia, epilepsy, Huntington's, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Lundbeck was founded in 1915 by Hans Lundbeck in Copenhagen, Denmark. Today Lundbeck employs approximately 6,000 people worldwide. Lundbeck is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies working with brain disorders. In 2011, the company's revenue was DKK 16.0 billion (approximately EUR 2.2 billion or USD 3.0 billion). For more information, please visit <u>www.lundbeck.com</u>.

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Sources

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