The Sally Panfel In-Home Care and Respite Program

Statement of Purpose:

The ALS Association, Georgia Chapter has maintained its commitment to continually assessing the needs of patients and families impacted by ALS and identifying resources and opportunities that empower them to make informed decisions. In 2016 what appeared to be an unattainable goal, however with the generosity of some private foundations, The Sally Panfel In-Home Care and Respite Program was developed and then implemented in 2017.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, is a neuro-muscular disease that impacts all voluntary muscle functioning. The disease currently has no known cause, treatment or cure. 90% of Georgia ALS patients currently reside in their own homes. As the disease progresses, patients are no longer able to manage their basic daily care needs such as bathing, dressing, feeding and safe transfers. In order for families to maintain some sense of normalcy, in home care is needed in order to meet these specific needs. Unfortunately, Medicare, Medicaid and private providers do not cover this expense within their plans; thus the need for innovative programming for Georgia patients.

The Sally Panfel In-Home Care and Respite Program is a private grant funded program that will provide patients with care ranging from 2 to 12 hours weekly based on a needs assessment. Families will also be eligible for Respite Care as defined by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare which consist of 24 to 72 hours of specialized care. The ALS Association contracts with a number of home health care agencies that provide custodial care by a home health aide. Custodial care includes such things as bathing, dressing, feeding and safe transfers. It does not include ventilator care, giving medications or injections, utilizing a suction machine or assisting with feeding tubes. The amount of service is determined by the patient’s ALS Association of Georgia’s Care Service Coordinator and not by the staff of the home health aide agency. A minimum of two (2) weeks’ notice is required to coordinate this service.

Eligibility Requirements:

Candidates for the Sally Panfel In-Home Care Program must:

- Have a diagnosis of ALS and reside in the Chapter service area
- Need assistance with personal care and lives at home
- Apply, or have applied for county or state funded services such as: Office of Aging or Attendant Care Program (We can supply you with your county contact numbers if needed)
- Apply to the In- Home Care Program through your VA Medical Center if you are a veteran
Eligibility Requirements for Respite:

Candidates for the Respite Care Program must:

- Reside in their private home
- Need care for a minimum of 24 to 72 hours
- Address caregiver burnout
- Provide education needed for continuous care of individual living with ALS in the home
- Be willing to receive care in the home or in a community facility within the state

You will be considered ineligible for the Sally Panfel In-Home Care and Respite Program if:

- You are receiving hospice care (depending upon services received from hospice)
- You reside in a Skilled Nursing Facility or an Assisted Living Facility
- You have a live-in care giver
- You have a Long Term Care Insurance Policy
- You are currently receiving in-home care through another agency or organization.

Please note: your Sally Panfel In-Home Care and Respite hours will change if you begin to receive services through Hospice, VA, Office of Aging or Attendant Care Services.

For additional information, contact Juanita Pharr, LMSW at 404-636-9909 or via email at juanita@alsaga.org