

December 19, 2012

MSSL Team
c/o Cara Ceshkovsky

Dear MSSL Team,

You make a difference. Thank you for your generous gift in the amount of \$630.21.

To help you understand what your generosity means in the lives of those we serve, Michelle has given me permission to share with you her story. It is a story of heartbreak and despair but, in her words, it is also a story of hope and renewed strength.

Michelle's husband Dave has Alzheimer's. It is a disease with which his family is far too familiar - claiming his grandmother, his mother, his aunt, and two first cousins - all prematurely. Dave and his sisters, Lisa and Jodie, were all diagnosed seven years ago with Familial Early-Onset AD. Just a few months ago, Lisa died at the age of 52.

To lose one's mind, one's grip on reality, one's independence and one's lifetime of sacred memories is to be stripped of almost everything. Even those of us who have watched the progression, we cannot for a moment, fathom the fear, the confusion, the heroism and the heartache they have lived.

In our home, my boys were living with a father that could no longer care for them or remember if he had asked them about their day. He could become uncharacteristically aggressive or silent. Dave is now living in a residential care home; he requires hands-on care for all activities of daily living. He's also on hospice and beyond the point where he suffers very much from what is going on around him.

For myself I have had to accept what has begun in those still breathing. I worry for the next generation - my three amazing sons and their five cousins. As a mother, an aunt and a human being, I live in fear of seeing any one in this generation stricken. The thought is almost unbearable.

It **is** staggering to consider and yet we must confront it. Alzheimer's is growing at a frightening pace. Michelle and her family find comfort and hope in the services and programs of the Alzheimer's Association. They are strengthened in knowing that they are not alone on their journey and that **we are all working together to create a world without Alzheimer's**. They join me in thanking you for your time, your support and your kindness.

Lynn Mullowney
Vice President, Development

P.S. Early-onset Alzheimer's disease is just one of over 80 types of dementia. We provide confidential, quality, no cost services for all. For details, visit www.alz.org or call our 24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900.

Your generous gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. Our Tax ID is 95-3702013.