



Anthony Barraco Continues To Emphasize Importance Of Donations To The ALS Association

Barraco donated \$50,000 to the ALS Association in December.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, March 26, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- After experiencing the agony and emotional toll of an illness associated with a family member, it can change your thinking. After his father had ALS, [Anthony Barraco](#) decided to help spread awareness about the deadly disease.

The large donation helps the organization provide care for those suffering and assists in research about the disease. But Barraco hopes to continue to spread awareness about the disease within his community. He hopes others will make donations so people like his father can benefit from a cure in the future.

As of today, there is no medicine for ALS.

Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) causes the death of neurons in the body that control voluntary muscles. The condition has become characterized by hard tissues, muscle twitching, and worsening weakness due to muscles shrinking in size.

"It was a challenging period for the family watching our father experience this horrible illness," says Barraco. "I hope the money I donated goes towards the research of ALS so that others can get better and live a long life."

Anthony Barraco hopes spreading awareness will allow more people to donate money to the ALS Association. Also, he plans to hold different fundraisers in the future. While talking about these potential fundraisers, he uses the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge as an example.

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge was an enormous accomplishment for the Association. The fundraiser raised more than \$115 million in the summer of 2014. Not only did it bring awareness to the devastating disease, but it also sparked a massive increase in the research budget.

Since the Ice Bucket Challenge, the association committed over \$96.4 million towards the group's mission. Also, they included \$84 million in research projects.

"Bringing awareness to people around the country will allow them to know that the ALS Association is making a difference," says Barraco. "Even if it's a few dollars, every donation adds up to saving lives. Also, providing care to those suffering and their families."

Most people exhibit the symptoms of ALS between the ages of 40 and 70. The average age at the time of diagnosis is 55. Once ALS starts, it almost always progresses quickly.

Eventually, the disease takes away the person's ability to speak, walk, dress, swallow, and breathe.

The illness shortens the person's lifespan quickly. How fast the sickness progresses depends on the person.

Based on the United States population research, over 6,000 people in the country become diagnosed with ALS every year. That averages out to around 15 new cases each day. Also, the estimated figure of those having the disease at any given time sits at approximately 20,000 for the United States.

Over the past 33 years, the ALS Association has invested around \$70 million for research alone. While no cure has become available, many breakthroughs in treatment have taken place. Because of this funding, many people have lived out their last days in a comfortable setting.

History Of The ALS Association

Established in 1985, the ALS Association has become the only non-profit in the country fighting ALS on every level. The Association influences the way in global research, organizing care through certified clinical care centers, and assisting those suffering ALS.

"The Association does a great job in providing care to those affected," says Barraco. "But more funding is needed for this kind of care to continue in the future."

[The experience Anthony Barraco had](#) with his family will stick with him for life. Thousands of families experience the same kind of sadness, but Barraco hopes the future is bright.

"The most important factor of every dollar donated is that goes towards finding a cure," concludes Barraco. "When we can treat this disease, we know the efforts will be worth it."

[To learn more about Anthony Barraco, please click here.](#)

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