

## A Call to Support Brian Wallace

Brian Wallace, a former University of Michigan football player who courageously fought on the field through four Big Ten Championships, now faces an even greater battle against multiple sclerosis (MS). Brian's resilience, shaped in Michigan's storied football program, is being put to the test. Beyond the challenges of his health, Brian also contends with the impact of his wife Sharon's recent stroke and the loss of their income.

In the true spirit of the Wolverines, we must rally behind Brian during his time of need. Supporting his GoFundMe means providing much-needed aid for both Brian and Sharon's medical expenses and navigating this formidable challenge. Let us show the strength and unity of our community by assisting this Wolverine warrior. Every contribution counts.

Go Blue,

Andy Borrowski

FAM, Chairman



# **Brian Wallace MS Fundraiser**

Dear FAM Community,

I am Brian Wallace, a University of Michigan football player who played offensive tackle on four consecutive Big Ten Championship teams from 1988 to 1991. Although nothing can fully prepare you for the daily battle that is multiple sclerosis (MS), playing football at Michigan prepared me for the next 26 years after being diagnosed just five years after graduating. Just like Bo and Mo taught me, I accepted the adversity and challenge MS gave me and have pushed myself like I have had Coach Gittleson working me out for the last 26 years.

Before I was diagnosed, I was completely healthy and running triathlons. One day during triathlon training, I noticed that I had begun to stumble frequently, but I thought I was just my big clumsy self. To my family's shock, instead, it was MS, a debilitating and incurable disease that slowly does battle with your body.

Although I am a Wolverine through and through, I started working for the State of Ohio in 1995. After being diagnosed, the importance of steady employment and health insurance became paramount, and I decided to try to make it 32 years which meant 56 years old so that I could retire with a pension and full healthcare. Unfortunately, the disease had other plans. In 2015 my MS had become so advanced that I had to make the decision to go on disability with the State of Ohio with only 20 years of service. That meant I would never qualify for a pension and my \$75,000 salary was gone.

Then, in 2017 I found employment that initially worked well for my disability and supplemented the salary I had lost in 2015. Unfortunately, in January of 2024, I was terminated because my MS would not allow me to climb six flights of stairs for an employer with a broken elevator. I lost \$50,000 of income that I have been unable to replace, as I now am visually impaired and unemployment will soon expire. My wife Sharon has been my rock, but she has medical issues too, including a stroke that she recently suffered, which may cost her her salary and our health insurance. All proceeds of my GoFundMe will go towards medical expenses to assist in continuing to fight MS and my wife's expenses. Go Blue! Brian Wallace 92

#### **Brian Wallace MS Fundraiser**

Sincerely,

Brian Wallace

# **Spring Game Tailgate**



Dear FAM Members,

We are thrilled to invite you to the FAM Spring Football Game Tailgate. This exciting event will occur on April 20, 2024, from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM.

This event is open to FAM members and their guests. As a 501c3 charitable organization, we kindly request a donation corresponding to the number of guests you plan to bring along. All proceeds fund our <u>Teammate Assistance Program (TAP).</u>

This year, we are fortunate to feature a remarkable line-up of guest speakers:

- University of Michigan President, Santa Ono
- Athletic Director, Warde Manuel
- Head Football Coach, Sherrone Moore

There will be plenty of food, drinks, and music for everyone to enjoy.

Please register below (the prior link has been fixed):

Registration for the 2024 Spring Game Tailgate

For more information about our organization, please visit our website at <u>footballalumniofmichigan.org</u>

We look forward to welcoming you to this special springtime event. Thank you for your ongoing support.



### **Invite a Football Alumnus**

Do you know a teammate that is not getting our email newsletter? Send us their name and email address and we will send them an invitation.

**Click Here to Join FAM** 

#### **Become a FAM Member**

There is no better time to become a member. Annual memberships start at \$50 per year or \$150 for 4 years.

### Membership

The Football Alumni of Michigan ("The FAM") is the home for those who have worn the winged helmet and left their blood, sweat, and tears in Michigan Stadium to uphold the great traditions of THE TEAM! We are dedicated to supporting the success of our members after their time on the field is completed.

All former Michigan Football players, coaches, direct support staff, and partners/widows of former players are members of the FAM by virtue of their contributions to the Michigan Football Program. Our Active Members - those who support the FAM through annual membership dues - are recognized for their exemplary commitment to the success of our football family.



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**Our mailing address is:** 745 State Circle Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

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