

Focus on Research

"If there aren't people like me, we can't make advancements."

Many people hear the word research and it may ring hollow. But to Tim Williams, it means so much more. "I don't just use the catch phrase END ALZ lightly," Tim shared. "It means something to me." Tim lost his father to Alzheimer's in 2008 and his sister is currently living with the disease. "Participating in research is something I feel like I'm supposed to do," Tim said. "God puts things in front of you and you either do something with it or you don't. I feel a responsibility to participate."

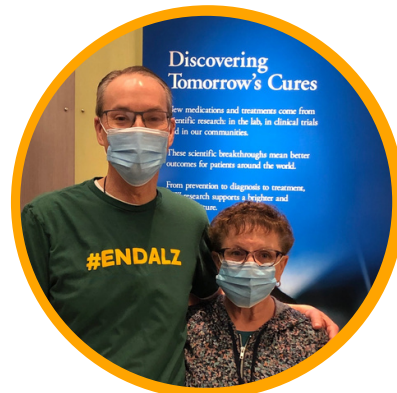
Getting involved in Full Mission

"My journey with the Alzheimer's Association started when I was trying to sell them office furniture in 2010," Tim said. "Fast forward to 2018, I was invited to be part of a team for the Greenwoods State Bank in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's® in Walworth County. At that walk I saw the "I REMEMBER" board for the first time. I thought about my dad, and mom, they were great friends, and what I remembered was our love. It was a very rewarding experience, so in 2019, I formed my own team, *Remember the Love*. While I was committed to raising awareness and funds, I still felt I should be doing more."

Don't Just Hope for a Cure. Help Us Find One.

"It was January 2019 when I visited alz.org and discovered TrailMatch®, and a whole realm of possibilities presented themselves," Tim said. TrialMatch connects individuals living with Alzheimer's, caregivers and healthy volunteers to clinical trials that may advance Alzheimer's research. It's a free, easy-to-use platform that allows individuals to see which studies are a good fit. "It was somewhat empowering to see all the different research studies that were out there," Tim said. "I explored several options – that I actually didn't qualify for – and then I came across the AHEAD study."

The AHEAD study, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is testing whether an investigational treatment can lower people's risk of memory loss due to Alzheimer's disease. Study participants are enrolled in one of two AHEAD trials based on the level of amyloid plaque in their brain. Tim initially qualified for the study and participated in cognitive tests, blood work and a pet scan. "Going into this, my expectation was that I would have amyloid plaque, due to my family history," Tim said. "My results showed no plaque detected. This brought tears to my wife's eyes when we heard the news. While a huge relief, I knew I'd look for other opportunities to participate in research. There is a sign on the wall at the UW-Madison Hospital, where I did the testing, that reads, "Discovering Tomorrow's Cures"; my wife and I both looked at each other and said, 'this is why we're here.'"



Tim Williams and his wife, Cheryl.



"I feel a responsibility to participate."



Tim and his father.

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A Cure Depends on Research

"I know some people with a family history of Alzheimer's may not want to know if it will impact them," Tim said. "But if you do nothing, you can't stop it from happening. If it could impact you at some point, I can't think of a better place to be than in a study working to find a cure. If there aren't people like me, it would be hard to make advances to find a cure. By participating in research, you're on the leading edge of the science to stop this devastating disease."

"Even though I didn't qualify for the AHEAD study, I know I have a family history and genetic makers (two APOE4 genes), so I want to know why this devastating disease hasn't affected me," Tim shared. "People doing research said the same thing to me. They want to know why. I will continue to look for study and research opportunities because I don't know what the future holds. I would encourage others to explore TrialMatch – it's just asking questions and there may be a fit for you. Alzheimer's still scares me and is in front of me all the time. If I can help figure something out, why wouldn't I?"



Walk Team, Remember the Love.



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