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Charlie Lustman
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P.O. Box 791988
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September 13, 2011

Dear Charlie,

I am writing to personally say **THANK YOU** for making the trip to Chicago and to Rush University to share your Musical HOPE Campaign at the Rush University Cancer Survivors Day event which was held on September 11th 2011. I am still experiencing the emotional high from your visit and as the chair of the Rush University Cancer Survivor's Day committee have to say your Keynote performance truly emulated our theme "*Not just surviving but Thriving*" making the whole day a true celebration of life.

The Rush Cancer Survivors Day Celebration truly was a celebration of our patients and we were honored to have you share your message of hope and survivorship to the approximately 250-300 cancer survivors and their families in attendance. These survivors are at various places on the survivorship continuum from active treatment to months or years cancer free.

You are an **AMAZING** keynote and you brought a phenomenal energy to our event. The result, as many of the patients and volunteers in attendance told me at the end, "This was the most unbelievable Cancer Survivor celebrations." Medical professionals in attendance told me simply how inspirational your message to patients was and that this was one of the best celebrations in the history of the Rush University Cancer Survivors Day event. Charlie, you will be remembered by patients, family members and the members of the cancer center who volunteered for the event for a long time. In fact, even this morning as I passed a Physician's Assistant Jennifer in the hall she commented that everyone was telling her how truly wonderful the survivors day event was this year. You are a true gift to the musical community and to the world. You have an ability to reach out, touch, and emotionally connect with people in a way that infuses hope and inspiration.

Watching you perform was an incredible experience as you instill energy in the room that had people on their feet and truly engaged in your enthusiasm and joy in living. I watched as the survivors in the room laughed and connected with you and your message about your own cancer journey, from diagnosis and treatment and into survivorship. I listened as one after another approached afterward

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sharing how much your message touched them in a very personal way that they won't forget. What speaks volumes was how inspirational your message was to one of the radiation oncologists in attendance and clearly appreciated how deeply you are able to connect with patients and survivors

I was moved to see the survivors and families on the edge of their seats as they listened to you sing "The Call" and "Made Me Nuclear." Charlie, you brought hope, inspiration, words of encouragement and love to the event like no other could do ... In fact, I smiled when I heard a prior keynote speaker after the event introduce herself and say, "You blew my keynote from 2 years ago out of the water."

Additional comments from patients and providers in attendance at the event include:

"Thank you for the amazing keynote ... his message was phenomenal and touched me deeply" T. Moore family member of cancer survivor

"Charlie has a true talent ... he touched me by his message of hope." Cancer patient's spouse and Rush Cancer Committee member.

"Thank you for a fantastic Cancer Survivors Day event ... he was amazing." Dr. Parameswaran Venugopal, MD; Associate Director of Division of Hematology and oncology and hematologist

"This was the best event ever." Cancer patient in attendance.

I have to tell you that your visit to Rush University was a true gift to our patients and staff. You went above and beyond when you came to Rush 3 days prior to the event and spent the entire day tirelessly meeting, talking to, and singing to patients, health care providers, and the staff in our outpatient cancer center, in our pediatric outpatient infusion center, on the inpatient hematology/oncology units and our inpatient pediatric unit. In fact, Diana who works in the outpatient infusion center said "the patients absolutely loved his visit."

It meant so much that you were graciously willing to meet individually with patients going room to room and sharing your own personal cancer journey. What a powerful connection you made sharing your experience with a life changing diagnosis of cancer and your experience not only as a patient but now as a cancer survivor and how you focus each and every day you are on the planet on THRIVING!!!

YOU embrace and really live our motto, don't just survive, THRIVE! Watching you sing and dance and the joy you brought to our patients and staff brought tears

to many eyes including my own. Most importantly, you left everyone with the feeling that they truly are survivors.

Thank you again for sharing your time, energy and *joie de vivre* to bring your musical hope campaign to Chicago and especially to the Rush University Cancer Community. Rush University truly benefitted from your amazing musical talents instilling in our cancer survivors not only the encouragement to survive, but to truly THRIVE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janine E. Gauthier, PhD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

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