What is ALS?

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, (commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease), is a progressive, fatal neuromuscular disease. ALS attacks the part of the nervous system that controls voluntary muscle movement. The nerve cells that control muscle cells are gradually lost.

ALS ultimately robs those affected of every physical activity. This debilitating disease can make every breath a struggle. The harshest reality of the disease is the patient’s consciousness of its progression. The victims virtually become prisoners in their own bodies.

Despite years of research, the cause of ALS has yet to be determined, making the search for a cure all that more difficult.

Did you know...

- New York Yankees superstar Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with ALS in 1939. He died two years later at age 38.
- Every day, 15 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS.
- Every year, over 5,000 people are diagnosed, and there are currently 30,000 families in the U.S. living with a loved one battling ALS.
- The life expectancy of an ALS patient averages two to five years after diagnosis.
- Approximately 90% of new ALS cases are sporadic, meaning there is no family history of the disease.
- Between 5% and 10% of people with ALS have an inherited form of the disease.
- The estimated annual cost to care for an ALS patient is $250,000.

The A.L.S. Charitable Foundation, Inc. is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to provide patient services for those suffering from ALS TODAY, and to support cutting edge research to cure ALS in the future.

A L.S. Family Charitable Foundation
A Resource for New England Area Patients and Families Living with Lou Gehrig’s Disease

HOPE for TOMORROW
STRENGTH for TODAY

Signature Event

CLIFF WALK FOR A.L.S.

Sponsored by Superior Rail & Iron Works, Inc.

The “Cliff Walk” is held every September in loving memory of Cliff Jordan, Jr., Edward J. Sciaba, Sr. and Janice Ferrara. Joined by the Ferrara family, our co-founders Donna and Mary Ann continued the fundraising Walk that Cliff Jordan began, and from that seed, our Foundation was formed and our Family grew.

In addition to the “Cliff Walk”, we hold several events throughout the year and encourage you to check our website and social media pages to learn more.

We welcome your participation and would be honored to have you attend a golf outing, beach party, poker tournament or any of the fun events we have planned.

Funds raised will help hundreds of families touched by ALS.
Who We Help
Our programs are open to New England Area residents living with ALS and their families.
Our dedicated Patient Services Coordinator, Debbie Bell, works with families throughout New England to help them navigate the financial and emotional burdens of living with ALS.
In addition to our family programs, we support research to cure ALS in the future through the ALS Therapy Development Institute.
If you or someone you know has been diagnosed with ALS and lives in New England, please contact us at 508.759.9696 or email alsfamily@aol.com.

Who We Are
The A.L.S. Family Charitable Foundation is dedicated to the care of patients and families affected by ALS today and finding a cure for ALS in the future.
The Organization was founded in 2001 by Donna Jordan and Mary Ann (Sciaba) Singersen whose families were forever changed by this terrible disease.
Donna lost her brother, Cliff and Mary Ann lost her father, Edward. Both women watched helplessly as their loved ones bravely faced the loss of their health, independence and financial security. And in turn, witnessing the suffering of everyone else around them, they learned that when one member of a family has ALS, the entire family lives with it.

We created a place to turn to, a place that offers support in a way that ALS families really need.
We help keep the lights and heat on; we help send children of our patients to college; we help families take what often times is their last vacation together to make some wonderful memories; we take away the fear of not having the resources to make the holidays joyous and back to school shopping fun; we make sure that caregivers are able to take time to take care of themselves, and so much more.

When your family is touched by ALS, you become a part of our family. Over the years we have watched our families come and go, each new diagnosis strengthening our resolve and commitment to our motto, “Until there is a cure, there is the A.L.S. Family Charitable Foundation.”

“We created a place to turn to, a place that offers support in a way that ALS families really need.”