

Marist School Marching Band Presents \$9000 to Emory ALS Center Funds Raised from September Football Game

Atlanta, GA-December 7, 2016 – The Marist School Marching Band presented a check for \$9,000 to Dr. Jonathan Glass, Director of the Emory ALS Center, from a fundraiser held during the September 9, 2016 Marist vs St. Pius X football game held on the Marist campus. “This Marist fundraiser for ALS is a wonderful example of community support for patients and families affected by this devastating disease. We at the Emory ALS Center appreciate not only the financial support for what we do here, but knowing the community is behind us makes our work that much more worthwhile. We are very grateful,” reflects Dr. Glass.

The Marist marching band does a service project each year and the idea for an ALS Challenge fundraiser was proposed to support band member, John Sexton and his family. John’s father, Shawn has ALS and receives his care at the Emory ALS Center. The idea was to “pass the bucket” during the third quarter of the football game, and the Marist/St. Pius X game was chosen because the rivalry is big between the two schools and attendance at the game is always high.

As students and parents got more involved, a challenge arose – if \$5,000 was raised, the band directors for both schools agreed to be willing participants in an Ice Bucket

Challenge; \$6,000 and the Athletic Director would join in; \$7,000 and the Dean of Students would also receive the ice bucket dump. Prior to the game, \$3,600 had already been donated online so confidence was building that the \$5,000 goal would be met. After passing many buckets throughout the stadium stands during the third quarter, another \$5,500 was collected in cash. Band directors, Athletic Director, Dean of Students, and five faculty members all got wet from greatly surpassing their fundraising goals.

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. It takes away the ability to move, speak, swallow, and ultimately breathe. There is no cure. The Emory ALS Center is one of the largest clinical centers for ALS in the United States. The center is one of the largest clinical centers for ALS care in the United States. The team approach to ALS care and research bridges multiple disciplines and departments. They are physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers, basic and clinical research scientists, students, fellows, and volunteers who work together, all with the same goal, but with different expertise and viewpoints. Their slogan, “Celebrate Life, Imagine a Cure,” is what they do every day.

