APRIL 2026
NEVER SURRENDER INC
ALS NEWSLETTER

Never Surrender Inc.

Funding the Fight Against ALS

HOPE DRIVES LIFE

At Never Surrender Inc., we have one goal, and that is to help people live with ALS. Our organization was built when one of our family members, Kevin Kolquist, was diagnosed with ALS. Kevin always said, "hope drives life," and that is what we aim to do at Never Surrender.

We offer three VIP experiences where our fundraising participants combine their passion for fighting ALS with a passion for the great outdoors: Black Woods Blizzard Tour, Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament, and Tomassoni Tour - Cycle for ALS.

We will continue to push fundraising limits in hopes of ending this disease. We will *Never Surrender to ALS.*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HAVE FUN. REGISTER TODAY.

Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament
May 29 - 30, 2026

Tomassoni Tour
September 17 - 19 2026

Black Woods Blizzard Tour
February 10 - 13, 2027

27th Annual Black Woods Blizzard Tour

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour celebrated its 27th anniversary at the Black Bear Casino Resort and raised over $1.4 million to provide support to individuals battling ALS. Over 400 miles of trails were covered by 200 snowmobilers during the three-day event, all to fund the fight against ALS. The Black Woods Blizzard Tour has now raised more than $22 million in its twenty-seven-year history.

Riders blazed the trail from Black Bear Casino Resort to Tower to Two Harbors and back. The bright sunshine made for beautiful weather, and riders expressed surprise and delight that the trails remained good, with one rider describing the trails this year as in their top 5 rides of all time.

With the theme “Going Home,” riders returned to a route that allowed them to spend Friday night in Two Harbors, celebrating at the restaurant of their title sponsor: Black Woods Bar and Grill and listening to live music provided by the Northwoods Band.

Fun, fellowship, and laughter followed the rides each day, with entertainment provided by the magician Matt Dunn, the Northwoods Band, and the Sidestreet Detour Band. Former Minnesota Twins alumni Terry Steinbach and Kent Hrbek also participated in the three-day event.

Saturday night’s Celebration Dinner featured a live and silent auction with special touches for Valentine’s Day, such as hearts that allowed riders to note who they were riding for, Cupids interacting with the crowd, and a drawing for a Celebrity Cruise® for two. Dr. Merit Cudkowicz and Dr. David Walk, both world-renown researchers, shared how funds provided by Never Surrender Inc had advanced research, expanded access to clinical trials, and provided help for people living with ALS and their families. Mike Farrell of Hermantown, MN, was named the Most Valuable Rider, and Gary and Maureen Fjelstad of Duluth, MN were selected as Volunteers of the Year for their tireless work year after year on the silent auction. Sandy Judge of Palisade, MN was also recognized and received the first ever Circle of Excellence Award as she prepared for retirement after 20 dedicated years of funding the fight against ALS. A replay of the Welcome Home event is available on www.blackwoodsblizzardtour.com.

We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors that made this event possible. We would also like to thank our community for their important donations and our riders for riding the trails until a cure is found and for Never Surrendering in our Fight Against ALS.

Information on the Black Woods Blizzard Tour

Four riders started the idea of an annual fundraising snowmobile ride when they rode their sleds around Lake Superior in 1999. Randy Bannor, Larry Bannor, Greg Sorenson and Dennis Nelson received $15,000 in monetary contributions, which were used to help those fighting Lou Gehrig's Disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). A year later, a group of dedicated people banded together to form what is now the Black Woods Blizzard Tour. That same year, Black Woods Bar & Grill jumped on board as title sponsor of the annual event. In its first year, 38 riders raised $46,000. Twenty-seven years later, participants raised over $1.4 million, bringing the lifetime event total to more than $22 million.

Each year, the Black Woods Blizzard Tour brings people together in the fight against Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Although they participate for various reasons, all are united in a quest to find treatments and ultimately, a cure for ALS. For additional information on the event and the two other events (Kolar ALS Fishing Tournament and Tomassoni Tour-Cycle for ALS) also held by Never Surrender Inc, visit https://www.neversurrenderinc.org

ALS
KOLAR
TOYOTA
FISHING TOURNAMENT
ISLAND LAKE, DULUTH

ANGLER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Pat and Wayne Reynolds, a couple whose hearts have been woven into the fabric of the Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament for all 31 years of its history. Alongside their son, Steve, they have shown up year after year with quiet dedication, steady hands, and a deep belief in the mission of Never Surrender Inc.

When we asked Wayne why he continues to pour so much of himself into this cause, his answer was simple and sincere: it's the stories. The people he meets, the families he hears from, the courage shared across a table or beside a boat launch, those moments stay with him. Giving back isn't an obligation for Wayne; it's a calling. This organization has become part of who he is. Pat is the bookkeeper of the two. After each event, Pat meticulously puts together the funds raised and documents each raffle with great detail. She keeps things in order.

If you're from the Cloquet area, you've likely seen Wayne at L & M Fleet with his table neatly arranged, raffle tickets stacked, calendars ready, a donation box within reach. He's a familiar and friendly presence at the DECC shows as well. Wayne is greeting strangers who quickly become friends, answering questions about ALS, and offering compassion to anyone who needs it.
Every year, Wayne and Steve fish the tournament together, soaking in the camaraderie, the laughter, the early-morning excitement on the water. Wayne never seeks recognition. What drives him is the hope that each dollar raised brings us one step closer to easing the burden for families facing ALS. He admits he brings a tissue every year because of the stories, the real, raw journeys people share, move him deeply. They remind him why this fight matters.

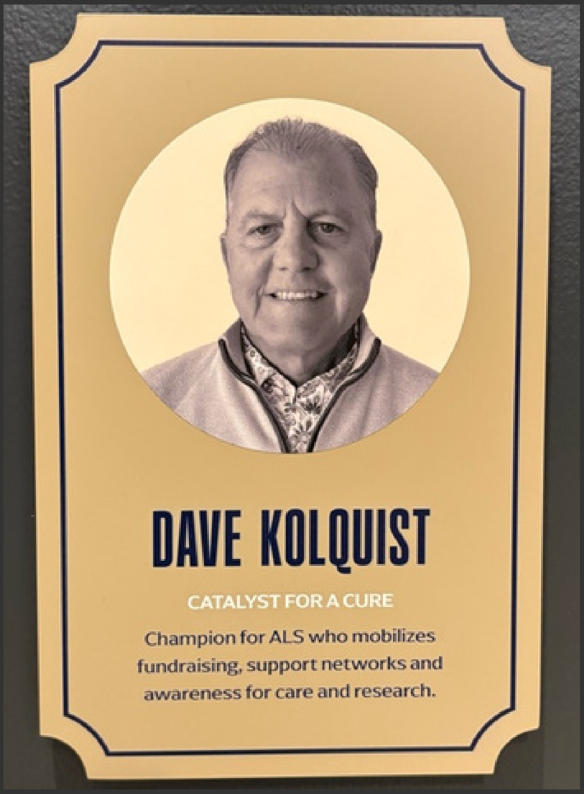
This year, just like every year before, Wayne, Pat, and Steve will be there. Their smiles, their warmth, and their unwavering spirit are part of what makes this tournament feel like family; and we can't wait to welcome them back.

Join Wayne on Island Lake this year at our
2026 Kolar Toyota Fishing Tournament on May 30th!
Regsiter today at: www.kolartoyotafishing.com

DAVID KOLQUIST CHOSEN AS UNITEDHEALTHCARE COMMUNITY CHAMPION

David Kolquist, Never Surrender Inc President, has been chosen as a Legacy Community Champion as part of the new UnitedHealthcare Community Champions program at Target Field, home of the MN Twins.

David is cited as being a "Catalyst for A Cure" and described as a "Champion for ALS who mobilizes fundraising, support networks and awareness for care and research." A plaque honoring David's contributions to ALS and the community can be found this season at Target Field in the newly-remodeled UnitedHealthCare Champions Club.



According to the MN Twins website, "the UnitedHealthcare Community Champions program celebrates individuals who are making a meaningful and lasting impact across Twins Territory...Community Champions represent the spirit of service that helps communities thrive — individuals who uplift those around them, lead with purpose, and contribute to a healthier, more inclusive future. By sharing their stories, the Minnesota Twins and UnitedHealthcare hope to recognize these contributions and inspire others to make a difference in their own communities."

David is recognized along with eleven other Legacy Community Champions, including The Honorable Alan Page, Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, Tony Sanneh, and Harmon Killebrew.

UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA

News from the University of Minnesota ALS Center of Excellence:

Please visit our new website (als.umn.edu) to learn more about our research program!

ALS Research Supported by Never Surrender

Never Surrender Expanded Access Program

Never Surrender Inc., through Massachusetts GeneralHospital, has provided funding to the University of Minnesota to support Expanded Access Programs (EAPs) in ALS. We have completed enrollment in three EAPs under this program and are supporting participants in those programs moving forward. We eagerly await additional EAP announcements to bring to the University of Minnesota to continue to provide opportunities to Minnesotans to participate in Expanded Access Programs.

ALS Research Opportunities: **Access for ALL in ALS**

Funded by the NIH/NINDS, theAccess for ALL in ALS Consortium (ALL ALS), is a community of two coordination centers and 35 research sites across the United States, conducting a combined longitudinal natural history study and biomarker collection study for ALS. This study will include both people currently living with ALS, and asymptomatic ALS gene carriers.
Please visit the study website to learn and enroll: https://studyfinder.umn.edu/studies/32254

Multicenter ALS Imaging Study

The purpose of the study is to test new biomarkers of ALS using MRI scans. A biomarker is a measurable characteristic that can be used as an indicator of a particular disease state. Identifying biomarkers in ALS will help test new treatments and may help us make diagnoses earlier.
Please visit the study website to learn more and enroll:
https://studyfinder.umn.edu/studies/31594

HEALEY ALS Platform Trial

The HEALEY ALS Platform Trial is a research trial that tests the safety and effectiveness of multiple treatments in ALS. A regimen is a specific course of treatment, each with a different study drug. We are doing this research to find out if different treatments have an effect on ALS. We also want to find out if these treatments are safe to take without causing too many side effects.
Please visit the study website to learn more and enroll:
https://studyfinder.umn.edu/studies/22142

Biorepository to Support ALS Research in Minnesota

The Minnesota ALS Biorepository at the University of Minnesota critically needed samples of biological specimens to advance ALS research. The Biorepository collects blood and other biological specimens from people living with ALS, healthy individuals without ALS, and people with some other neurological diseases. In addition, the biorepository coordinates donation of brain and spinal cord specimens obtained after death from people who had ALS, to further ALS research. Please visit the study website to learn more and enroll:
https://studyfinder.umn.edu/studies/31786

Nano-QuIC Testing for Early ALS Diagnosis

Never Surrender Inc. has generously provided funding to the University of Minnesota to assist with developing a diagnostic test to detect and diagnose ALS earlier in the disease progression. This study will utilize technology similar to tests for detecting chronic wasting disease in deer to shorten the 12- month symptom to diagnosis timeline for ALS patients. We are currently investigating if this test can detect TDP-43 aggregates in blood and nasal swabs. To date, we have been setting up the lab space (the test plates come from Germany!), planned for appropriate storage of samples (they have to be stored in -80 degree freezers), set up protocols for collecting blood and nasal swabs from both patients and controls, and fine-tuned the testing protocol and procedures. *If you are interested in supporting this research (by donating blood, CSF, or nasal swabs) please consider participating in the Biorepository to Support ALS Research in Minnesota, listed below. We will need folks who have ALS as well as controls to donate to this important study!*

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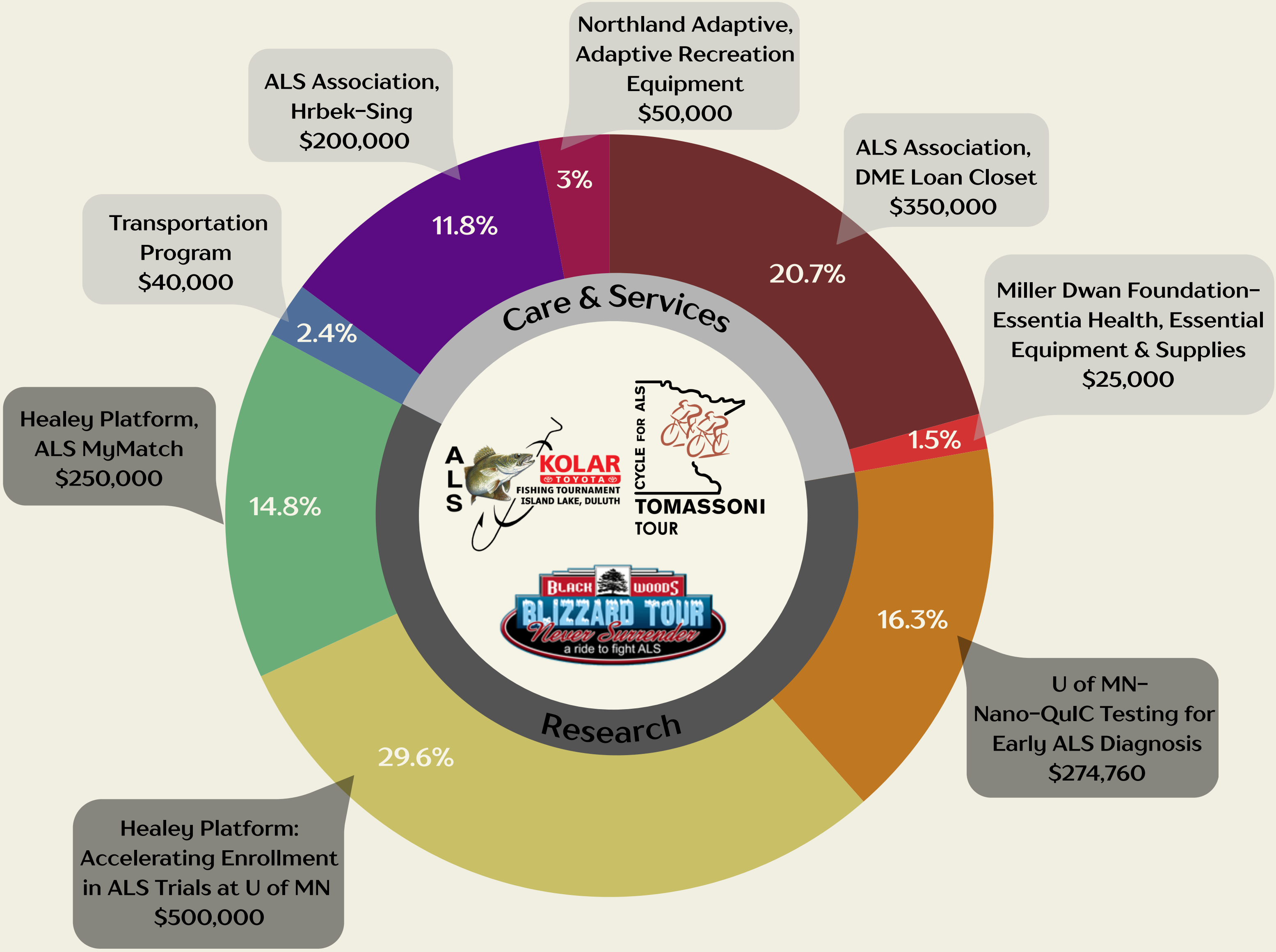
Funding the Fight Against ALS

Where YOUR work goes

The Black Woods Blizzard Tour, Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament & Tomassoni Tour-Cycle for ALS allowed Never Surrender Inc to donate $1,689,760 in 2025



Thank you for Funding the Fight Against ALS! With your help, we will *Never Surrender* to ALS!

Meet the Never Surrender Inc Team

I've worked with Never Surrender since December of 2024. I joined the team of Julie & Sandy. I'm drawn to the mission and mindset of Never Surrender Inc. Most recently, my perspective has been deeply shaped by a personal experience: having a cousin diagnosed with ALS - that moment reinforced how important it is to stay strong and support others!

Kaila Hlava - Finance & Office Manager

I started with the Never Surrender Team in February. My why for joining the team is to be a part of an empowering mission that supports people and families through life's challenges and remind them that they are never alone.

Skylar Yachinich - Event Coordinator & Development Director

I started full time with Never Surrender in November of 2025. My why is simple: no family should face ALS alone. Never Surrender's goal to bring hope, support, and strength to those fighting every day and I'm proud to be part of that mission.

. Marissa Kallio - Event Coordinator -Marketing & Communications

I joined Never Surrender team fulltime in November of 2025 - my why is to continue to help others and to assist with funding the fight against ALS.

Lisa Erikson - Executive Director

Scan to sign up today or visit
www.neversurrenderinc.org

CYCLE FOR ALS

September 17-19, 2026

Mesabi Trail
Biwabik, MN

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Check out our upcoming community events by scanning the QR code or visiting www.neversurrenderinc.org
If you have an event you would like to share with us, email us at:
info@neversurrenderinc.org

Scan to view photos of the 2026 Black Woods Blizzard Tour!

Never Surrender Inc. is recognized for its strong governance and financial stewardship. With a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator and a program expense ratio exceeding 92%, donors can trust that their contributions directly support ALS programs and services. The organization operates with transparency, accountability, and a deep commitment to the communities it serves.
Through every event, every mile, and every dollar raised, Never Surrender Inc. continues to embody its name—standing with ALS patients and families, funding critical care, and pushing toward a future where no one faces this disease alone.