



Twenty-nine years ago, Sue Walsh, Director of Clinical Services South Central, and I had a vision to create an impactful clinic for people with ALS in our area. We built a team and a facility to embrace the whole patient, while also supporting them and their families with the services they need at home.

Today, Penn State Hershey Medical Center's ALS Clinic is a Certified Center of Excellence that provides patient-centered, warm, accessible, and innovative care. ALS United Mid-Atlantic, formerly the ALS Association Greater Philadelphia Chapter, is the key to this wholistic care. Sue's compassion and commitment to excellence is a shining example of the extraordinary work of this amazing organization.



ALS United Mid-Atlantic began with Felice Weiner, who lost her mother to ALS and founded the organization as we know it in 1977. Caregivers and patients – before the internet – relied upon each other for information, support, and camaraderie. Elyn Phillips lost her husband, Alan, to ALS and brought a determination to the ALS cause that has not wavered in 40 years. Elyn and her mother, Malvina Charlestein, created an exclusive charitable partnership with the Philadelphia Phillies that has transformed ALS care and research. This partnership is unlike any other in professional sports.



ALS United Mid-Atlantic's dedication to patients and families is exemplified by The Hershey Clinic's 20-year commitment to research and innovation. We participate in numerous medication trials. We incorporated technology such as telemedicine and remote monitoring of gait and breathing in our efforts to improve the lives of those with ALS and their caregivers. This is reinforced by our decades-long focus on quality-of-life research, including the development of a novel instrument to help us better understand what matters to persons with ALS: the ALS-Specific Quality of Life Instrument. Sue has been integral to these research initiatives.



We are celebrating Sue's retirement after 29 years of service to ALS patients and their families. Sue built and mentored a stellar team of passionate clinicians to drive the very best care and research. Our most recent addition to the Hershey team is Kerstie Keebaugh, RN. Kerstie witnessed the insight and warmth that Sue provided to her uncle during his journey with ALS and ultimately joined the team to bring that same passion to her work.

Together, with our dedicated team of experts throughout our region, we pursue our vision of a world without ALS. Our solemn commitment is to unite our resources to empower our patients and families to live their lives to the fullest.

I ask for your support as ALS United Mid-Atlantic embarks on its next 40 years of serving the ALS community. Your contribution will make a significant difference in the lives of those touched by ALS, right now and in the future.



With sincere gratitude,

Zachary Simmons, MD

Professor of Neurology; Director, ALS Center