



*A Reason for Hope*

The Amyotrophic  
Lateral Sclerosis  
Association

West Michigan Chapter

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***News Release***

July 15, 1996

Christopher Reeds of Rockford, Michigan, age 30, passed away today at 1:25 PM from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Christopher was diagnosed with ALS (more commonly referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease") approximately 9 years ago. The average life expectancy of an ALS patient is 3 - 5 years, but Chris refused to take a death sentence. Instead, he forged into life; he participated in the wheelchair event at the Old Kent River Bank Run for the past several years, and as recently as this past May, and was an active athletic coach at Rockford High School until his death. According to his sister, Wendy Haar, "Chris wanted people to know he did not give up, but he finally gave in to the disease."

Chris gave us the impression he would go on forever. He made an enormous contribution to the community, to the ALS Association West Michigan Chapter by serving on the Board, actively fundraising and creating awareness of ALS, and by becoming a symbol of hope to those afflicted with the deadly disease. In death he leaves a legacy of inspiration to all of us. His strength will endure.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday evening at 7:00 PM at Calvary Church at 777 E. Beltline, N.E., in Grand Rapids. Officiating will be Rev. Edward Dobson.

Marie Turner  
Executive Director