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Cure for ALS

February 16, 2011

Dear ALS Advocates and Friends,



Anyone who has been around me lately has heard me say, "May is ALS Awareness Month - and nobody knows it!" Why is that? Is it because our patients' voices aren't strong enough, or because their voices are silenced forever already? Is it because we are not loud enough in being the voice for them? Or is it because the message of ALS doesn't have a "feel good" element? Whatever the reason, I encourage you to look for ways to generate some noise about ALS Awareness Month. Many ALS organizations have fundraising events in May so find one you can attend, or make a donation. Be a voice for those who no longer have one and tell your friends, colleagues, and the media that May is ALS Awareness Month.

5th Annual ALS Run for Life 5K



May 7, 2011

[Click here](#) for more information

Speaking of May, the **National ALS Advocacy Days and Public Policy Conference** is May 8-11 in Washington D.C. Information is below on how to register to attend, contact your state representatives, and get involved. You'll also read below about the impact of social media, particularly Facebook, on ALS awareness. I'll introduce you to my friend, Sharon Iles, a devoted daughter and tireless ALS advocate. Please take a look at the upcoming fundraisers on the right side of the page and see where you can lend a hand (or a dollar!).

National ALS Advocacy Day and Public Policy Conference

May 8-11, 2011
Washington D.C.

[Click here](#) to register.

Sincerely,
Karen Duffy (kd)

Lighthouse to Lighthouse Ultramarathon for ALS

[Cure for ALS](#)

Find us on Facebook 

National ALS Advocacy Day and Public Policy Conference

**ATTENTION ENDURANCE
ATHLETES** - Plans are in motion
for an event in the Outer Banks
(OBX) of North Carolina for an

community on Facebook (and I'm sure other social media) is enthusiastic, dedicated, and supportive.

Sharon Iles is an ALS Advocate I met through Facebook. We connected just prior to the Georgia Skydive for ALS last fall, and met in person at the event. Sharon, her husband and son live in Denham Springs, LA. Sharon's ALS story, in her own words, is "My mother, **Melba Stinson Martin**, was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) in November 2009. Both arms were paralyzed by December 09. She was admitted into a nursing home by her own hand February 26, 2010. I have made it my life's mission now to do everything I can to raise awareness for this horrific disease. MAYBE in my lifetime there will at least be some type of treatment. My mom lost her battle to ALS on Friday 7/2/2010 at 5:10 am. This has given me more drive to do EVERYTHING I can to raise awareness for the disease that robbed my mother of her last years."



June 19, 2011
Guelph Lake Sports Fields
Guelph Ontario
TIME: 8:00am - 4:00pm

[Click here](#) for more information

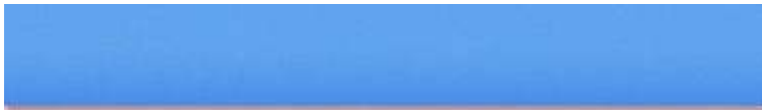


Sharon & Melba, Mother's Day 2010

Sharon is very involved in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans ALS community. She's working on two upcoming events, **Rockout ALS Baton Rouge**, **Skydive Nawlins**, and most recently Sharon launched the sale of apparel and other items for ALS Awareness - very cool stuff that you will want to purchase! She is such an inspiration to me, and I hope that you will visit the website and place an order.

[Click here](#) to link to the **ALS Fleur de lis T-shirt and other products**. On the right side of the page you can link to Sharon's other items - look for "other products by sharoniles1"





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