



Derek & Shelly VanWyk have lived and worked in the Victor/Farmington Community for most of their lives. They have 2 children, Leah, 5 and Ryan 3.

Derek VanWyk, 36, was diagnosed with ALS: otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2005. There is no treatment or cure and it is usually fatal within 3-5 years. Derek not wanting to leave his children without a father, researched on his own and discovered in September 2005 he also had Lyme disease, which may have triggered the ALS condition.

Since then he has been treating the Lyme disease and co-infections aggressively with antibiotics and supplements. During that time, the ALS has progressed to his upper body extensively. His hands, arms and shoulders are virtually unusable. Although he has remained stable the last few months, from treating the Lyme Disease, the damage of the ALS condition remains. The cost of treating this disease has been mostly out of pocket, since there is no treatment for ALS.

Recently, Derek's doctor has told him that the only treatment that could possibly recover the damage that the ALS has done, would be for him to undergo Embryonic Stem Cell Therapy, in New Delhi, India. The program they offer is 2 months long and is accompanied by extensive Physical Therapy. The cost of this therapy is \$40,000-\$50,000 for the therapy and caregiver to travel with him.

This is not a guaranteed procedure, but it's the best chance Derek has to see his children grow up. Any support or donations are greatly appreciated to help Derek and his family achieve their goal of a long and happy life together.

If you would like to donate:
Checks can be made payable to:
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