

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Shade Tree Garage continues to raise awareness and funds for ALS Research**

**Morristown, New Jersey, April 6, 2010** Customers and local residents are encouraged to come into Shade Tree Garage for an oil change during the month of April. When they do, Shade Tree Garage will donate \$3 of every oil change to support research at The Robert Packard Center, the only center of its kind dedicated solely to finding new therapies to slow or cure ALS. In addition to raising funds for ALS research, John O'Connor, owner of Shade Tree Garage, and his family will be participating in the annual 5-K Fiesta Run to increase awareness about this debilitating disease.

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), or Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. As motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost. In the later stages of the disease, patients may become totally paralyzed, and between two and five years after diagnosis, patients will die.

Lou Gehrig first brought national and international attention to the disease in 1939, when he abruptly retired from baseball after being diagnosed with ALS. Most commonly, the disease strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time.

O'Connor became a supporter of ALS when his brother, Gary, was diagnosed with the disease at the age of 52. "Just like many people, I was not fully aware of the affects of ALS until my brother was diagnosed with the disease. As soon as we heard, our entire family began to do whatever we could to raise funds for The Robert Packard Center."

Every year, O'Connor donates \$3 of each oil change done during the month of April to The Robert Packard Center. Because very little fundraising goes on and this disease is overlooked by the pharmaceutical companies, every donation made to the center is very important to finding a cure for ALS. To schedule an appointment for an oil change in April, car owners should call Shade Tree Garage at 973-540-9880.

In addition to the oil change donations, more than 53 members of O'Connor's family will be participating in the Fiesta 5K, held every year in Baltimore. Last year, Team Low & Slow (named after Maryland Terps and a Navy helicopter reference) raised a substantial amount for the center. Information on O'Connor's team can be found on the home page of their web site, shadetreegarage.com, for anyone who would like to make a personal contribution to help fund the work done for ALS research.

*Shade Tree Garage is a trusted independent automotive repair shop located in Morristown, New Jersey. They work hard to accomplish their mission: "To give you peace of mind about the safety and reliability of your car." For more information, visit their web site at [www.shadetreegarage.com](http://www.shadetreegarage.com).*

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