



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Les Turner ALS Foundation Mobilizes ALS Community
for Virtual ALS Walk for Life**

Skokie, IL – August 7, 2020 – The Les Turner ALS Foundation will host its virtual ALS Walk for Life on **Saturday, September 26**. Traditionally, participants have gathered at Soldier Field in Chicago for this celebratory event, which has become one of the largest ALS gatherings in the country. As a virtual event this year, people are encouraged to honor their loved ones affected by ALS by walking a 2-mile course at a location they choose and on their own time. At 11 a.m. on event day, emcees Phil Schwarz of ABC7 Chicago and Melissa McGurren from “Eric in the Morning Show” on 101.9 THE MIX, along with special guests, will join together for a Facebook Live event.

Participants fundraise and walk as teams in honor or memory of a loved one with ALS. Since its inception in 2002, the ALS Walk for Life has raised over \$13 million for the Les Turner ALS Foundation. These funds enable the Foundation to offer the most comprehensive care to people living with ALS while providing hope through research at the Les Turner ALS Center at Northwestern Medicine.

“While we are disappointed we are unable to gather our ALS family in-person this year, we are excited to offer people the chance to participate virtually in the ALS Walk for Life and uphold some of their team traditions, just in new ways,” said Andrea Pauls Backman, CEO of the Les Turner ALS Foundation. “We may have shifted our event plans due to circumstances, but our inspiration – the courageous people living with ALS, those individuals who have passed away and devoted family members – has not changed. We will be walking in communities across Chicagoland and across the country for each of them.”

ALS Walk for Life generous sponsors and media partners include: Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America, 303® Premium Protectants and Cleaners, First Bank Chicago, Alexion, Fleet Feet, National Seating and Mobility, NU Motion, Health Technology Resources, Motion Source, 101.9 THE MIX and ABC7 Chicago.

Registration

While there is no registration fee, the Les Turner ALS Foundation encourages participants to fundraise. Individuals who make a gift of \$25 can receive a 2020 ALS Walk for Life t-shirt.

To register, visit www.ALSwalkforlife.org.

About ALS

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a terminal, progressive disease that causes muscle weakness, difficulty speaking and swallowing and, generally, complete paralysis. ALS can, in some cases, also cause changes in intellectual function, mood, behavior or personality. While technically considered a “rare disease,” experts predict an individual’s lifetime risk of acquiring ALS is about 1 in 300, by the age of 85. There is no cure, yet.

About the Les Turner ALS Foundation

Founded in 1977, [the Les Turner ALS Foundation](http://www.LesTurnerALS.org) is one of the longest-serving independent ALS groups in the country. For over 40 years, the Foundation has taken an individualized approach to ensure each person living with the disease receives the best quality of care and access to the most promising therapies. The [Les Turner ALS Center](http://www.LesTurnerALS.org) at Northwestern Medicine is led by the most well-respected and successful clinicians and researchers in the field, advancing vital care and research in pursuit of life-enhancing treatments and a cure.

For more information, contact 847-679-3311 or visit www.ALSwalkforlife.org.

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