

Professional Drummer and Lupus Advocate Dion Langley, who initially was ashamed to reveal his diagnosis. "For three years after I was diagnosed with lupus, I didn't share it with anyone. I wasn't mentally prepared to face my masculinity being questioned: 'How did he end up with a women's disease?'

"When I was finally able to open up and share with my family, their support was an eye-opening experience and helped me realize there are so many people struggling the way I was, and they, too, could be feeling like they are alone in this fight.

"I didn't want to limit myself to just my community: so with some deep prayer and motivation, I decided to use my career as a professional drummer as a nationwide avenue to promote something that I am been passionate about.

Dion established **#BeatLupus** as a place where people affected by Lupus can meet in person to provide every individual with emotional support, practical advice for living with Lupus and information about treatment and management strategies.

"I initially began wearing the #BeatLupus t-shirts as motivation to myself and posting pictures on my social media pages as encouragement to all living with Lupus, especially men. Instantly I started receiving so much positive feedback for opening up about my challenges with Lupus. I was able to connect with so many different people from all over because being a drummer allows me to travel to various places throughout the world. I figured why not do something positive with this platform and make a real impact on others."