

When Ron Malone won the National Cutting Horse Association's Superstakes Amateur Title in April of 2014, he had already been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). That's an unlikely confluence of events, because ALS is characterized by progressive muscle weakness, and riding a cutting horse requires extraordinary physical strength and agility. What's more, because ALS is a diagnosis of exclusion – meaning that symptoms can be diffuse, and many other neurological disorders must be ruled out before it becomes clear that a person has ALS – diagnosis usually comes later in the course of the disease.

I've made this gift to inspire others. We need your help to keep these extraordinary services available.

Ron attributes his early diagnosis to his work with horses. "As a horseman, I am very attuned to even subtle irregularities in my horses' gait, so I could hear that my own footsteps were uneven," he says. Still, it took a long series of tests at CPMC's Forbes Norris ALS Research and Treatment Center before Ron was diagnosed. "I'm getting phenomenal care at the Forbes Norris Center. They really do use a collaborative, team approach to make my life better. I work with neurologists, RNs, physical and occupational therapists, dietitians, and speech and respiratory therapists. The goal is to stay functional as long as possible."

Ron's wide-ranging legal career includes expertise in administering philanthropic trusts. He was a key part of the team that successfully fought to keep the proceeds of the Buck Trust in Marin County, and he is a trustee for several other trusts, including the William and Inez Mabie



My last competition was in October of 2015, but before I had to quit, I was the cutting horse champion of the world. I got to achieve my dream.

– Ron Malone

photo courtesy: Circle Oak Equine

Foundation. That expertise, along with what Ron calls his "bird's-eye view of how the Norris Center works" has led him to pledge \$1,000,000 from the Mabie foundation to support the full range of services the Center provides.

THANKS TO YOU, OUR PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS, IN THIS LAST YEAR:

- The Center cared for over 200 patients, with detailed care management and follow-up for each patient throughout the course of the illness.
- Amy Roman, M.S., the speech therapist at The Forbes Norris Center, released a free Windows app which streamlines the process of message banking, including capturing a person's unique expressions.
- We lent equipment to patients who could not afford to buy it, including speech-generation devices, wheelchairs, beds, walkers and respiratory devices.
- We were chosen as a Top Clinical Care Center by Sutter Health's physician organization for the Northern California region, the Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation.
- With funding from the ALS Association, the Center began establishing uniform methods of data collection to help standardize best practices for ALS patients.
- We received the Sutter Health President's Award for the ALS Quality Measures project.

On October 1 of this year, more than 170 people attended an event in Cupertino supporting the Norris Center. Organized by a volunteer host committee headed by Dolly Sandoval and Ed Hoffman, the event featured a talk by Jonathan Katz, M.D., Medical Director of the Center, and raised over \$55,000.



Ed Hoffman, Dr. Jon Katz, Dolly Sandoval

Most of the comprehensive care is not covered by insurance. Every gift helps!

The Forbes Norris MDA/ALS Research and Treatment Center at CPMC provides comprehensive and integrated care to our patients. The Center is the largest ALS clinical research center in the United States; we draw on our robust program of clinical research to inform the care we provide. While we cannot yet cure those with ALS and other motor neuron diseases, our coordinated and experienced team can make patients' lives – and the lives of their family members – immeasurably better.

Your charitable gift will help sustain the Forbes Norris Center and improve the quality of life for hundreds of ALS patients. Please use the enclosed envelope, or visit cpmc.org/als. To explore other options for making a gift, contact Valerie Lou at 415-600-2071 or Louv@sutterhealth.org. Thank you!

