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2013 JLS

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www.jlsms.com

H.O.P.E. for ALS

See the back of this calendar for more information.

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JANUARY						
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The Angel Fund is a 501(c) (3) independent charity dedicated to supporting Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) research at the Cecil B. Day Laboratory for Neuromuscular Research at UMass Medical School in Worcester under the direction of world-renowned ALS research, Dr. Robert H. Brown, Jr. ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive, always fatal neuromuscular disease which leads to muscle weakness and as it progresses, results in total paralysis and the inability to speak and swallow while the mind and senses remain intact.

What makes The Angel Fund unique is that overhead costs are low, allowing more funds to be dedicated to Dr. Brown and his research team at the UMass Medical School.

You can learn more about The Angel Fund by going to www.theangelfund.org.

When a parent or close relative of a young child is diagnosed with ALS, it can be devastating. The diagnosis not only affects the patient living with ALS, it also affects the children in the family.

ALS knows no boundaries. Patients turn to researchers to find the cure, while family and friends join together to support one another by raising funds. With this in mind, the Angel Fund has created a project for the children of ALS patients called **Helping Our Parents Erase ALS – H.O.P.E. for ALS**. The project is the brainchild of local artist Lainey Hunter.



H.O.P.E. for ALS enables these children to express themselves on paintings they create on glass. The children are instructed on the art of reverse painting on glass, and the result is beautiful pieces of art that express the child's love for their relative living with ALS or in memory of someone has lost his or her battle with this disease.

The children can feel proud of their work and, at the same time, achieve a sense of accomplishment knowing that they have helped raise much-needed funds that will be going to find a cure for the disease.

An ALS patient lives day to day with the hope that a cure will be found. Creating awareness for the disease is important...we need to continue making people aware that we must work together to find a cure for this horrific disease.

We welcome the opportunity to showcase this project and to show that in the times of darkness, there is light, and that children can play a part in creating hope for their loved ones.



About the Artist, Eleni Mazareas

My name is Eleni. I am 10 years old and my Dad has ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a disease that kills your nerves and causes all of your muscles to get very weak. After a while, people with ALS become paralyzed and can't breathe on their own. There is no cure for ALS. Because of the ALS, my Dad uses a wheelchair and he breathes using a machine called a ventilator. He can no longer speak out loud. My Dad has had ALS since I was very little. Even though my Dad has ALS, there are lots of things he can do like other dads. For example, he can use his computer to read and write, and to send me emails and letters; he loves to watch basketball and football games on TV with his friends; he helps me with my piano practice; he watches great movies with me; and he comes to my basketball tournaments. He also spends a lot of time helping other ALS patients and their families. The Angel Fund is very important to our family because it is raising money so that doctors can find a treatment and cure for ALS.

I hope, dream and believe that one day ALS will be cured.