

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Interview opportunities with patients,
families, and Chapter staff**

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**Step Up & Walk to Defeat ALS®
Sunday, September 24 – Day Air Ballpark**

People Living with Lou Gehrig's Disease Need All of Us to Step Up to Help

September 20, 2023 DAYTON, OH – Hundreds of local residents will lace up their shoes on Sunday, September 24 to participate in the annual **Walk to Defeat ALS®!** The event is the premier fundraiser for The ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter, generating most of the revenue that provides FREE services to people living with ALS and their families in 55 counties across Ohio.

The public is invited to join people with ALS and their families at the Walk to raise the money for essential local services and to continue to raise the profile of Lou Gehrig's Disease. Team spirit will be widely visible, with participants sporting their own customized team shirts and carrying signs to demonstrate their support, honor loved ones, and remember those who have passed away.

EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Sunday, September 24

LOCATION: Day Air Ballpark

REGISTRATION & ACTIVITIES BEGIN: 9:30 AM

OPENING REMARKS: 10:45 AM

WALK BEGINS: 11:00 AM

DISTANCE: 1-2 miles – or just sit, visit, and have fun with your family and friends

“The number of people we serve has grown by 40% in the last five years. Generous individuals and businesses help us achieve our goal each year to cover the cost of services,” explains Executive Director Marlin Seymour. “We’re asking everyone, especially those who have participated in years past and know the needs of families with ALS, to connect and donate to the Walk.”

The Chapter holds Walks each year in Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton. Funds raised are used to provide free services not available anywhere else including one-on-one case management by licensed healthcare professionals, loaned medical equipment, education & exchange groups, and financial grants. In addition, the Chapter advocates at state and federal levels on behalf of ALS patients, and supports research to find a cause and cure for ALS. All of these services and activities are provided free of charge to patients and their families and caregivers.

This year's sponsors of the Walks include The HoneyBaked Ham Co., OhioHealth, OSU Wexner Medical Center, Caesar Creek Software, NetJets, Denier, DeVol Design Build Remodel, Faith Financial Advisors, Boyd's Tires & Service, Touching Hearts at Home, and many more.

“We’re so grateful to all of our Walk Team Captains, Walk participants and others who donate to help us achieve our goals; their support truly does make a difference for ALS patients,” Seymour noted.

About ALS

Every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS, and every 90 minutes someone loses their battle to this fatal disease. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. The disease robs people of the ability to walk, to talk and even blink an eye. It traps them inside a body they no longer can control and ultimately prevents them from breathing as it takes their life. People with ALS lose the power to use their legs, hold someone close, and simply say, "I love you," before their bodies gradually shut down. There is no known cause or cure for the disease, although military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS as the general population.

Our Mission

To discover treatments and a cure for ALS, to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest.

About The ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter

Formed in 1983, The ALS Association Central & Southern Ohio Chapter serves patients and families in 55 counties. The chapter provides services to the ALS community, promotes awareness of the disease, raises funds for chapter programs, and advocates at state and federal levels on behalf of ALS patients.

Patient services offered through the chapter include one-on-one case management and with licensed healthcare professionals, an equipment lending program, monthly support groups, informational newsletters, referral sources, and financial assistance.

These services are provided free of charge thanks to generous donations from individuals, businesses and foundations in the community.

To learn more about the **Walk to Defeat ALS** and the Chapter's programs, contact the chapter office at 614-273-2572 or visit ALSohio.org.

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