



2021 RARE IMPACT AWARD ✨ HONOREE

KAM

REDLAWSK



Kam Redlawsk is an industrial designer, artist, and writer living with GNE Myopathy (GNEM), a rare and progressive genetic muscle debilitating disorder. This disease has led to her being wheelchair-bound for the past six years and eventually will result in quadriplegia. She has dedicated the past 10 years to raising awareness and, despite chronic pain and debilitating fatigue, she pushes forward using her experiences to further her message that life is what we make it and together, we must live more.

When Kam came to California in 2007 for her design career, she met two brothers who shared her diagnosis and had started their own non-profit for GNEM research. True to her personality, she saw help was needed and volunteered; her pro bono design work for the nonprofit was key in raising awareness for this rare disease. As the first GNEM patient blogger, her design campaign for the nonprofit was about broadening the audience by encouraging other patients

to share their stories. Kam has helped spread the word and today there are GNEM groups worldwide including in Korea, Japan, India, and the UK, with patients representing all ethnicities engaged and sharing their stories.

Her impact goes beyond the GNEM community. She has shared her struggles and triumphs generously and honestly with her followers. From the cover of the LA Times to art galleries featuring her work and international television; her work and advocacy have had an impact. Kam shares her wheelchair travels to inspire both able and disabled individuals to understand that there are ways to creatively overcome our everyday challenges.

NORD is honored to present Kam Redlawsk with a 2021 Rare Impact Award.