



NEWS

All ages 'chill' to stop ALS cold

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Foxboro takes on the Ice Bucket Challenge

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The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has become both a national phenomenon and an Internet sensation that is increasing awareness around the country of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis -- also called Lou Gehrig's disease. And Foxboro is no exception.

No matter where you are or where you have been over the last three weeks, either away on vacation or enjoying summertime activities closer to home, more than likely you or someone you know has taken the Ice Bucket Challenge. Under the rules of the challenge, nominees either accept the dare to dump a bucket of ice water on their heads or donate \$100 to the ALS Association. They can nominate three people, who then have 24 hours to take the challenge, donate or do both.

In Foxboro, adults and children of all ages have found new ways to increase both awareness and involvement. Approximately 20 youth soccer players, ages 5-12, participated in their own ALS Ice Bucket Challenge last Friday. The idea came about because a group of five kids started running out of people to nominate for the Ice Bucket Challenge because of its growing popularity.

"The kids wanted to figure out a way to continue to spread ALS awareness and raise money for ALS research by taking it up a notch," said parent Danielle Riley. "They decided that since they have so many friends who play town soccer like they do, they would reach out to their teammates. They told each kid to bring a bucket, a bag of ice and \$5."

The five responsible for helping to raise \$170 for the ALS Association is very happy with the results and include the following children: Paige Curran, 9; Lauren Miley, 9; Grace Riley, 9; Nolan Riley, 11; and Morgan Riley, 6. Their hope now is to encourage other youth sports teams in town to take the challenge.

FHS coach takes plunge

AJ Dooley coaches varsity football at Foxboro High School and was nominated by one of his Warriors for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. Dooley is also the owner of Dooley Disposal Services, which helped him generate his own twist on the Ice Bucket Challenge.

He took one of his 96-gallon trash totes, filled it half full of water, added 30 pounds of ice and jumped in.

Dooley said that when he took his version of the challenge last Wednesday, he was completely submerged underwater and noted, "The majority of the high school football players have done the traditional Ice Bucket Challenge."

You can watch Dooley take the challenge on the company's Facebook page.



Foxboro youth soccer players, ages 5-12, take the ALS Ice Bucket challenge last Friday at Stather Field. (Submitted photo)

Normandy Farms Campground

At Normandy Farms Campground, the challenge first began back on July 29 with the recreation staff. Members nominated each other and did the Ice Bucket Challenge as a team.

Then the recreation staff nominated the pool staff and the guests. These two groups took the challenge, after which each group nominated two more groups of people.

The pool staff challenged the reception center staff and the guests at Normandy Farms challenged guests staying at Pine Acres Family Camping Resort in Oakham.

The guests at Pine Acres took the challenge and nominated guests from Jellystone Park in Sturbridge.

Jellystone Park guests took the challenge and nominated guests at Village Green Family Campground in Brimfield.

Meanwhile, back at Normandy Farms, the reception center challenged the staff at Kamper's Kitchen. After Kamper's Kitchen completed the group challenge, they nominated the rangers, maintenance, the "popcorn girls" and Human Resources Director Marcia Galvin.

These individuals joined forces, nominated Dave Armstrong from the recreation lodge and they all took the final challenge together.

"This was a team building exercise around a great cause," said Galvin. "The summer was a good time for this because it brought all the different departments together. The Ice Bucket Challenge inspired the entire staff to reach out to different teams and at the same time increased ALS awareness."

Galvin explained that part of the goal was to extend the group challenge experience to other campgrounds within Massachusetts with hopes of spreading it throughout New England and eventually to campgrounds across the country.

Check the Normandy Farms Facebook page to see videos of campers and staffers taking the ALS Challenge.

ALS hits home

Foxboro's Mackenzie Anderson, who will be a junior at Foxboro High School, has worked at Normandy Farms for the past two seasons and participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge as a member of the pool team.

This past weekend, the Anderson family of four learned that mother, Susan, has ALS. Susan works as a special education instructional assistant at the Igo Elementary School.

After hearing the news, Mackenzie decided to put together a team that will participate in the upcoming Walk to Defeat ALS on Oct. 25, in South Boston.

To find out more information on the walk and how to support Mackenzie, please visit www.walktodefateals.org and click under "Donate", select "Find a Walker" and enter "Mackenzie Anderson."

Pete Frates' battle with ALS

According to their website, the ALS Association is incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support from those people who have been doused, made a donation, or both. Contributions further the Association's mission to find a cure for ALS while funding the highest quality of care for people living with the disease.

With only about half of the general public knowledgeable about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, the Ice Bucket Challenge is making a profound difference. Since July 29, the Association has welcomed more than 70,000 new donors to the cause.

It's been 75 years since Lou Gehrig gave his now famous goodbye speech and sadly not much has changed in the lives of those that suffer from this horrific disease.

"We have never seen anything like this in the history of the disease," said Barbara Newhouse, President and CEO of The ALS Association. "We couldn't be more thrilled with the level of compassion, generosity and sense of humor that people are exhibiting as they take part in this impactful viral initiative."

Massachusetts resident Pete Frates was diagnosed with ALS in March of 2012 at the age of 27. He is a former captain of the Boston College baseball team and played professional baseball in Europe.

Since his diagnosis, Frates has enjoyed the strength and support of his family including his new bride, Julie. The happy couple was married in June of 2013 and look forward to welcoming their first child in September. Together they, along with family and friends, have taken an active role in raising awareness and funds for ALS research, including the Ice Bucket Challenge.

For more information on ALS and the Ice Bucket Challenge, visit the ALS Association website at www.als.org.

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