



**Family Caregivers Unite!**  
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**September 30th 2013: Supporting Family Caregiving for ALS**

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Leslie Ryan, MSPT, is Care Services Director for The ALS Association Rocky Mountain Chapter. The ALS Association is headquartered in Washington, DC, ALS Association. Christine Hanks opted to leave her professional work to help take care of her Mother, Natalia, who was diagnosed with ALS in November of 2009 and who lives at home. Leslie talks about her background and her work with The ALS Association. Christine talks about her family caregiving for her mother. They discuss the greatest challenges experienced by persons with ALS in its early and later stages and by their family caregivers. They

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**Featured Guests**

Guest Image

**Leslie Ryan**

Leslie Ryan has been the Care Services Director for The ALS Association Rocky Mountain Chapter since 2004, <http://www.alsa.org/>. After receiving her Masters of Physical Therapy at Boston University, she worked as a clinician in a variety of settings before transitioning to the non-profit sector.

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Guest Image

**Christine Hanks**

Christine Hanks was born in Farmington, CT, in 1986 as the youngest of 3 girls to parents Clyde and Natalia Hanks. She moved to Colorado in 2003 for college and played varsity volleyball and studied English at Colorado College. Her parents moved to the Vail Valley in 2004 and she soon followed suit in 2009. In November of 2009, her mother, Natalia, was diagnosed with ALS. As her disease progressed, the need of a full time caregiver arose in the beginning of 2012. Christine then opted to leave her professional work in marketing, which she had been doing for 3 years, to help take care of her mother. Christine has been living at home as her mother's full-time caregiver since the Spring of 2012.

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