



## For Strength, Independence & Life

ALS takes away the freedom to walk, to talk, to run and dance. To laugh, to hug. To eat. To breathe. MDA fights to give those freedoms back – to give people a lifetime to live unlimited.



MDA takes a big-picture perspective across neuromuscular diseases to uncover breakthroughs that will accelerate treatments and cures.



In 2016, MDA supported **34 ALS grants**, with a total commitment of more than **\$9 million**



Over the last **5 years** MDA spent nearly **\$29 million** on **ALS research**



MDA's **Conference Series** brings together the world's top **researchers** and **clinicians** to share ideas and updates.



MDA provides highly specialized care and access to promising clinical trials at MDA Care Centers across the United States and Puerto Rico.

More than **12,000** Individuals with ALS have access to **MDA ALS Care Centers**

Nearly **50** Designated MDA ALS Care Centers

**150** MDA Care Centers



MDA's **Neuromuscular Disease Registry** helps improve care, quality of life and research



MDA empowers ALS families with services and support in hometowns across America.



MDA advocates for **public policies** that impact **therapy development**



MDA offers **ALS support groups** for people with ALS, their caregivers and children



MDA makes available much-needed durable **medical equipment**

Since 1950, **MDA** has invested more than **\$363 million** in **ALS research** and support services.

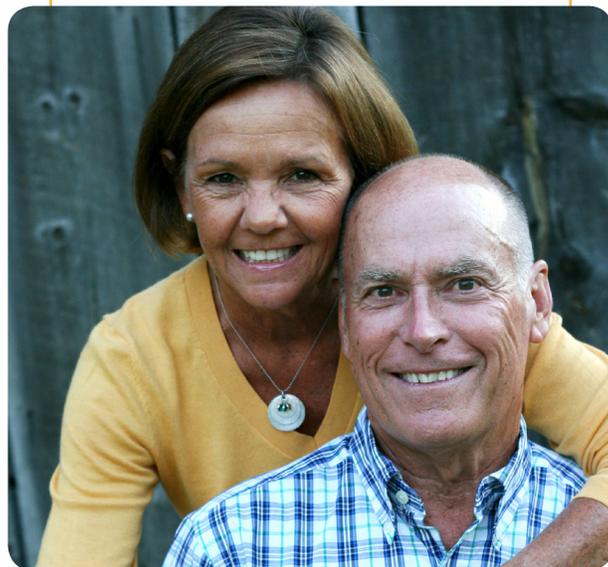


*Because of MDA we have hope for ALS patients today. Because of MDA we're making advances in understanding the genetic forms of ALS; moving therapies ahead; developing biomarkers for ALS — all of the tools necessary to change the course of tomorrow's patient because of MDA.*

*— Jeffrey Rothstein, M.D., Ph.D.  
Johns Hopkins University*

*Each time I have needed help, advice, equipment, guidance, MDA is there. They are truly walking this journey with me and my family.*

*— Joan Sucher*



# ALS

**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS** — In ALS, nerve cells called motor neurons inexplicably die, leading to weakness and eventual paralysis of all voluntary muscles, including those used for breathing and swallowing. There is no cure, and life span after an ALS diagnosis typically is three to five years, although some people live for decades with the disease.



Muscular Dystrophy Association | [mda.org](http://mda.org) | 800-572-1717

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