

You can double your gift by giving NOW

In 2022, when she was only 43 years old, Michelle learned that she had ALS. “I was devastated,” Michelle says. Michelle joined 1,200 others diagnosed in our region in seeking out help and support from The ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

As Michelle’s symptoms impacted her ability to walk, she needed a power wheelchair to get around and remain involved in her 15-year-old son’s active life. Michelle’s insurance would cover the wheelchair, but it would take months for the costs to be approved and the chair to be fitted to Michelle’s needs. Months of waiting would mean Michelle would be missing from the sidelines of her son’s football and baseball games. She would struggle around her home, relying on Chris, her husband and primary caretaker, for even the most basic needs.

The Marjorie Shimer Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program lent Michelle a power wheelchair during her wait, allowing her to maintain her independence. The program provided a transport chair and a sliding tub bench at no cost. The Chapter facilitated the installation of a stairglide in Michelle and Chris’s home so she can safely access the second-floor bathroom in her home.

“Having a power chair to get around has made it much safer for me,” explains Michelle. Weakness in her legs had caused several falls, resulting in injuries. “I can be active with my 2-year-old granddaughter, especially since the weather is nice and we can be outside.” Because of you, instead of missing games or her granddaughter’s latest milestone, Michelle and others like her can enjoy the best gift of all: Time with the people they love.



Michelle maintains her independence with the help of her wheelchair.

John Russo is living with ALS. He and his wife, Loretta, have committed to matching gifts up to \$10,000!

Our daily commitment to each patient is at the forefront of our mission, and the Marjorie Shimer Durable Medical Equipment Program has been a critical piece of this commitment for 24 years. We simply could not do this work without you.

My dad was diagnosed with ALS in 2020. Loaner equipment helps my family, so I understand firsthand the changing equipment challenges families face as the disease progresses. My personal experience enables me as the program coordinator to better assist families with their equipment needs. Please consider a donation now to provide help and hope to those impacted by ALS.

In Gratitude,

Larissa Gibbons

Program Coordinator

