

A Ride for 3 Reasons

In the winter of 2000, Bob began preparing for “A Ride with a Reason,” his first cross-country bicycle ride, which took 65 days and covered 3,256 miles. At that time, Bob contacted the Les Turner ALS Foundation to identify ways that his ride could help the ALS community.

Instantly, a relationship between Bob and the Foundation was formed, and the relationship has continued to grow throughout the years. In 2002, Bob became a member of the Board of Directors of the Les Turner ALS Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

During his first ride, we helped give him a proper send-off, followed his travels with great enthusiasm and interest, and met him in Washington, DC, to give him both moral and physical support. In his inaugural ride, Bob raised thousands of dollars for ALS research and hospice programs.

Now, nearly six years later, Bob is organizing one the most ambitious adventures of his life, and we are honored and thrilled to be a beneficiary of his efforts once again. The funds we receive through “A Ride for 3 Reasons” will be restricted for ALS research.

As “A Ride for 3 Reasons” approaches, we are proud of Bob’s enthusiasm, spirit and dedication to those whose health is affected by ALS and cancer. His respect for hospice is unchallenged.

ALS is a progressive neuromuscular disease that takes a quick toll on patients, often beginning with muscle weakness or cramping and ultimately leading to paralysis and death. As a person’s body deteriorates, the mind usually remains unaffected. Most ALS patients die within three to five years of first experiencing symptoms.

Through scientific research, we have learned about the progression of ALS and the genetic component of this disease. These are extremely important scientific discoveries, but a treatment and cure are yet to be found. ALS diagnoses are made everyday, with nearly 5,600 new cases each year. Continued funding of research is essential to finding a cure for ALS.

Established in 1977, the Les Turner ALS Foundation is one of the nation’s preeminent organizations dedicated to raising funds for the treatment and elimination of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), better known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Affiliated with Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, the Foundation funds both the Lois Insolia ALS Center and world class scientific research. In addition, the Foundation provides patient service programs, including support group meetings; professional in-home consultation services; communications and durable medical equipment programs; respite care grants; and many educational programs.

THANK YOU, BOB. You are indeed a very special person. Everyone at the Les Turner ALS Foundation sends their best wishes and prayers for a successful and safe journey. We will be rooting you.

Wendy Abrams
Executive Director