

# Believe to End MS fundraiser gives back to Society



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Patty Milnthorpe, Nicole Rolfes, Nathan Langton, Wally Rolfes, Travis Hogg and Delila Hogg presented a cheque to the MS Society of Alberta on Wednesday. Tyler Marr / Meridian Booster / Postmedia Network

Nicole and Wally Rolfes presented cheques to the MS Society totalling \$9,048.25 on Wednesday, from their Believe Sled Ride to End Multiple Sclerosis, fundraiser.

The fundraiser took place in February and involved Nicole, her husband Wally along with other riders, trekking over 1200 km across Saskatchewan, starting in Goodsoil, Sask. and winding down to Yorktown, Sask.

Nicole was diagnosed with MS in 2012 and wanted to attempt something unique to raise funds and awareness for MS in the community, as well as give back for all the support they have offered her since her diagnoses.

"They have taught me what MS was and how I can cope with it," Nicole said. "For me to do this, is a thank you to the MS society for being there and being a big support in my life, as well as my family's life."

"It doesn't just effect me, it effects everybody."

Patty Milnthorpe, who is the programs and services coordinator for the local MS chapter, was on hand to receive the donation from the Rolfes and friends.

"This is a substantial donation and we are so grateful to Wally and Nicole for donating and going through the gruelling trip to donate the money for our programs and services."

Milnthorpe explained the funds will be used to help the local chapter to support the programs and services they offer to their members.

"We have kids camps programs, and a young peoples support group, which the two attended regularly. It is a support group for anyone under 65, it is a loose term, but that is one of our big programs," Milnthorpe explained.

"We also have other services in the community like handy van rides and swim passes and walking track passes for our people, so they can get some exercise and keep moving."

Nicole and Wally were both very thankful to everything that the society has done to help them through their diagnosis.

"You get told this news you have a debilitating disease, and so much of it is just who do you talk to about it, and what to do next," Wally explained.

"So many of those programs that the society offers, people don't always realize how important they are. They look at some of them and may not think they are a big deal, but when your the one with MS, or you have a family member with MS, and all you need to so is talk to somebody, many of these programs provide a forum for you to sit there and talk to somebody about what you are going to go through, have, or are about to encounter," Wally added.

Wally and Nicole wanted to again thank all their sponsors who assisted with selling raffle tickets, accommodations, media events and publications, promotional sponsors and MS support for all their help in making the entire journey possible.

Going forward, the two hope to once again embark on a journey to raise funds and awareness for MS.

"It's a good platform and base moving forward, and we'll see what the future brings. We haven't made any plans for next year," Wally said.

"Our plan was always to do it again, but we'll see how things go and see where the next adventure brings us."

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