INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ALS/MND ASSOCIATIONS

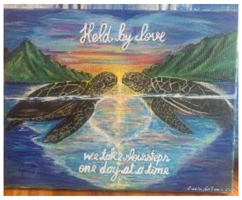
2027 ALS/MND Caregiver Calendar Submissions

	**ALS: An Unvarnished and Loving Poem** *Submitted by ALS patiëntenvereniging* Poem by Sascha Groen: An unvarnished and loving poem from a woman to her husband with ALS.
	**Always by Your Side (Siempre a tu lado)** *Submitted by FYADENMAC* Jaime García Hernández
	**Anything for Your Smile (Todo por tu sonrisa)** *Submitted by FYADENMAC* Miguel Notario Zacarias
	**Caregivers: ALS Awareness** *Submitted by ALS Liga België*
	**Celebrating Collective Joy** *Submitted by The ALS Association* In my experience, caregiving has been small acts of compassion, tremendous acts of undaunted commitment and everything in between. Many of us have lost the ability to accomplish daily tasks for ourselves. Caregivers help us live daily lives. But they also help us keep dreaming and striving. They help make our dreams come true whether that means getting out of bed that day, getting out of the house into nature, or going on a huge adventure. This image was taken at Channel Islands National Park. My daughter and one of my best friends planned the trip and loaded me and all of my gear onto airplanes and into rental cars and an Airbnb, then a ferry boat with the staff who made every accommodation. We arrived at the park to find two Rangers standing alongside this amazing wheelchair ready to greet us and help us enjoy the park. They really wanted me to get to the top of the island, so they loaded this wheelchair and us into a huge side-by-side four-wheeler. So many hands, so many hearts and such utter joy!!! We can still do all the things; they just look different!

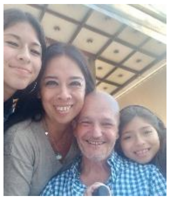
	**Celebrating Those Who Care with Love and Strength** *Submitted by ACELA* Inspired by a real-life moment, this scene celebrates the vital role of caregivers in the lives of people living with ALS/MND. Their strength, dedication, and love are the true driving force behind emotional well-being and quality of life, bringing hope, dignity, and humanity to every day. (Real photo, modified with OpenAI)
	**Chasing Clouds** *Submitted by ALS United* Artist: Melissa Stephens Encaustic, India ink and Caran d'Ache on board This is a painting reflecting on a childhood memory of lying on a grassy hillside to watch clouds with my sister. Carefree days. My sister was diagnosed with ALS in July 2020. Sadly, she passed away at the end of 2023. When she first shared the news, I launched my Little Art Gallery, selling small paintings and donating 55% of all sales to ALS research organizations. In May 2022, I started an annual art exhibition, educational program and fundraiser called Hope Lives: Art for ALS. The nature of each exhibition has been different, but the goals remain the same.
	**Dancing with the Moon 2** *Submitted by ALS United* Artist: Rob Howe Rob worked as a journalist for 35 years before retiring in 2013. His wife passed from ALS in February 2026. Excerpts from his website: “...what you will see here is a good representation of my post-journalist life — and evidence of what has been a lifelong passion. Art. Always loved it and had a fairly impressive collection of it before the Tubbs Fire of 2017 came along. But I never had the time or space to see if I was any good at making it.” “Where did the ideas for my etchings or paintings come from? [...] All of my images, aside from the iPad pieces, began with a photograph, a drawing or a live model. In most cases I took the photo or made the original pencil drawing. But I look at art all the time — in galleries, in publications, online. Sometimes I find a photo so inspiring that I try to secure one-time rights to it. I will use that as a starting point for an etching or painting. Usually, my work departs quickly from the original. I set it aside and try to craft the best image I can whether or not it looks anything like the photo.”

	**Divergent Pathways** *Submitted by ALS ONE* Artist: Melissa Stephens Encaustic mixed media on board I painted “Divergent Pathways” as a catharsis after hearing about my sister’s diagnosis. The largest work I’ve completed, it includes action verbs over the entire surface area, notating the physical losses that ALS steals. In the foreground is the Maze of Man, a sacred Native American symbol that signifies life’s crooked path.
	**Essential Support** *Submitted by MND Association* Image of Kin Tung Wong
	**Everyone’s Path Is Different** *Submitted by ALS United* Artist: Diane Howe Collages using unusual papers, with inks, acrylics, and other media. Work was submitted on behalf of Diane by her husband, retired journalist and artist, Rob Howe. Rob and his wife, Diane, lost everything from their Sonoma home in the Tubbs wildfire in 2017 and relocated to San Rafael. Diane was diagnosed with sporadic (bulbar) ALS in May 2024 and passed in February 2026.
	**Feeding: A Son’s Care** *Submitted by MND Malaysia* Photo: Alex Ooi MND warrior, Pn. Janiah, aged 57, from Rembau, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia, was fed by her son, Khamarol. Her son, aged 26, is the main caregiver to her. She was diagnosed in 2024. Currently, her condition is slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, and weak upper limbs.
	**Feeling Safe and Supported** *Submitted by MND Association* Debbie Whitehouse, who has MND, and her daughter

 	**Fight ALS Like Lions** *Submitted by ALS Liga België*
 	**Fight Like Lions Against ALS** *Submitted by ALS Liga België*
	**Happy Moment** *Submitted by MND Malaysia* Photo: Alex Ooi This candid photo was taken during our recent Family Gathering 2026. Papa Halim (MND warrior) on the left, aged 81, was pretending to give a speech while his caregiver, Nisa and his son, Affandy were amused by his act. Papa Halim was diagnosed in 2023 with bulbar onset. Currently, he can no longer speak and has weak lower limbs. Nisa has been a loving and caring caregiver to Papa Halim, looking after his needs.
	**Held by Love** *Submitted by ACELA* Credit: Marcela Santos A quiet moment where caregiving becomes presence. Love expressed through touch, closeness, and simply being there. This artwork is based on the last photograph of my parents together. It shows a final embrace, a moment of closeness where everything that needed to be said was already understood. Rather than a goodbye, it is a reflection of a love that remained fully present until the very end. It honors the quiet strength of caregiving, and the way love is lived through the simplest gestures: holding, staying, and being there.

	**Held by Love** *Submitted by ALS ONE* Artist: Paula Coffman Acrylic on canvas Paula is a Hawaii-based artist and caregiver whose work is deeply inspired by love, resilience, and the quiet strength found in everyday moments. Living by the ocean, she often paints sea life, especially turtles, as symbols of endurance, connection, and guidance. This piece reflects her personal journey as a caregiver for her husband, who is living with ALS. The two turtles represent a partnership — moving together through life's challenges with patience, compassion, and unwavering support. The light between them symbolizes love as a source of strength, even in uncertain times. Through this painting, Paula hopes to honor caregivers everywhere and remind others that even in difficult seasons, we are held by love — and that taking slow steps, one day at a time, is enough.
	**Help Comes in All Forms** *Submitted by The ALS Association* Photo: Bonnie Wagner
	**Hero in Mind** *Submitted by ALS patiëntenvereniging* Artist: Bernard Muller AI painting A surreal portrayal of the invisible bond between a caregiver and the one they love. The reclining figure rests in quiet stillness yet is never alone — tethered by an intricate web of branching threads that reach through the soft blue air toward a watching presence above. These vessels carry the constant thoughts, the silent attention, the love that never rests. The work speaks to what every caregiver knows: care does not end when the room goes quiet. It lives on — in thought, in vigilance, in a love that never lets go.
	**Hope** *Submitted by MNDA South Africa* Artist: Ryna van Eck In hands of care, the burden glows — a golden path through shadowed woes. Together they walk, light shared, hope endures because love is there.

	**Hope Lives in Every Moment** *Submitted by MNDA South Africa* Artist: Ryna van Eck In hands of care, the burden glows — a golden path through shadowed woes. Together they walk, light shared, hope endures because love is there.
	**Keeping an Eye on the Kids (Vigilando a los chicos)** *Submitted by FYADENMAC* Magdalena Ayala Rodríguez
	**Life Goes On** *Submitted by ACELA* Inspired by a real-life moment, this image captures a quiet moment of care and dignity, where compassion speaks louder than words. This scene honors the strength, patience, and unwavering love of those who stand beside individuals living with ALS/MND — caregivers whose presence brings light, hope, and humanity to every day. (Real photo, modified with AI using ChatGPT)
	**Lion Strength** *Submitted by ALS Liga België*
	**Love Is Hope for ALS/MND** *Submitted by ACELA* Inspired by a real-life moment. A quiet act of love, repeated every day. Caregivers for people living with ALS/MND embody strength, patience, and unwavering compassion. They hold hands, lift spirits, and bring hope where it's needed most — reminding us that even in the hardest moments, love endures. (Real photo, modified with AI using ChatGPT)
	**Love Matters** *Submitted by MND Association* Debbie Whitehouse, who has MND, pictured with her daughter.

	**Loves Eternal Hope** *Submitted by ALS ONE* Artist: Mary Porter Watercolor Mary Porter learned watercolor in December 2022. She began art therapy as a way to cope with her ALS diagnosis and to aid her grieving process. She says, “I have ALS and I am slowly becoming paralyzed in all [of] my muscles. I am still able to use my hands, but they are getting worse. Along the way, I fell in love with watercolor painting!” Mary Porter’s goal is to paint all of the US National Parks that she and her family have visited. These paintings will serve as a memorial for her husband and future grandchildren. Mary and her husband live on a lavender farm at the foot of Mt. Hood in Oregon. She is grateful for the beauty that surrounds her each day that inspires her to keep painting.
	**Making Sure You’re Taken Care Of (Cuidando lo que tomas)** *Submitted by FYADENMAC* Jorge Luis Fernández Romero
	**Messengers** *Submitted by ALS United* Artist: Melissa Stephens Encaustic mixed media on board Using a warm palette, this painting emulates functioning synapses from my imagination — reminiscent of the healthy visualization I would do for my sister. My sister was diagnosed with ALS in July 2020. Sadly, she passed away at the end of 2023. When she first shared the news, I launched my Little Art Gallery, selling small paintings and donating 55% of all sales to ALS research organizations. In May 2022, I started an annual art exhibition, educational program, and fundraiser called Hope Lives: Art for ALS. The nature of each exhibition has been different, but the goals remain the same.
	**Moments That Matter** *Submitted by Asociación ELA Argentina* Mariano Ponceliz, person living with ALS and Association volunteer

	**Oil Paint with Mouth Stick** *Submitted by The ALS Association* Artist: Carrie George The cornflower, a symbol of ALS awareness, reflects the quiet strength of caregivers. Like the stems that support each bloom, caregivers provide steady, unseen support — rooted in patience, resilience, and love.
	**PEG Tube: Care Beyond Words** *Submitted by MND Malaysia* Photo: Alex Ooi This picture was taken during our Family Gathering in 2025 at Taiping. En. Ayob, aged 47, and his whole family joined us in that trip despite being fully bedridden, and unable to speak or eat. Two months later, he passed away. His wife, Pn. Linda, was feeding him via the PEG tube. Pn. Linda was the only breadwinner for the family with five young children to take care of. Her children, including the youngest at just 5 years old, helped care for En. Ayob while Pn. Linda worked.
	**Resilience Through the Ages** *Submitted by MND Association* Image of Rob Hasler, who has MND, and his son
	**Running Through Life Together** *Submitted by Irish MND Association* Photo of Andres Estevez Guersanik and his wife and caregiver, Jennifer. Andres was diagnosed three years ago, and Jen has been by his side through thick and thin. In this photo, taken during a run in Co. Kerry last year, Andres participated in his wheelchair alongside Jen. This shows caregiving in another light. It also shows that caregiving is about finding ways to support your loved one and make sure you continue to enjoy hobbies and live life fully as best you can together — making memories and having fun.

Side by Side Through the Journey

Submitted by Irish MND Association

Photo of Lorraine Kelly Donnelly and her husband and caregiver, Cormac.

Lorraine, a 52-year-old mother from Co. Dublin, was recently diagnosed with MND in July 2025, yet agreed to be our 2026 ambassador for the IMNDA's #DrinkTeaforMND campaign.

Cormac was by her side throughout and featured in photos (this one included) and even took part in a national radio interview alongside Lorraine — showing that the role of a caregiver extends beyond its traditional meaning.

Still Here

Submitted by MNDA South Africa

Photo: Jonathan Ray Josephs

Two people sit together in the quiet of a home, caught in a moment of genuine connection. One face turns toward us, lit by a smile that carries both weariness and warmth. The other leans in, present. The disease may be taking much, but not this: not the conversation, not the laughter, not the closeness.

MND dismantles the body progressively and without mercy. What it cannot touch is relationship. MNDA SA works to protect the conditions that allow moments like this one to exist: through care support, practical resources, and the simple but radical act of ensuring no person with MND, and no one who loves them, is left to face this alone.

This image was not created using AI. It is a documentary photograph submitted with the consent of the subjects and the photographer as part of our MNDA of SA storytelling series.

Strength Beside Him

Submitted by MND Australia

Photo: Kyle Harley

For more than 57 years, Graham and Gaynor Crossan have built a life together — one filled with concerts, movies, family, and quiet everyday routines. But after Graham's diagnosis with advanced motor neurone disease, life changed dramatically. Today, Gaynor helps care for her husband around the clock as the disease has progressively taken away his ability to walk, speak, eat, and breathe independently.

This photo captures one of those everyday moments of care: gentle, familiar, and deeply human. Despite the exhaustion, uncertainty, and ongoing fight for adequate support, Gaynor remains by Graham's side — offering comfort, dignity, and unwavering love through every stage of the journey.

	**Sunset Stroll** *Submitted by The ALS Association* Artist: Julie Silverman Medium: Night Cafe AI This image is inspired by the continuing creativity of caregiving, and the ability to find ways to still connect with one another, and nature.
	**Surrounded by Love** *Submitted by ALS Canada* Credit: ALS Society of Canada Ana, diagnosed with ALS in 2022, pictured with her husband and one of her daughters, finds love, comfort, and support being surrounded by her family.
	**Thank You ALS Caregivers 1** *Submitted by Les Turner ALS Foundation*
	**Thank You ALS Caregivers 2** *Submitted by Les Turner ALS Foundation*
	**The Weight of Love** *Submitted by MNDA South Africa* Photo: Jonathan Ray Josephs This image captures an unguarded moment of devoted caregiving in a South African home. A caregiver kneels on the floor, tending to the feet of a wheelchair-bound loved one with quiet concentration and unhurried care. A basin of water, a towel, hands that do not pause. There is no performance here, only presence. For families living with MND, this is the texture of every day: care given in ordinary rooms, by ordinary people, at extraordinary personal cost. MNDA SA exists to see these caregivers, support them, and ensure that no family navigates this journey alone. This image was not created using AI. It is a documentary photograph submitted with the consent of the subjects and the photographer as part of our MNDA of SA storytelling series.

	**Time Given, Care Sustained** *Submitted by MND Association of Kenya* This artwork reflects the reality of caregiving in Africa, where support for people living with ALS or MND is constant, personal, and enduring. The continent, held between day and night, symbolizes care that does not pause, 24 hours a day, often without relief. Though systems and resources may be limited, caregivers remain present, offering time, strength, and compassion. Even where knowledge and tools are still growing, care continues, steadfast, human, and deeply rooted in love.
	**Tinni, with Hope** *Submitted by MND Iceland* Photo credit: Gudjon Sigurdsson My view when eating something me and my TINNI both like to eat. It is a win-win situation. Because of my ALS/MND, I tend to drop more food on the floor, but do not worry — it is cleaner than ever after TINNI has done his cleaning!
	**Together Through Every Moment** *Submitted by Irish MND Association* Photo of Andres Estevez Guersanik and his wife and caregiver, Jennifer. Andres was diagnosed three years ago, and Jen has been by his side through thick and thin. In this photo, they took part in a run only last year in Co. Kerry, Andres in his wheelchair accompanied by Jen. This shows caregiving in another light. That it's also about finding ways to support your loved one and make sure you continue to enjoy hobbies and live life fully as best you can together — making memories and having fun.
	**Transferring: Love in Motion** *Submitted by MND Malaysia* Photo: Alex Ooi Mr. Lee is husband to Mdm Chuah, aged 60, who is an MND warrior since 2018. He has been caring for her full-time since day. This picture was taken at our Family Gathering 2026 in Seremban, where he drove her. She is now totally bedridden, unable to speak, but still able to eat.

	**Who I Am Is More Important Than What I Do** *Submitted by ALS ONE* Artist: Lyn Kirkland Encaustic wax & mixed media on wood panel A UK encaustic wax artist, Lyn responded to a callout from the International Encaustic Artists (IEA) organisation to take part in their “Hope Lives: Art for ALS” annual exhibition in 2025. Her artwork was inspired by the journey of the sister of one of the IEA Directors. As the eldest of three sisters herself, she was deeply affected by the story of Lynn Giovannelli and the continuing fight of her family to support research into this dreadful disease. Her painting was selected to receive the “To Life” Award given for artwork that reflects life’s preciousness and how we can make a difference in the lives of others.