



Fall 2025 Newsletter

The Phillies Celebrated ALS Awareness Night Presented by Asplundh



Thanks to the support of Phillies fans and the generosity of Asplundh and their employees, \$800,004 was raised to #StrikeOutALS during the Phillies' ALS Awareness Night on Monday, June 9, at Citizens Bank Park. This includes an on-field donation of \$365,000 made by the event's presenting sponsor, Asplundh, in honor of its former Chairman of the Board/CEO, Scott Asplundh, who is battling ALS.

"Our entire ALS community thanks the Philadelphia Phillies for once again going above and beyond to honor Lou Gehrig and support the fight against ALS," said Ellyn C. Phillips, Board Chair Emeritus of ALS United Mid-Atlantic. "For over 40 years, the Phillies and their fans have supported the mission to strike out ALS. Through fundraising and awareness, they make it possible for ALS United Mid-Atlantic to provide the critical care programs that patients rely on every day."

Nearly \$24 million has been raised to support local care and research programs since our partnership with the Phillies began in 1984.

Annual Celebration Honoring Asplundh

ALS United Mid-Atlantic is thrilled to honor Asplundh at the 2025 Annual Celebration on Friday, November 14th, at Live! Casino in Philadelphia.

"ALS United Mid-Atlantic is proud to recognize Asplundh as our 2025 Annual Celebration honoree," said Executive Director Jeff Cline. "This event will bring deserved attention to Asplundh's significant impact on the ALS cause."

The 2025 Annual Celebration will feature presentations from Asplundh, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Flame of Hope Awards, and special guests. To learn more about sponsoring this event, visit www.ALSAnnualCelebration.org.

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SANDRA SAGE

HONORARY BOARD MEMBER:

SUSANNA FOO

* BOARD CHAIR EMERITUS



Jeff Cline with Tony Heyl.

Reflections

Every journey has a beginning and an ending. What matters most is what happens along the way.

My tenure here began twenty years ago in June of 2005 and comes to a close this December for more golf and time with grandkids. Without question, working for this organization has been the most fun, challenging, and rewarding years of my career.

About two-thirds of that time I was involved with relational development, which allowed me to accumulate cherished relationships with people of all stripes impacted by ALS. At the center is the patient, of course, but surrounding that individual is a constellation of love and support from family and friends. Working for an organization that becomes part of that caring constellation has been an immense privilege.

Like any journey, sometimes there are bumps in the road, even forks. I was appointed to be Executive Director in mid-January of 2020 – seven weeks before COVID-19 turned the world upside down. But we got through it thanks to wise guidance from a stellar Board of Directors, financial support from generous contributors, and the tireless efforts of an extraordinarily talented staff.

Then, in 2023, our organization made a significant change to prioritize the needs of local ALS families, leaving a national organization that was undergoing restructuring. Today, we are one of fifteen members of ALS United. As ALS United Mid-Atlantic, we proudly serve people living with ALS and their families in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

And so, the journey of this amazing organization continues under the capable leadership of Tony Heyl. Tony has been with us since 2011, leading our state and federal advocacy initiatives and increasing awareness of ALS in our communities. Before departing permanently, I plan to work with Tony and others next year on a project basis to organize a 50th Anniversary Campaign. Stay tuned.

Finally, thanks to all of you for being part of my journey. My life has been deeply enriched serving the ALS community. It's been an honor, and my heart truly overflows with gratitude.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Cline".

JEFF CLINE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ALS United Mid-Atlantic Unites ALS Research Leaders

Investing in research means investing in future successful treatments for all forms of ALS. Your donations and advocacy make it possible for ALS United Mid-Atlantic to support vital research programs that are making progress towards understanding the disease while empowering those living with ALS to be part of important trials and studies.

In July 2025, the board of ALS United Mid-Atlantic approved funding for these promising research projects:

- **Jefferson Weinberg ALS Center:** Novel Microglia-Targeted CAR-T Therapy for ALS: Preclinical Evaluation in Mice and Patient Organoids
- **Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center:** Metabolic Biomarkers in ALS
- **ALS TDI:** Acquisition of an ELISA platform, with 384-well plate capacity
- **Temple University:** Cellular-level transcriptional pathway alterations for selection of blood biomarkers of C9orf72 ALS

In addition to direct funding of ongoing research, ALS United Mid-Atlantic continues to connect people with ALS to local projects, and educates the wider community about ALS research through the GOALS Podcast and on YouTube. ALS United Mid-Atlantic also toured the research facilities at the Jefferson Weinberg ALS Certified Treatment Center of Excellence at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the ALS Certified Treatment Center of Excellence at Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center to see their advances in research studies and how these remarkable scientists are collaborating and producing groundbreaking results. To learn more about our commitment to research, visit www.ALSMidAtlantic.org.

Help & Hope Symposium

On April 10th, 2025, ALS United Mid-Atlantic hosted its annual Help and Hope Symposium in King of Prussia, PA. The event featured a wide range of discussions on advances in ALS care and research and highlighted our commitment to collaboration with discussions on topics such as housing and accessibility and understanding fronto-temporal degeneration. Keynote speaker Zachary Simmons, MD, from Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center, spoke about the benefits of a multidisciplinary approach to ALS.

Full videos from these presentations are now available on our ALS United Mid-Atlantic YouTube channel. Stay tuned for exciting updates for the 2026 Help and Hope Symposium.



Zachary Simmons, MD, during his keynote presentation.



Paul Miller and Colleen Gerber during the vendor exhibit.

ALS United Walk

The ALS United Walk brings incredible energy and an outpouring of support for those affected by ALS.

For 20 years, our community has gathered throughout Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to walk in honor of loved ones with ALS, remember those we have lost, and walk toward a future without ALS.

This past spring, we held ALS United Walks in Scranton, PA, Seaside Heights, NJ, and Hershey, PA, raising over \$202,000. We thank the dedicated team captains, participants, volunteers, and sponsors. Your support and fundraising efforts are crucial in helping us ensure that our local ALS community continues to receive quality, compassionate care.

While this is a tremendous accomplishment, our work doesn't stop here. We invite members of the ALS community to join us this fall as we host ALS United Walks in Wilmington, Ocean City, Allentown, and Philadelphia. Register or donate today at www.ALSUnitedWalk.org.

The spring ALS United Walks were proudly sponsored by ABC27, AC Photo, CheeseSteak Louie's, Delta Dental, Geisinger, Hackensack Meridian Health, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, Highland Tank, Jersey Shore BlueClaws, Lincare, Penn State Health, Pepsi, Silver Bay Bagels, The Borough of Seaside Heights, and Total Mobility Services.



Team The Path to Healing ALS at the Scranton ALS United Walk.

Jersey Shore ALS United Ride

On Saturday, June 14th, dedicated cyclists gathered at Morey's Adventure Pier for the 2025 Jersey Shore ALS United Ride. Despite the weather, spirits were high, and the sense of community was even higher, as participants pedaled forward with purpose and heart.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of riders, donors, and supporters, the event raised over \$86,000 to support local care services and research programs.

The day kicked off with riders checking in, collecting their bibs, and snapping photos. With four distance options — the Metric Century (100 KM), Half-Metric Century (50 KM), Quarter-Metric Century (25 KM), and a Family-Friendly 6-mile loop — cyclists departed in waves, each group sent off with cheers and encouragement from staff and volunteers, and supporters following an inspiring send-off speech.

Riders were then welcomed to the End Point at Morey's Piers by cheering crowds and finish line festivities, including a delicious luncheon and two complimentary passes to Morey's Piers Amusement and Water Parks.

The event was proudly sponsored by Morey's Piers and Waterparks, Britton's Gourmet Bakery, PhRMA, BoBo's, Johnson's Popcorn, the Fractured Prune, Gu Energy Labs, and NuGo Nutrition.



Cyclists at the starting line for the Jersey Shore ALS United Ride.

Advocacy Update

2025 has been a challenging year for ALS advocacy with cuts to science and social programs and threats of further cuts to research institutions. ALS United Mid-Atlantic works with a growing collection of partners to make a positive difference through advocacy. That coalition includes working with other ALS United partners, raising awareness of brain research with the Cures Collective, and strategizing with groups like MDA, I AM ALS, ALS Association, and the Les Turner Foundation. United, we will continue to amplify your ALS stories.

In the past year, ALS advocates successfully preserved funding for the ALS Research Project at the Department of Defense. Your advocacy also ensured key funding victories in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware state budgets, ensuring continued services for ALS care.

This April, ALS United Mid-Atlantic joined ALS United North Carolina and ALS Arizona for visits on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Our advocates visited with bipartisan champions for the ALS cause, including Senator Chris Coons and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick. ALS United also participated in the I AM ALS event in Washington, DC.

Celebrating Our Iron Horse Club Heroes

At ALS United Mid-Atlantic, every dollar we raise—whether through events like the ALS United Walk, state and private grants, or individual generosity—powers our mission to unite and uplift the ALS community.

When a donor gives \$500 or more in the current year and has supported us for over five years, they join our Iron Horse Club. We were honored to feature more than 200 members in last year's Impact Report, many of whom have held this distinction for over two decades.

This year, Donna Cleary, Director of Development, and Jayne Etskovitz, MSW, had the privilege of presenting Andrew O'Rahilly with a special Iron Horse Club honor.

Jayne cared for Andy's wife, Joan, while she battled ALS and provided support to Andy and Joan's family. Andy's giving is rooted in his deep gratitude for the compassionate care Joan received from the entire ALS United Mid-Atlantic Care Team. We are profoundly grateful to donors like Andrew, whose long-standing commitment brings hope and strength to our community.



The Colby Family and ALS United Mid-Atlantic staff visit with Chris Coons, U.S. Senator for Delaware.



Jayne Etskovitz, MSW, LSW, and Donna Cleary with Andrew O'Rahilly (center).



In Memoriam

January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025

ALS United Mid-Atlantic honors and remembers those who lost their battle to ALS.

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|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Joann Anderson | Dawn Gates | Walt Meyer | Santiago Ruiz-Marquez |
| Rebecca Bader | Michael Goydan | Joseph Mihalka | Edward Salevsky |
| Timothy Baird | Michael Greco | David Milecki | TyAnn Schneider |
| Charles Bellinger | Enes Green | Nancy Miller | June Shamenek |
| Mary Blake | Robert Haas | Elissa Morgan | Jerome Shea |
| James Bohr | John Hamm | Deborah Morgan-Brown | Philip Sickinger |
| Lisa Breault | Kathleen Hansken | Christopher Motch | Camille Smith |
| John Bregenzer | Michael Hartlaub | Robert Mowrer | Paul Smith |
| Judith Brosey | Sandra Hays | Richard Murray | Rita Snyder |
| Michael Burlew | Carl Hedgepath | Peter Murray | Maryann Soberg |
| Alfred Butler | Herbert Holden | Brenda Myers | Robert Solomon |
| Jim Byelich | Derrick Hughes | Barbara Neuberger | Gerald Stanziola |
| Beverly Byrd | Patience Isekenegebe | Domenic Nicolosi | Indira Thiruvalem |
| William Canjar | Bonnie Jaspers | Lawrence O'Toole | Cynthia Thomas |
| Robert Cleaver | Nancy Kachurak | Craig Overholt | Elizabeth Thompson |
| Sandra Colon | Daniel Kish | Michael Packer | Holly Tomkovicz |
| Terrence Connor | Brian Kleckner | Betsy Page | Clare Tongel |
| Sherry Cooper | Tracy Kofroth | Javier Palillero | Cynthia Troutman |
| Jonathan Cummings | David Kurtz | Daniel Patriarca | James Van Laeys |
| Lorene Dalrymple | Pete LaMaina | Kathleen Patrizi | Loreli Voltmer |
| Sandra Davis | Christine Lavelle | Kathleen Pelak | George Wade |
| Louis Dease | Ronald Leaman | Suzanne Perry | Eric Waltman |
| Linda DiDonato | Pamela Levan | Gloria Petrizzi | Gail Wantroba |
| Janice Diorrio | Richard LeVine | Alan Picker | Andra Weber |
| Charles Domino | Susan Lowry | Maria Podhiny | Michael Weller |
| Karen Dutko | Tyrone Lumsden | Jacquelyne Poniatowski | Adam Wengel |
| James Dwyer | Silvana Mammi | Gail Quinn | Maryann White |
| Kawakeb Fam | Catherine Marketto | Gerard Reilly | Harry Whyte |
| David Fetterolf | Joann Martino | Michael Reilly | Kristina Withelder |
| Eric Flicker | James McIlhenny | Karen Rice | Andrea Wood |
| Kevin Foley | Valerie McKinney | Janet Richards | Carolyn Yontz |
| John Francis | Carole McQuaid | Edwin Rivera | |
| Beth Gabel | Patricia Meals | Gloria Rodriguez | |
| Romeo Galasso | Karen Meenan | Frederick Ross | |
| Herbert Garner | | | |

Photo is from the Philadelphia ALS United Walk with Holly Tomkovicz and her team.



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Upcoming Events

September 6
Delaware ALS United Walk

September 13
Ocean City ALS United Walk

September 27
Lehigh Valley ALS United Walk

October 4
Billy Lake Memorial ALS Basketball Marathon

October 6
Roger Kirk ALS United Golf Outing

November 2
Scott A. Mackler Memorial 5K Run/Walk

November 9
Philadelphia ALS United Walk

November 14
Annual Celebration



Team Madd Walkers at the Seaside ALS United Walk.