



# Monthly Update

**Greater New York  
Chapter**

Serving New York City, Long Island, Westchester County, Hudson Valley, and Northern & Central New Jersey  
42 Broadway, Suite 1724, New York, NY 10004 • (212) 619-1400  
www.ALS-NY.org • Facebook.com/ALSofGNY • Twitter - @ALSofGNY

## DECEMBER SUPPORT GROUPS

### NASSAU COUNTY, NY

Sunday, Dec. 6th - 2 to 4 pm  
North Shore LIJ - Plainview Hospital  
888 Old Country Road  
Plainview, NY 11803 (Downstairs)  
Contacts: : Cindy Keyser-Posner, LMSW,  
(631) 416-2767  
Theresa Imperato, RN,  
(516) 946-5467  
Topic: Open Discussion/  
Holiday Celebration  
For more info about the potluck dinner,  
please contact Cindy Keyser-Posner.  
*Next month's support group will NOT meet due to  
New Years Day Holiday.*

### HUDSON VALLEY/FISHKILL, NY

Tuesday, Dec. 1st - 6 to 8 pm  
Ambulatory Surgery Center  
Building C, 1st Floor, Suite 130  
200 Westage Business Center  
Fishkill, NY 12524  
Contacts: Helen Mayer, RN,  
(845) 520-0952  
Nancy Brenner, LCSW,  
(914) 406-3513  
Topic: Open Discussion/  
Holiday Celebration  
*Next month's support group meets: Jan. 5th*

### SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

Tuesday, Dec. 3rd - 6 to 8 pm  
Stony Brook University, Dept. of Neurology  
179 N. Belle Meade Road  
East Setauket, NY 11733  
Contacts: : Cindy Keyser-Posner, LMSW,  
(631) 416-2767  
Theresa Imperato, RN,  
(516) 946-5467  
Topic: Open Discussion/  
Holiday Celebration  
For more info about the potluck dinner,  
please contact Cindy Keyser-Posner.  
*Next month's support group meets: Jan. 5th*

### WESTCHESTER, NY/WHITE PLAINS

Tuesday, Dec. 8th - 6 to 8 pm  
Burke Rehabilitation Center  
785 Mamaroneck Avenue, Building 7  
White Plains, NY 10601  
Contacts: Helen Mayer, RN,  
(845) 520-0952  
Nancy Brenner, LCSW, (914) 406-3513  
Topic: Open Discussion/Holiday Celebration  
*Next month's support group meets: Jan. 12th*

### MANHATTAN, NY

Tuesday, Dec. 15th - 6 to 8 pm  
Mt. Sinai Beth Israel Hospital  
Phillips Ambulatory Care Center  
10 Union Square East, (b/w 14th & 15th Sts.)  
New York, NY 10003  
Neurology Department, 5th Fl. Conf. Room  
Contact: Jody Wiesel, PhD,  
(917) 699-9751  
Topic: Respiratory Care in ALS/  
Holiday Celebration  
Speaker: Keith Llewellyn, RT  
*Next month's support group meets: Jan. 19th*

### NORTHERN NJ/SADDLE BROOK

Thursday, Dec. 3rd - 7 to 9 pm  
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation  
300 Market Street, Saddle Brook, NJ 07663  
Contacts: Debbie Schlossberg, LMSW  
(732) 710-8832  
Mary Ann Mertz, RN, (908) 552-5573  
Topic: Open Discussion/Holiday Celebration  
*Next month's support group meets: Jan. 7th*

### CENTRAL NJ/NEW BRUNSWICK

Saturday, Dec. 19th - 1:30 to 3:30 pm  
Robert Wood Johnson Fitness & Wellness Center  
100 Kirkpatrick Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901 Level 2  
Community Education Room  
Contacts: Debbie Schlossberg, LMSW,  
(732) 710-8832  
Mary Ann Mertz, RN,  
(908) 552-5573  
Topic: Open Discussion/Holiday Celebration  
*Next month's support group meets: Jan. 16th*

### TELEPHONE SUPPORT GROUPS

Patient group: Every Friday - 2:30 to 3:30 pm  
Caregivers group: Every Friday - 4 to 5 pm  
Topics include: Open discussions or Meditation and Guided Imagery for Stress Reduction.  
Contact: Sue Zimmerman, LCSW, (212) 720-3050

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**Your support is essential to keeping up the momentum in the fight against ALS!**

The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter is committed to improving the lives of people and families affected by ALS. Today, your tax-deductible contribution will continue funding: innovative ALS research around the world, local multi-disciplinary ALSA Treatment Centers, patient and family care programs and public policy initiatives that attract federal and state support for our cause.

**Donate Online:** Go to [www.ALS-NY.org](http://www.ALS-NY.org) and click the Donate button.

**By mail:** Send check to 42 Broadway, Suite 1724, New York, NY 10004. Please make your checks payable directly to The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter to support efforts in our community to advance the fight against Lou Gehrig's disease.



**Greater New York Chapter**

42 Broadway, Suite 1724  
New York, NY 10004  
(212) 619-1400  
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www.als-ny.org

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Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us once again. This year, our chapter was able to expand our mission priorities of research, patient care and awareness throughout the Greater New York region because of your support.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, the Greater New York Chapter has been able to accelerate efforts to find the cause and cure of ALS. In addition to the record number of investigator initiated research grants currently funded by The ALS Association, a significant local initiative to understand the genetic basis of ALS is taking place at the New York Genome Center, a world leader in whole genome sequencing. ALSA and our Chapter committed an initial \$2.5 million to establish this project, matching a generous leadership grant from the Tow Foundation. In addition, The Milton Safenowitz Postdoctoral Fellowship for ALS Research, founded by the Safenowitz family through our Chapter, awarded six new scientists fellowships to study ALS. This program is designed to encourage and facilitate promising young scientists to enter the field of ALS. To date, our chapter has contributed more than \$10 million to exciting research projects and programs that help advance an effective treatment and bring us closer to a cure.

Your participation in raising awareness and supporting our chapter has grown considerably. More than 15,000 people participated in our seven local Walks to Defeat ALS. We had a record number of Team ALS runners compete in this year's New York City Marathon.

We are very proud of our Chapter advocates who participated this May in the National ALS Advocacy Conference. Our Chapter's delegation of almost 50 advocates traveled to Washington, DC to meet with our Members of Congress to continue the urgent fight to develop effective treatments for ALS.

Patient service remains the core of our Chapter's mission and the need for our services continues to grow. This year, we served more than 770 people living with ALS and their families in our four areas of operations in New York City, Long Island, Westchester County/Lower Hudson Valley, and Northern & Central New Jersey.

Again, thanks to your generosity, we have been able to expand programs, services and staff, particularly in underserved areas. Over 252 patients received 605 pieces of equipment from one of our three loan closets and 1,173 home visits were made to our PALS and their families by our nurses, social workers, and assistive technology specialist

This year we established a fifth multidisciplinary clinic in our service area at Columbia University Medical Center. We welcomed the Hospital For Special Surgery as our fourth ALS Association Certified Treatment Center of Excellence. And, we continue to provide state-of-the-art multidisciplinary care at our other ALS Association Certified Centers of Excellence at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, and Stony Brook University Medical Center.

Your continuing support and increasing worldwide interest in ALS has energized the research community and brought a renewed sense of hope to families courageously coping with ALS. We are helping more people and we are funding more research. While there is still no cure for Lou Gehrig's disease, we are witnessing advances that move us closer to our vision of a world without ALS.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter, I thank you and wish you the Happiest of Holidays and a peaceful New Year.

Sincerely,

Dorine Gordon  
President and CEO

The ALS Association Greater New York Chapter