Never Surrender Inc.

Funding the Fight Against ALS

NOVEMBER 2026
NEVER SURRENDER INC
ALS NEWSLETTER







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.

Black Woods Blizzard Tour
February 10 - 13, 2027

Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament
June 4 - 5, 2027

Tomassoni Tour
September 16 - 18, 2027

4TH ANNUAL TOMASSONI TOUR

4th Annual Tomassoni Tour – Cycle for ALS Raises First Million Dollars for ALS

Duluth, MN – 9/19/2026– The wheels keep spinning, and so does the impact. The Tomassoni Tour – Cycle for ALS celebrated its fourth year on the scenic Mesabi Trail this past weekend and achieved its largest fundraising total yet: $360,660 to support individuals and families battling ALS.

This year's event also marked a major milestone for the Tomassoni Tour, bringing its four-year fundraising total to more than $1 million for ALS. The milestone reflects the dedication of hundreds of riders, volunteers, sponsors, and donors who have supported the Tour since its first ride in 2023.

With a breezy Friday ride and a beautiful Saturday finish line, spirits soared as 90 cyclists and 45 dedicated volunteers came together to ride for a cause that continues to grow stronger every year.

The Tomassoni Tour is one of three signature events hosted by Never Surrender Inc, alongside the Black Woods Blizzard Tour and the Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament. Collectively, these events have raised an astonishing $2,117,942 in 2026 alone, fueling local ALS research and providing critical support such as durable medical equipment and communication devices to people living with the disease.

The weekend also celebrated outstanding contributions within the ALS community. At Saturday's banquet:

- **Jeff Erikson received the Todd Lauer Award, honoring passion, perseverance, and dedication to ending ALS.**
- **Super One was recognized with the B2 Bank – US Steel Sponsor Award for their unmatched commitment to the event's mission.**

Honoring a Legacy

The event is named after the late MN State Senator David Tomassoni, whose tireless advocacy secured $25 million in funding for ALS research and care in Minnesota. His vision and passion continue to fuel the fight.

"David believed deeply in building a better future for families affected by ALS," says a friend. "This ride is about carrying that legacy forward—mile by mile, rider by rider."

The Tour isn't slowing down. Planning is already underway for next year's ride on September 16-18, 2027.

SCAN TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM THE TOMASSONI TOUR!

WENDY MEURER & DENISE KELLEN



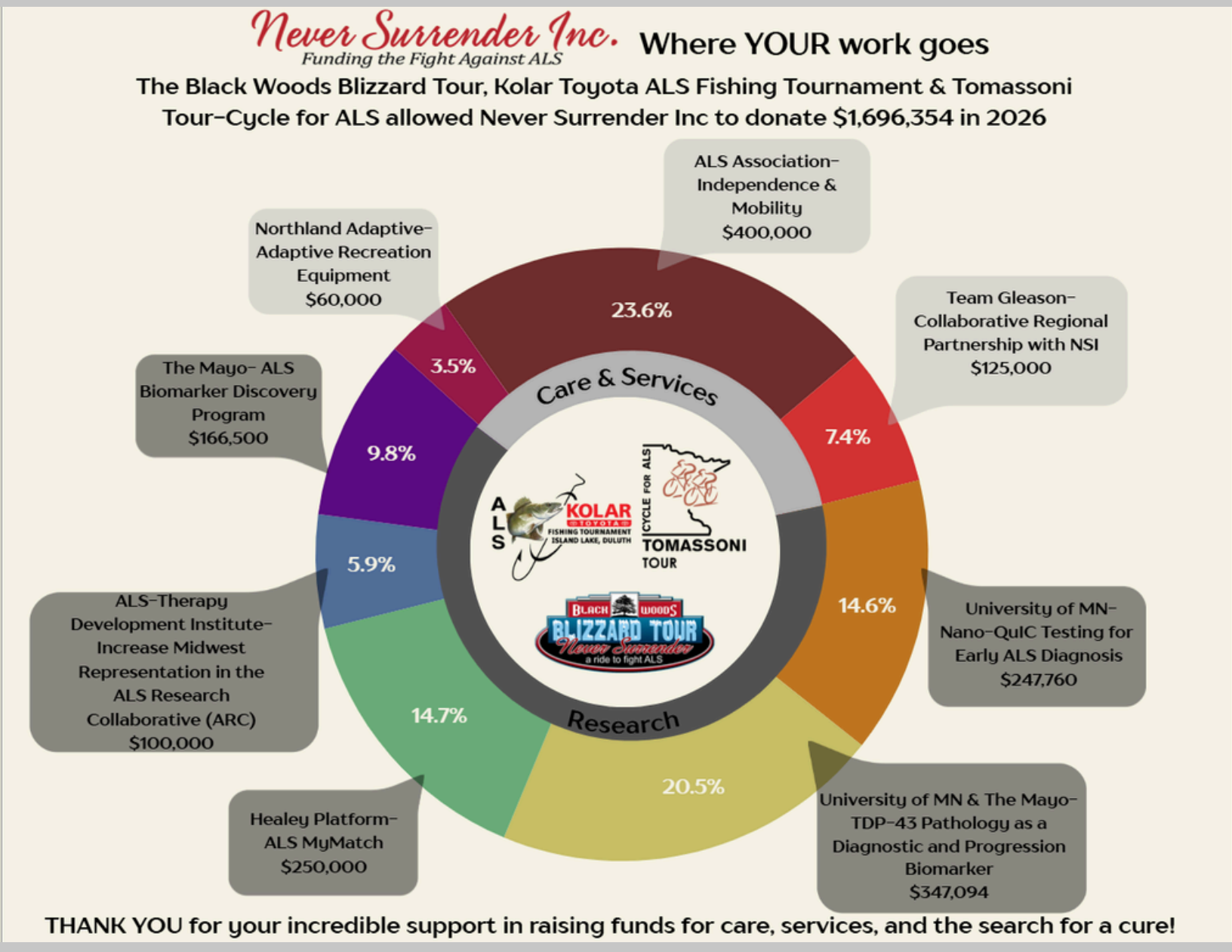
Wendy and Denise call Hudson, Wisconsin, home. Wendy works in information technology, while Denise is a property manager. Outside of work, they enjoy traveling, golfing, ATV riding, snowmobiling, fishing, and most importantly, fundraising to support the fight against ALS. Their commitment to the ALS community began with the loss of a dear friend, Patty Gowdy. Wendy met Patty while vacationing in 2003, and the two quickly became close friends. Just a few months later, at age 43, Patty was diagnosed with ALS after experiencing health challenges and losing function in her hands. Despite the devasting diagnosis, Patty lived courageously with ALS for more than a decade. Although she lived in Indiana, Wendy and Denise visited her often and were grateful to be by her side when she passed away in 2015. After Wendy introduced Denise to Patty in 2014, they knew they wanted to do more to support the fight against ALS. Denise first learned about the Black Woods Blizzard Tour through her coworker, Tina Laboda, whose husband passed away from ALS. Since then, Denise has participated in the Blizzard Tour for 12 years, with Wendy joining for 10 years. Along the way, they have met countless individuals and families whose lives have been affected by ALS. Many have become dear friends, strengthening their commitment to raising awareness, supporting families, and helping find a cure.

Today, Wendy and Denise continue to make a difference by organizing fundraising events, including golf tournaments, purse bingo, and meat raffles, as well as selling raffle tickets and calendars. They also volunteer at events such as Ales for ALS, US Pond Hockey, and Jeep crawling, and participate in ALS walks, bean bag tournaments, golf tournaments, motorcycle runs, and the Black Woods Blizzard Tour. Through their dedication, generosity, and the friendships they have built within the ALS community, Wendy and Denise are helping move the mission forward. Alongside so many others committed to this cause, they remin hopeful that one day their efforts will help put an end to this devasting disease.

Where Your Support Goes: 2026 Funding Update

Thanks to the incredible support of our community, Never Surrender Inc. was able to donate $1,696,354 in 2026 to fund organizations and programs making a difference in the lives of people living with ALS and their families. Our Funding Committee worked diligently to review 18 funding proposals, carefully consider each organization's needs and potential impact, and host a meeting where organizations presented their proposals and shared how the funding would support their work. Following thoughtful discussion and consideration, the committee came together for a final vote to determine how funds would be allocated. This donation of nearly $1.7 Million would not be possible without our generous sponsors, donors, participants, and supporters. Every event, donation, and act of support helps us continue our mission to fund the fight against ALS. Thank you for being part of the Never Surrender Inc. community and helping turn your generosity into meaningful support for those affected by ALS! We're proud to share this year's Funding Wheel, highlighting where these funds are making an impact in our communities.

To learn more or access our funding wheel, contact info@neversurrenderinc.org



In addition to our funding efforts, NSI Event Coordinators Marissa and Skylar attended the ALS NEXUS Conference, where they learned about the latest advancements in ALS research, including the role of TDP-43, a protein associated with ALS that is an important focus of ongoing research. Opportunities like this help us stay informed about the evolving landscape of ALS research, treatments, and care as we continue working toward a future without ALS.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE:

Dr. Rick Bedlack. neurologist at Duke University is challenging the status quo of ALS care through curiosity, collaboration, hope and even fashion. From pioneering research and ALS Untangled to helping patients take an active role in their care, Dr. Bedlack encourages people with ALS to see possibilities beyond the expected. For him, fashion is more than clothing. It's joy, identity, dignity, and a way to push back against despair. From accessible designs to meaningful details, style gives patients a way to express who they are and celebrate the parts of themselves ALS can't touch. Through research, creativity, and hope, Dr. Bedlack and his patients are redefining what's possible in ALS care.



Hummingbird Fund

University of Virginia

CHECK OUT THE FUND HERE:

Remembering Jim Plews-Ogan

Jim Plews-Ogan was a beloved pediatrician, professor, father, and passionate ALS advocate. After being diagnosed with ALS in 2021, Jim and his family turned their grief into action, launching the Hummingbird Fund in 2022 to raise awareness and support the fight against ALS.

Jim passed away on July 3, 2024, but his legacy continues through the Hummingbird Fund and the ongoing work to advocate for people and families affected by ALS. We honor Jim by continuing the fight he believed so deeply in: finding a cure for ALS.

RAFFLES AVAILABLE

2026 YAMAHA GOLF CART/2026 POLARIS RANGER/$10,000 CASH



CALENDAR RAFFLE



POLARIS 2025 SNOWMOBILE



FUNDRAISING 101

Join the NSI staff for a virtual call to learn all about how you can maximize the fundraising tools available. The call will be on Microsoft Teams. See our Raffles page on our website or emails for the link.

November 23rd 2026
January 6th 2027

KOLAR TOYOTA ALS FISHING TOURNAMENT

Registration for the 32nd Annual Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament will open on November 15th, 2026
Visit our website to get registered and begin your fundraising now!
www.KolarToyotaFishing.com

BLACK WOODS BLIZZARD TOUR

The 28th Annual Black Woods Blizzard Tour kicked off on October 20th and 21st with kick off parties at Skyline Social & Games - Apple Valley, MN and Tavern on the Hill in Duluth, MN

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Biorepository to Support ALS Research in Minnesota

The purpose of the study is to establish and maintain a biorepository of tissue and biospecimen samples relevant to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research. We will obtain, store, and catalogue peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), blood and blood components, skin punch biopsy samples, nasal swabs, and cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) from people living with ALS, linked to clinical datasets, to advance ALS research. May be a good fit for: patients with ALS living within driving distance of the Twin Cities, controls who live within driving distance of the Twin Cities

Contact Julia for more information:
munoz156@umn.edu

Scan this QR code to get involved in with ALS Research

ALS ASSOCIATION

Our goal is to make ALS a livable disease while advancing the search for new treatments and cures. Through collaboration with advocates, staff, and policymakers, the ALS Association has established 12 state policy priorities focused on improving care, advancing research, and preventing or delaying the impacts of ALS.

State policymakers have the power to help change the future of ALS. Through nonpartisan advocacy, we work to elevate the voices of those impacted by ALS and drive meaningful change.

Scan the QR code below to view the Minnesota State Advocacy Report Card and sign up for advocacy email updates!

Community Events

Date Event Location Details

November 14, 2026

Zenith Athletics ALS Challenge

Duluth, MN - One day male/female partner competition with three divisions. $120/team, male/female partners. Registration includes an event shirt and more event day extras in the works. Grab a partner, pick your division, and come compete for something bigger than the leaderboard. Scan the QR code to learn more and register!

December 12, 2026

ALS Meat Raffle Jonesy's Local

Hudson, WI - Who doesn't love a meat raffle? Head on over to Jonesy's and support a great cause!

January 10, 2027

Ham Lake Lanes-4th Annual Strike Out ALS

Ham Lake, MN- Crush ALS 9 Pin No Tap Tournament. Unlimited handicap in that every dollar you raise and donate to ALS equals 1 pin handicap. $100 per team of 5. All proceeds will help those living with ALS!

January 30, 2027

ALS Meat Raffle Jonesy's Local

Hudson, WI - Another opportunity to play the meat raffle if you were unable to attend previous ones.

When you hold a fundraising event to raise funds for a Never Surrender event, you can receive additional promotion by letting us know via email at info@neversurrenderinc.org or scan this QR code and fill out this Google Form



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Never Surrender Family for your continued support in the Fight against ALS by participating in our Kolar Toyota ALS Fishing Tournament, Tomassoni Tour, and Black Woods Blizzard Tour.

Donate Items – Contribute items, services or experiences to our event auctions or swag bags! If you know a business willing to donate an item, let us know.

Volunteer Your Time – Share your skills or lend a hand at Never Surrender Inc. events. Every hour makes a difference!

Make a Donation – Your gift helps Fund the Fight against ALS. Check to see whether your employer offers matching gifts to double or triple your impact.

Plan Your Legacy – Include Never Surrender, Inc. in your estate planning to ensure the fight against ALS continues.

Get involved today! Contact us at info@neversurrenderinc.org or visit NeverSurrenderInc.org. Together we will Never Surrender to ALS!

