Huntington's Disease Society of America
Minnesota CHAPTER

Chapter Update

HDSA's MN Chapter Welcomes New Board Leadership!

2017 Board Members:

President: Brianna Lindell (Wallen) | **Vice President:** Tarole Rettke

Treasurer: Michael Wallen | **Secretary:** Julie Organ

Other members: Amanda Fiege, Arlene Jennings, Darcy Smith, David Gill, Wendy Jarosh

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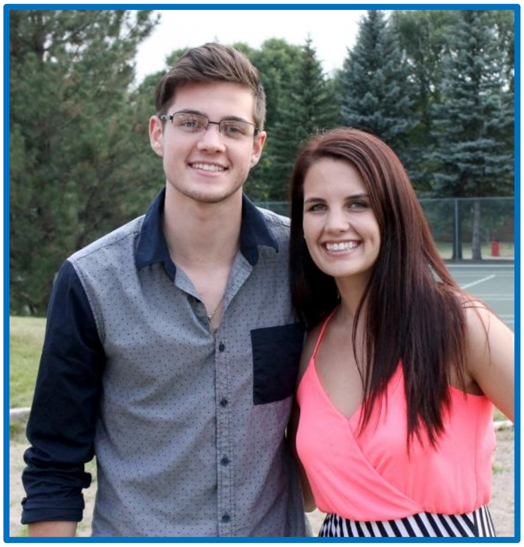
A welcome from the Wallen Family:

To everyone in the HD community, we are very excited to join the executive board for the HDSA MN Chapter. Brianna will be taking over as the acting president and I (Michael) will be taking over as the Treasurer. **For years, the two of us have always wanted to make a difference in finding a cure for HD, and we feel being a part of the board will allow us to achieve this.** Both Brianna and myself will work diligently to make sure the positive steps our predecessors Ronnie and Arlene took, remain in place.



Both of us have a resilient passion for helping the HD community. Like many of you, HD is in our family. Our Father Wade Wallen passed away from HD in the summer of 2015. He was diagnosed in 2004 and it changed our lives forever. **From the day he was diagnosed to the last day he was alive, my dad fought HD with incredible enthusiasm, dignity, and strength. Not a day**

went by where he complained about anything. He made HD his life. He lived more vibrantly in his last ten years with Huntington's then most people do in their entire lives. He was our ultimate inspiration because he lived his life with HD with one word, "bravery". He took the risk of tying to live as fully as a human can live even when he needed someone to get him dressed and brush his teeth in the morning. He smiled and said hi to everyone in his sight, laughing at every joke told, and saying "that's awesome" to anything that brought a positive connotation to our lives.

He started a golf tournament shortly after his diagnosis to help raise money and awareness for HD. It became his passion. It has been held every year since then, in June, at Crystal Lake Golf Course in Lakeville**. After he passed away, there was thought by many of the attendees that the tournament would stop. Brianna and I never contemplated that idea.** There was no way we could give up working and doing whatever it takes to distinguish this disease**. He's inspired us forever with his diligent and brave fight and we are very proud to be following in his footsteps and hope we can help inspire many of you.**

Michael & Brianna Wallen

A welcome from Tarole Rettke:

Hello to all!

I am very excited to take on the role of Vice President with HDSA Minnesota Chapter! Huntington's disease was first introduced to me years ago when a gentleman that I was seeing told me that his birth father had died from Huntington's disease. I immediately research what exactly that meant. What I found out was quite frightening, however, it did not scare me away. As time passed it became apparent that our relationship just wasn't in the cards, not because of the likeness he too could have HD but because we just were not compatible.

Little did I know back then (a few decades ago) that I would face HD once again only this time with someone that IS in my cards. **September 2016 is when we found out that my boyfriend has Huntington's disease. When we found out I made sure that it was understood that I am in this for the long haul.** A few short months later one of his four children got tested positive for HD. Quite the foreshadow**, I truly believe that a purpose in my life is to dive into the world of Huntington's, not only to help and support my loved ones but to do everything I can do for others with HD and for their caregivers.**

So that is the reason why I want to work diligently with HDSA and now for a bit about why I will be great for the job. **Family is the most important thing to me**, beyond my three beautiful children, my brother, sister and mom, and all my relatives, the family that I have collected on my journey is also key. My newest family members include many in the HD community. I have learned that knowledge is power and education costs money so we must fundraise. Planning events has always come easy to me I have raised money for many causes from my high school reunions, diabetes research, the PTO for my children's school and many more. My latest event is for my daughter's Middle School East Coast history tour , a group of parents got together and have had taco feeds, car washes, sold candy bars and the big hurrah our gala featuring The Taste of Fridley. The Taste of Fridley has been my baby and I have learned a lot. A group of only a few raised over $10,000 for our cause. I believe if a small group can do this, an established organization such as HDSA, can only accomplish more and with my optimistic, energetic and positive attitude I can only make a beneficial addition.

I always have dived in with both feet and I am looking forward to what lies ahead. Not only to raise awareness of HD to the world but to learn even more myself. Whatever I can do to make life easier for those affected by HD is a mission to be accomplished by believing in oneself and daring to be remarkable.

Best Wishes,
Tarole Rettke

Get involved with Huntington's Disease Society of America's Minnesota Chapter today!

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