

## You can double your gift by giving NOW

I am a social worker with The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter. My goal is to connect patients and families to the services they need to help ease their ALS journey.

ALS devastates every aspect of life: physical, emotional, and financial. One of the most difficult aspects of ALS is its unpredictable nature.

One way that we as caregivers can bring a sense of stability and comfort is by enabling people with ALS to stay in their own home for as long as they can. This includes people with ALS like my good friend Mary Barket from the Lehigh Valley, PA.

“She is my rock,” is how Mary describes her in-home caregiver, Jessica. The Chapter funds Jessica’s services and she has been Mary’s most consistent caregiver. Jessica assists Mary with meal preparation, personal care, exercises, and other activities, all of which are key to Mary staying in her home.

I have been working with Mary since her diagnosis in 2021. Mary’s story is all too familiar: she can continue to live in her own home with some assistance, but that assistance is difficult to finance and maintain.

For nearly thirty years, the Howard I. Abrams In-Home Care Program has enabled patients to stay in their homes by providing professional caregiving assistance. Because of your generosity, our program delivered more than 16,000 hours of in-home care last year. THANK YOU!

The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter enhanced the in-home care program by offering grant reimbursements for families to obtain services on their own to best meet their personal circumstances. This reimbursement program was developed in direct response to patient and family needs, but also because of your consistent financial support. It means that caregivers like Jessica can become a stable presence for patients like Mary, who values her independence and still has a long list of things she wants to do.

Our in-home care program is at the heart of our mission: to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter has the privilege of caring for patients during the most critical times of their lives. We hope you will stand with us as we invest in our in-home care programs.

Thank you for your support of The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter, but more importantly, thank you for your support of the patients and families we serve. We could not do our work without you!

Sincerely,

*Jessie Meier, MSW, LSW*



*Mary Barket is fighting for better access to quality home care.*