Webster’s dictionary defines momentum as:

“The impetus gained by a moving object, the driving force gained by the development of a process or course of events.”

The ALS Association Oklahoma service area experienced a number of changes in 2018, including new staff in both care services and fund development/events and the addition of a second Walk to Defeat ALS® in the state. Our staff used a lot of momentum to finish 2018 strong and propel us forward into the new year!

We are strategically planning activities for the year ahead to best serve those living with ALS, their family members and caregivers.

We are promoting community awareness of ALS by participating in symposiums, talking with your legislators at both the state and national levels, enhancing our collaboration efforts with organizations such as the Veteran’s Administration/Paralyzed Veteran’s Administration and developing a Boot Camp Program to be put on later this year, with a focus on caregivers.

We are also in the process of planning “A Night at the Ballpark” with both the Tulsa Drillers and Oklahoma City Dodgers. We are increasing our advocacy efforts both nationally and statewide and we want - AND NEED - your participation!

We are excited about where we are going, and with your help and ideas, our momentum will continue to push us forward for everyone affected by ALS in our communities.
The Oklahoma Service Area Care Grant Program is available to anyone living in Oklahoma who has ALS and could use financial assistance in any of the following areas: caregiver respite, home health and personal care, transportation, insurance co-pays, durable medical equipment (DME) and assistive technology equipment, and home and automobile modification.

During the fiscal year 2018/2019, we were pleased to be able to award 14 Care Grants to individuals throughout the state. We are thrilled to announce that during the 2019/2020 fiscal year, we will be able to again provide awards in increments of $500 each. These Care Grants are available on a first come, first served basis, and require the completion of a brief application along with a diagnosis verification.

We are here for those living with ALS and their families and caregivers, and provide support in any way that we can. If you would like more information, or to apply for the Oklahoma Service Area Care Grant, please contact JoCarolyn Chambers, Care Services Manager, by phone at 800-269-1451, or by email 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

DID YOU KNOW....

The National ALS Registry is the only population-based registry in the U.S. that collects information to help scientists learn more about who gets ALS and its causes. The goal of the registry is to collect information that can be used to estimate the number of new cases of ALS that will be found each year. The information is being used to estimate the number of people who have ALS at a specific point in time. Registry information is also being used to better understand who gets ALS and what factors affect the disease. The information also may be used to improve how the disease is managed and how standards of care are developed and ultimately may help scientists and doctors find a treatment and possibly a cure for the disease.

The ALS Association Oklahoma has a Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet, with items to loan to our pALS as needed. Items include shower seats, tub buddies, power wheelchairs and wheelchair batteries and more. We are grateful to National Seating and Mobility for partnering with us and housing items until they are needed. Contact JoCarolyn Chambers at jchambers@alsa-national.org if you have a need or wish to donate.
The Fourth Annual Tulsa Walk to Defeat ALS® on October 13, 2018, brought much joy, celebration, and cold rain. While the weather didn’t cooperate as we had hoped, more than 250 people braved the temps and helped raise awareness of ALS.

The South Oval on the campus of the University of Oklahoma is where we held the First Annual Oklahoma City Metro Walk to Defeat ALS® on Sunday, November 11, 2018. Close to 200 people joined us on a cold and blustery day. Like in Tulsa, the weather didn’t slow us down! We can’t wait to see how this event will, like the Tulsa Walk, continue to grow. Thank you to everyone who supported, donated and walked!
As we look ahead throughout 2019, we are planning a variety of opportunities to help support Oklahomans who are living with ALS, as well as their families and caregivers.

**MAY: ALS AWARENESS MONTH**
We are working with the Tulsa Drillers and Oklahoma City Dodgers for a Night at the Ballpark honoring those living with ALS.

**JULY: CAREGIVER BOOTCAMP**

**FALL (SEPT/OCT): WALK TO DEFEAT ALS® TULSA & WALK TO DEFEAT ALS® OKLAHOMA CITY**
Visit www.WalkToDefeatALS.org to sign up or volunteer.

**NOVEMBER: NATIONAL CAREGIVER 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!*