

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Team Gleason to fund Critical Voice Banking for pALS through ModelTalker

***This technology will allow those living with ALS to continue
using their own voice to communicate***

New Orleans, LA - January 31, 2018 - Team Gleason is excited to announce that all people living with ALS in the United States who would like to “bank” their voice to use after they have lost the ability to speak can do so at no cost to them through a partnership with ModelTalker starting tomorrow.

Steve Gleason had the opportunity to create his own synthetic voice through the process of voice banking when he was first diagnosed with ALS in 2011. Steve’s motto was and has always been that “until there is a medical cure for ALS, I believe technology can act as a cure.” Steve believes that with the availability of the correct technology, equipment, and sense of purpose, it is possible for ALS patients to live for decades.

“In 2012, Team Gleason set out on a mission to partner with leading edge companies who are committed to developing communication technology for those living with ALS,” says Blair Casey, Team Gleason’s Assistant Executive Director. “ALS patients eventually lose the ability to speak. Giving them free access to recording their voice will allow them to speak through their Speech Generating Device and sound as close as possible to their own voice. It’s an amazing way for them to hold on to a very important piece of their identity when so much else has been taken away.”

The ModelTalker System is a revolutionary speech synthesis software package developed by the Nemours Speech Research Laboratory, [part of the Nemours Children's Health System](#), that is designed to benefit people who are losing or who have already lost their ability to speak. It enables people who use a Speech Generating Device (SGD) to communicate with a unique personal synthetic voice that is representative of their own voice.

“My highest priority is to help provide access to leading technology like ModelTalker to those living with ALS. We’re very grateful that ModelTalker has provided an affordable solution for voice banking and that Team Gleason is able to fund this program through charitable donations,” said Austin Edenfield, Team Gleason’s Technology and Care Coordinator.

Voice banking has already begun to make an incredible impact in the lives of people living with ALS who Team Gleason has worked with to provide voice banking for thus far. “I am so thankful

to Team Gleason for providing me with access to the ModelTalker technology. With all the other obstacles faced by ALS patients, losing my voice and a way to express myself was very concerning for me. With ModelTalker, I feel secure in the fact that I will be able to continue to communicate with my wife, children, and grandchildren as ME. Team Gleason and ModelTalker have made a tremendous difference in continuing to live my life to the fullest with ALS.”

- Karl Riche

To register for free Voice Banking, please visit www.teamgleason.org/modeltalker.

ABOUT TEAM GLEASON:

The Gleason Initiative Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit based in New Orleans, LA. Team Gleason was founded by former New Orleans Saints player, Steve Gleason, after his diagnosis with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 2011. Team Gleason aims to provide individuals with ALS with leading edge technology, equipment and services, to create a global conversation about ALS, and to raise public awareness towards ALS by providing and documenting extraordinary life adventures for individuals with muscular diseases or injuries.

www.TeamGleason.org

ABOUT NEMOURS:

Nemours is an internationally recognized children's health system that owns and operates the [Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children](#) in Wilmington, Del., and [Nemours Children's Hospital](#) in Orlando, Fla., along with outpatient facilities in six states, delivering pediatric primary, specialty and urgent care. Nemours also powers the world's most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, [KidsHealth.org](#) and offers on-demand, online video patient visits through Nemours CareConnect.

Established as [The Nemours Foundation](#) through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. duPont, Nemours provides pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy, and prevention programs to families in the communities it serves. www.Nemours.org

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