



LOCAL FAMILY NOT DEFEATED BY A.L.S.

Northwest Ohio is gearing up to fight a fatal disease that traps its victims within their own bodies. It's called ALS. You probably know it as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Recently, Jim Blue sat down with a local family that refused to let ALS defeat them.

Doug and Cay Stout had it all. A loving marriage -- two beautiful young children -- a wonderful home -- and an active lifestyle.

Cay tells of when Doug first noticed a problem: "He was actually skiing and having trouble with one of his legs keeping up with the other leg and sensed some weakness."

Was it a back problem? perhaps a swollen disk? It was only after they ruled out everything else -- that doctors diagnosed Doug's problem: ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Lou Gehrig's disease.

Cay: "We were certain that a cure was right around the corner."

But despite expert care at the respected Cleveland Clinic, and holistic health treatment in Arizona, the paralysis was relentless.

Cay: "Well, within ten months, Doug was a quadriplegic."

Despite his illness, Doug kept working as an engineer. Although ALS paralyzed his body, his mind was as sharp as ever.

Cay: "He really looked at every day as an opportunity for grace, as an opportunity for humor, as an opportunity to spend time with his children."

Cay relocated their bedroom to the ground floor, where Doug could watch the children, playing in the back yard.

As the disease progressed, Doug encouraged Cay to take on yet another challenge... to compete in the 2006 Mrs. Ohio Pageant.

In May, their son, Jackson, was on the stage with her and with a little help from Jackson, Cay received her crown.

Jackson: "So I had to do the crown. I couldn't reach her head so someone lifted me up and I put it on."

On August 12th, 2006, three years after being diagnosed with ALS, Doug Stout died.

On Sunday, Cay and her children will walk with other families to continue Doug's battle. Cay will be joined by hundreds of people at Flower hospital this weekend to walk to defeat ALS. The walk begins at 1:00 PM. Registration is at noon. Jim Blue will help kick off the walk.

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