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**Run for ALD is Knocking Down the Pins to Aid in Research, Testing**  
*Investors Bank Provides \$3,000 in Grants*

**ROBBINSVILLE, New Jersey** – In 2001, John J. Kane was diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy or ALD. Kane organized the first Run for ALD shortly after his diagnosis to raise money for research. Despite his passing in 2003, the Run for ALD has continued through the efforts of family and friends, including Kane's daughter, Taylor, who has been a tireless advocate in continuing her father's effort to raise awareness of ALD. To date, Run for ALD has donated more than \$215,000 to the Kennedy Krieger Institute for Adrenoleukodystrophy research.

Recently, Run for ALD applied for grants from the Investors Foundation and the Roma Community Bank Foundation which support non-profit organizations that enrich the diverse communities served by Investors Bank; Roma Bank became part of Investors Bank in December 2013. As a result, Investors presented two \$1,500 checks to Run for ALD as part of the organization's annual Bowl for ALD spring fundraiser at Laurel Lanes in Maple Shade, to help support and sustain the research at the Kennedy Krieger Institute.

Keith Johnson, owner of Laurel Lanes and a member of the Run for ALD board of directors said the bowling event grows every year. This was the third year for the fundraiser, which was held in March. "We are honored to host the event," said Johnson, "not only are we raising awareness and funding for research, but the event is an opportunity for many of the families affected by ALD to come together."

Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) is a rare, genetic disease which attacks the spinal cord and white matter of the brain. It is best known as the disease portrayed in the 1993 movie "Lorenzo's Oil" starring Nick Nolte and Susan Sarandon. ALD manifests primarily in males, and often progresses rapidly. Without early identification and treatment, boys and young men who are affected, typically lose all cognitive and physical functions, and deteriorate into a vegetative state leading to death in two to three years.

Run for ALD President Diane Kane said the funds raised by the organization have enabled the doctors at Kennedy Krieger to develop a test to screen newborns for ALD. Boys with the ALD gene can be identified at birth, which enables them to receive treatment before symptoms develop, making it more likely that they can survive. Kane said her daughter Taylor lobbied the New Jersey legislature for ALD screening; Governor Christie signed the bill into law in July 2013, making New Jersey the third state in the nation to require newborns to be screened for ALD. Although the law has not yet been implemented, Kane said once it is, many lives will be saved.

"We are so grateful to Investors and the Roma Foundations for their generous support," said Kane, "the money goes directly to research, which has been able to create the newborn test that literally will save lives."

**(More)**



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In New York, where newborn screening was implemented a little more than a year ago, 40 newborns have been found to have the defective gene. Typically boys with the gene can receive a bone marrow transplant at the age of five or six; the transplants are 90% effective, according to Kane, in curing ALD if performed before symptoms develop.

Investors Bank's Carol-Anne Peacock, Assistant Vice President, Maple Shade Branch Manager said the bank is proud to be able to assist Run forALD. "Investors wants to assist Run for ALD in its efforts to fund research that one day will find a cure for this debilitating and deadly disease. The newborn testing is so exciting and further demonstrates how much good can come out of everyone working together."

Run for ALD is continuing efforts to ensure ALD newborn screening also is implemented at the federal level; a law for newborn screening nationwide currently is pending in Congress. Additionally, the organization also is funding Kennedy Krieger's Lorenzo's Oil clinical trial, along with other avenues of medical research, in the hope of ultimately finding a cure for ALD.

**Photo Caption:** Investors Bank's Carol-Anne Peacock, Assistant Vice President, Maple Shade Branch Manager, (left) recently present two checks totaling \$3,000 to Run for ALD President Diane Kane and Keith Johnson, board member and owner of Laurel Lanes in Maple Shade, for the Bowl for ALD fundraiser.

### **About Investors Bank**

Investors Bank is a full-service community bank that has been serving customers since 1926. With more than \$20 billion in assets and over 135 retail branches in New Jersey, New York City and Long Island, Investors Bank delivers personalized services and products tailored to the needs of its customers. Investors' consumer banking services include complete deposit products, online banking, home equity loans and lines of credit and a full array of mortgage loans. Serving the business community, Investors provides deposit accounts, cash management services, business loans and lines of credit, and commercial real estate financing solutions to small and middle market companies, professional services firms, municipalities and other businesses. Investors Bank. Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.

### **About Run for ALD**

The mission of Run for ALD is to raise awareness of Adrenoleukodystrophy, to raise money for ALD research, and to support efforts to implement ALD newborn screening in all 50 states in the United States, and around the world. All of the proceeds of the Run For ALD benefit the Kennedy Krieger Institute, a non-profit hospital dedicated to treating, preventing and ultimately curing ALD and other neurogenetic diseases. All funds donated to Kennedy Krieger Institute are earmarked for Adrenoleukodystrophy research. Run for ALD is a member of the ALD-AMN Global Alliance, an organization of ALD advocacy groups from around the world, whose common mission is to spread awareness of ALD, raise money for research, expand the bone marrow and cord blood registries, and provide support, direction, and information to affected persons and their families. The ALD-AMN Global Alliance includes charitable organizations from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Australia.

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