A nonprofit dedicated to serving people with ALS

Local Family Recognized by ALS Northwest

A nonprofit dedicated to serving people with ALS

ALS Northwest, a local nonprofit dedicated to serving people with ALS in Oregon and SW Washington, honored the family of Steven Smith at their annual Gala and Auction dinner on Saturday September 30th at the Oregon Convention Center. Over 450 people in attendance learned the story of how the extended Smith family supports and cares for Steven.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive and degenerative neuromuscular disease that causes people to lose their ability to walk, talk, speak, swallow and breathe. For most people with ALS the disease is terminal in 3-5 years. At this time there are a few FDA approved medications that can slow the disease, but there is no cure.

Diagnosed in 2018, Steven has a disability from ALS and cannot walk or speak, but his mind is sharp and fully intact. Over forty members of the Smith family attended the event. Onstage that evening, Steven's siblings Kevin Smith, Robin Smith, Lisa Dickerson and Steven's aunt Jackie Smith were recognized, and all shared their solidarity and love for Steven.

"It truly takes a village to care for someone with ALS. The Smith family puts family first in everything they do and provide amazing care and advocacy for Steven. He cannot speak, so they are his voice and make sure his needs are met and gets the healthcare and support he needs." Lance Christian the Executive Director for ALS Northwest said. "I am inspired by the strength and solidarity of the Smith family they are amazing!" Over $350,000 was raised at the event to provide support for people living with ALS and to fund ALS research. To learn more about ALS and ALS Northwest visit www.alsnorthwest.org.