



Local Family Continues the Battle to Help Others

By Carolyn S. Peterson

Not everyone can take a diagnosis of a disease like Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, (ALS), and see past themselves. There are times when we can only see what is ahead for us, but Larry Hughes of Clemmons, NC was a very rare man. To honor him, his family has worked tirelessly to make a difference and put an end to this terrible disease.

A Difficult Diagnosis

When Larry was diagnosed in November 2013, he had already been experiencing unexplained symptoms as his widow Kim Hughes recalled, "We first noticed changes in Larry's voice while singing in church, March 2012. Larry told me after his diagnosis that he wasn't surprised and had suspected ALS due to the many symptoms he had been experiencing. I was blown away by the undeniable conclusion."

A Man of Faith

Larry Hughes had a strong faith in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and had a peace about him throughout the one year and one week between his diagnosis and death. "He was never frightened or angry and his faith never wavered. He did express concern for me because he knew his care would ultimately fall upon me. Along with the resources Hospice and his doctors were able to provide, I was able to take care of Larry at home until his passing. A prayer I prayed frequently," Kim stated.

Making a Difference

Instead of focusing on himself, Larry and his family chose to work toward a cure for ALS. "Within two weeks of Larry's diagnosis, my son, Brett (Hoge) called me and pitched the idea of having an event/fundraiser to aid and fund ALS research with Duke and Dr. Bedlack, Larry's doctor," said Kim. The LVH (Larry Vance Hughes) ALS Foundation was formed and sponsored a dinner and golf tournament in the spring of 2014 which Larry was able to attend.

On a Mission

The event was a huge success with 414 people in attendance and unbelievable support. Over \$400,000 was raised, in which \$290,000 was given to begin a research project called ALS Reversals, when rare patients with ALS unexpectedly get better. Learn more at www.alsreversals.com.

"Our overall goal is to raise \$2.5 million, allowing a professorship and a physician to spend five days a week focused on research, patient care and advocacy. We would like to ensure that Duke would have a faculty member focused on ALS full time. Currently Dr. Bedlack spends one day a week on patient care and there's a two month wait to see him," stated Brett Hoge.

Life Goes On

As Kim Hughes looks to a future without Larry, she has good and bad days. "It's overwhelming most days and tears flow frequently with no rhyme or reason so much of the time. Larry and I spoke often of how fortunate we were to have each other and the love we shared for 22 years. Each day I make a conscious choice to put one foot in front of the other which is what Larry would expect of me," said Kim.

To make a difference, visit www.lvhalsfoundation.org to purchase tickets, make a donation, and learn more.



LARRY VANCE HUGHES
BENEFIT & TOURNAMENT



How You Can Help

To continue with their mission, Larry's family, along with presenting sponsor Dixon Hughes Goodman and Duke ALS Clinic are planning this year's event.

To support this inspirational family and worthy cause, you can purchase tickets for The Derby Dinner for ALS on April 30 and the LHV Golf Tournament for ALS on May 1. All are welcome.

Details on next page.