The inaugural Oklahoma ALS Boot Camp took place at Emmaus Baptist Church on Saturday Aug 17th in Oklahoma City. 107 pALS, caregivers, family members, vendors/presenters, volunteers and staff attended as well as a therapeutic pony named Dolly, who truly made everyone smile. It was a remarkable day and we are incredibly grateful for all who made the effort to come, those who shared their wisdom and expertise as well as those who kept everything running smoothly and efficiently.

The goal of “bootcamp” was to provide a hands-on experience for all of those attending, allowing for the opportunity to gather more information and resources which would in turn help as those who are living with ALS, navigate this journey. With 19 different booths for pALS and their families to visit, the vendors/presenters provided wisdom and expertise in their specific specialty and discipline areas. We are most appreciative to all of those who shared their weekend to help in this endeavor.

Ultimately, we would like for any individual and their family who has been newly diagnosed to have the opportunity to attend a bootcamp where they can gather additional ideas, information and tools.

Watching pALS, caregivers and family members meet each other, interact and share support was truly wonderful. Sharing the bootcamp experience with the children of ALS patients who were able to learn, explore, and develop confidence was special as well. And, experiencing the joy as the KIDS participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge for their parent, grandparent, or loved one was quite a moment for all; it was moving, poignant and powerful.

We thank everyone who helped make this day a reality and look forward to the next time!

Our goal now, is to emulate this bootcamp experience every four months in differing locations throughout Oklahoma. We plan to have our next Boot Camp in the Tulsa area after the first of the year.

Oklahoma
There are still Care Services grants available for individuals to apply for which will provide financial assistance for this year.

These reimbursable grants can be used to help with many things including: caregiving expenses, home renovation, traveling expenses associated with medical treatment or other medical needs related to ALS. To date, we have awarded over $12,000 to help our pALS and their families here in Oklahoma.

We are thrilled to be able to offer this program to help alleviate some of the financial burden we know that is incurred.

“Knowing there are funds available through the Care Grant program has been crucial as we navigate the variety of expenses associated with ALS. We are grateful for this program.”

Please contact JoCarolyn for an application and more information at jchambers@alsa-national.org.

For the latest news and happenings in the ALS community in Oklahoma, follow us on Facebook: @ALSAOklahoma and Twitter: @ALSOklahoma.
We are now also on Instagram! @alsaoklahoma

WHAT’S NEW?

During the past three months, we have started two new groups in Oklahoma for spouses, caregivers, family and friends who share grief and pain due to the loss of a loved one to ALS. It is an opportunity to connect, give and take wisdom, as well as find support and inspiration. Healthy strategies and ways to walk through the healing process are discussed and those attending are able to support and lift each other up. These groups are currently meeting in the Oklahoma City area as well as Tulsa. For more information, contact JoCarolyn Chambers, Care Services Manager at jchambers@alsa-national.org
WALK DETAILS

Oklahoma City Metro: Join us on Sunday, October 20th at the South Oval on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. Registration/Check-In will begin at noon and the Walk will begin at 1:30 pm.

Tulsa: Join us on Saturday, October 26th as Guthrie Green will once again play host to our fifth annual Walk. Registration/Check-In will begin at 1:00 pm and the Walk will begin at 2:30 pm.

TEAM WEEK

Team Week is scheduled for September 30 - October 6 for both Walks. There will be a new challenge each day with the opportunity to win prizes such as restaurant gift certificates, a Walk to Defeat fleece blanket, and more. The team who raises the most funds during Team Week, for both the Tulsa and Oklahoma City Metro Walks, will win a Team Tent for Walk Day!

Watch your email inbox for all details related to both Walks. There’s still plenty of time to sign up: web.alsa.org/tulsa or web.alsa.org/oklahomacity. Join us as we continue to change the fight against ALS! If you have any questions, email Manager of Events, Sharon Catalano at scatalano@alsa-national.org.

JANE CALMES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Earlier this year The ALS Association launched the Jane Calmes Scholarship Fund. The fund was established by Mark Calmes, vice-chair of The ALS Association National Board of Trustees, in honor of his wife Jane, who lived with ALS for eight years until her passing in August 2017. In August, $225,000 in scholarships was awarded to 45 inaugural recipients of the Jane Calmes ALS Scholarship Fund. The Fund provides financial support to students impacted by ALS.

Two Oklahomans were named recipients of the scholarship. Maddy Wall, attending New York University and XXX McCullough in his second year studying electrical engineering, will receive $2,500 each semester and the awards are renewable for up to three years or until a bachelor’s degree is earned or graduation is achieved. In her studies, Maddy honors her mom Angie, who lost her ALS fight in November 2018 and XXX’s mom, TroyAnn is his hero and currently living with ALS.

For additional details and guidelines for applying next school year, please visit alsa.org/CalmesScholarshipFund.
Upcoming Events!

OCTOBER 10: KENDRA SCOTT GIVES BACK EVENT
Join us at Kendra Scott in Utica Square (Tulsa) for a fun evening of Shopping for a Cause. Enjoy sips, sweet and jewels from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. If you can’t make the event, call them to place an order 918.770.8303.

OCTOBER 20: OKLAHOMA CITY METRO WALK TO DEFEAT ALS® AT THE SOUTH OVAL, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Visit web.alsa.org/oklahomacity to sign up or volunteer.

OCTOBER 26: TULSA WALK TO DEFEAT ALS® AT GUTHRIE GREEN
Visit web.alsa.org/tulsa to sign up or volunteer.

NOVEMBER 13: OKLAHOMA CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE
Learn how to recharge, connect with other caregivers and more at this one day event. 8:30 am - 2:30 pm at Metro Technology Centers, OKC. Register at okcaregivers2019.eventbrite.com.

NOVEMBER: NATIONAL CAREGIVERS MONTH, VETERAN’S DAY
Many of our upcoming activities rely on volunteers to help them run smoothly. Please contact us at to learn more about how you can help plan and execute these events!