



Facts About The ALS Association

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ABOUT THE ALS ASSOCIATION

The ALS Association (ALSA) is the only national not-for-profit health agency dedicated solely to the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). ALSA covers all the bases—research, patient and community services, public education, and advocacy—in providing help and hope to those facing the disease. The mission of ALSA is to find a cure for and improve living with ALS.

WHAT WE DO

Research—The ALS Association is the largest private source of funding for ALS-specific research in the world.

- In May 2000, ALSA launched an aggressive new initiative to rapidly accelerate the search for a cure for ALS—*The Lou Gehrig Challenge: Cure ALS*. The program, which has a fundraising goal of \$25 million, was established to recruit outstanding investigators, identify the most promising direction in ALS research and develop new ALS therapies.
- Each year, ALSA awards **millions of dollars to research projects** seeking to identify the cause, means of prevention and cure for ALS, as well as to improve quality of life for people with ALS.
- ALSA regularly convenes **scientific workshops** to examine new trends in ALS research.

Patient and Community Services—ALSA helps patients and families cope with the day-to-day challenges of living with ALS by providing information, resources and referrals to many sources, including a wide variety of community services.

- ALSA's **38 Chapters** provide localized patient and family support in communities across the country.
- Each month, ALSA's **National Office** serves more than 1,200 ALS patients and their families.
- The nationwide network of **19 certified ALSA Centers** provides state-of-the-art, multidisciplinary ALS care and services in a supportive atmosphere with an emphasis on hope and quality of life.

Public Education and Awareness—Through public outreach, ALSA continually raises awareness about ALS and the search for a cure.

- ALSA's **web site**, www.alsa.org, and **quarterly newsletter**, *LINK*, serve as vital sources of information for those battling ALS and for people looking for the latest news and information about the disease.
- To help raise awareness of ALS among the general public, ALSA created "**Lou's Team**", a group of sports legends and celebrities committed to helping persons with ALS. Lou's Team was established in honor of baseball legend Lou Gehrig who died of ALS.

Advocacy—The ALSA network plays a lead role in advocacy for increased public and private support of ALS research and health care reform that responds to the demands imposed by ALS.

- Every May, ALSA leads a contingent of ALS patients, advocates and caregivers to Capitol Hill for **ALS Advocacy Day**. In 2002, more than 600 people visited Washington, DC, to raise awareness of ALS.
- ALSA monitors and provides its national **grassroots network** of passionate volunteers with the information and support needed to keep healthcare professionals, the biotech community, the media and lawmakers abreast of challenges, as well as opportunities, in the ongoing fight against the disease.

For more information about ALS and the work of The ALS Association, please visit www.alsa.org or contact Curt Flood, Vice President, Communications, at 818/880-9007, extension 220.