



## Program Manager Mike Benn to Retire after 15 Years of Dedicated Service

***After 15 years with AlphaNet and AlphaNet Canada, Mike Benn will be retiring from his role as Program Manager on April 30th. Mike played a key role in establishing the AlphaNet program in Canada, and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service and valuable contributions to the organization. On behalf of his colleagues and the patient community, we wish Mike all the best for the future.***

Today, we share the news that Mike Benn will be retiring after serving as Program Manager of AlphaNet Canada since its launch in 2014. Throughout his tenure, Mike has been instrumental in building and strengthening AlphaNet Canada, supporting countless Alphas and families across the country.

“Mike managed our Canadian efforts with the same leadership skills he used to Captain a Navy ship. He built relationships and trust with his employee team, Alpha-1 patients, a long-standing pharmaceutical partner, and a specialty pharmacy,” AlphaNet Canada CEO Mark Delvaux said. “Whenever his team needed someone to step up and work harder to serve Alpha-1 patients, Mike was there. We are proud to have worked with Mike and wish him the best moving forward.”

Mike’s Alpha-1 journey started when he was diagnosed with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency in 2006. Mike had no symptoms until he turned 56 years old when he started experiencing significant breathing issues and was initially misdiagnosed with asthma. Fortunately, he was tested for Alpha-1 by an allergist about a year later. His major symptom was chronic bronchitis, and he began augmentation therapy in 2007.

Prior to his time at AlphaNet, Mike served as a U.S. Navy officer for 26 years, stationed in various locations across the mainland U.S., Hawaii, Guam, and Japan, before retiring in 1996. After his military career, Mike worked as a corporate recruiter, small business owner, and financial advisor. Unfortunately, his time as a financial advisor ended in 2009, much earlier than he had planned, due to breathing issues.

After retiring from his career as a financial advisor, Mike joined AlphaNet as a Coordinator in the U.S., serving in that role until early 2021. In 2014, following the launch of AlphaNet Canada, he assumed the role of Program Manager. In early 2021, when a Coordinator position opened in Canada, Mike transitioned from his U.S. Coordinator role to serve as an AlphaNet Canada Coordinator while continuing as Program Manager, allowing him to focus full-time on supporting Alphas in Canada. Through these roles, Mike provided guidance, education, and support to many in the Alpha-1 community.

“During my tenure as AlphaNet Canada Board Chair, Mike has been that one constant I could always depend on. Mike was instrumental in maintaining and nurturing our relationships with our

business partners in Canada through some challenging times and successes. Congratulations, Mike, on your retirement,” AlphaNet Canada Chair Robert L. Greene, Jr. said.

Mike grew up in Hannibal, Missouri, and after leaving for 30 years, he moved back with his wife Pat when he retired from the Navy. He spends much of his free time bass fishing. In retirement, Mike looks forward to enjoying the outdoors, and continuing to stay connected to the Alpha-1 community in new ways.

His own AlphaNet Coordinator was invaluable to him when he was first diagnosed, and Mike’s goal with AlphaNet Canada was to provide the same level of assistance to Canadian Alphas. His dedication to this mission has left a meaningful and lasting legacy at AlphaNet Canada and the broader Alpha-1 community.