



A LIFE FUELED BY PURPOSE POWERED BY LOVE

In a city built on reinvention, resilience, and relentless ambition, few women embody the spirit of Los Angeles quite like Nancy Davis. Philanthropist, designer, author, advocate and above all, mother, Davis has transformed personal adversity into global impact, creating a legacy that stretches far beyond the red carpet galas she is known for hosting. Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Davis moved to California in 1987, eventually planting deep roots in Los Angeles with her husband and five children. But it was a life-altering diagnosis at just 33 years old that would define not only her future, but the future of multiple sclerosis research.

Turning Diagnosis into Determination. In 1991, Davis was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). At the time, the medical outlook was bleak. There was no known cause, no cure, and not a single FDA-approved drug available to treat the disease. She was told she would be “lucky” to one day operate a television remote control. For many, those words might have signaled surrender. For Nancy Davis, they ignited a movement. Too young and too devoted to her growing family to accept limitation as destiny, Davis made a decision that would change countless lives: she would dedicate her time, relationships, and resources to finding a cure for MS. Two years later, in 1993, she founded Race to Erase MS a groundbreaking organization committed to funding bold, collaborative research through its innovative Center Without Walls program. The concept was revolutionary: assemble the brightest scientific minds, encourage collaboration, eliminate duplication, and accelerate discovery. What began as an intimate ski weekend fundraiser in Aspen evolved into one of Los Angeles’ most anticipated annual celebrity benefits. Today, the Race to Erase MS Gala stands as both a glamorous fixture and a powerful fundraising engine, having raised more than \$54 million for research. The results are nothing short of extraordinary. Since Davis’ diagnosis, there are now 26 FDA-approved drugs available to help slow the progression of MS. Among them is Ocrevus, the fifteenth FDA-approved MS drug, approved in March 2017. The scientific studies that led to its development were carried out over many years at UCSF and supported by funding from Race to Erase MS. For newly diagnosed patients today, the landscape is radically different brimming with hope, options, and the promise of continued breakthroughs. That transformation is inseparable from Davis’ tireless advocacy.

“I was determined that my diagnosis would not define my limits,” she has often shared. “It would define my purpose.”

Expanding the Mission: Cure Addiction Now Nancy Davis’ commitment to healing did not stop with MS. In 2018, alongside her son Jason Davis, she co-founded Cure Addiction Now (CAN), a foundation dedicated to finding a cure for substance use disorder. The mission was deeply personal and profoundly urgent. Tragically, Jason passed away in February 2020. Yet through unimaginable loss, Davis once again transformed grief into action. Today, Cure Addiction Now continues in his honor, funding groundbreaking research aimed at addressing addiction as both a physical and mental health disease. Davis champions a critical truth often overlooked: substance use disorder is a dual diagnosis. Addiction and mental health are inseparable, and effective treatment must address both simultaneously. Her approach mirrors the collaborative, team-based research model that proved so successful at Race to Erase MS bringing together the most respected scientific minds, encouraging communication, and eliminating redundant studies. Her philosophy is clear: bold science, shared knowledge, and relentless urgency. Los Angeles has long been a city of second chances. Through Cure Addiction Now, Davis is working to make permanent recovery not just possible but probable.

Peace, Love, and Purpose. While Nancy Davis is globally recognized for her philanthropic work, her creative spirit has also left an indelible mark on fashion and design. In 2002, while producing the Race to Erase Gala alongside designer Tommy Hilfiger, the world felt unsettled and uncertain. Together, they chose “Peace & Love” as the theme of the evening, a simple yet powerful message rooted in unity and hope. The symbol created for the event a heart with a peace sign nestled inside—became an emblem of optimism. As a heartfelt thank-you gift, Davis handcrafted necklaces featuring the symbol for performers including Natalie Cole and Donna Summer, as well as actress Sela Ward. The response was immediate. Guests wanted to know where they could purchase the jewelry. And just like that, Peace & Love Jewelry by Nancy Davis was born. The collection’s iconic pieces have since been worn by an impressive roster of celebrities, including Halle Berry, Brooke Shields, Nicole Richie, Paris Hilton, Nicky Hilton, Avril Lavigne, and members of the Osborne family, among many others. For men, the collection evolved into 18-karat gold cufflinks adorned with peace signs, Buddhas, and elephants with raised trunks symbols of luck and positivity worn by figures such as Tommy Hilfiger, Bill Maher, Don Henley, and Elton John. The brand has been featured on QVC and E! Live, extending its message far beyond Los Angeles. In 2019, Davis expanded her platform again with the launch of her Peace & Love talk show on Evertalk TV, where she hosted guests ranging from fashion icons to renowned MS research scientists. Through jewelry, through conversation, through community her message remains consistent: healing begins with connection.

A Mother First. For all her public accomplishments, Nancy Davis will tell you her proudest role is being a mother. Raising five children while navigating a chronic illness, building international foundations, and producing major fundraising events requires extraordinary resilience. Friends and colleagues describe her as unwavering someone whose warmth matches her determination. In a city that often chases surface glamour, Davis represents substance. She is proof that Los Angeles’ greatest power lies not in its spotlight, but in its capacity to mobilize for change.

The Legacy of Hope. When Nancy Davis was first diagnosed with MS, hope was scarce. Today, because of her leadership and the scientific breakthroughs she helped fund, patients face a future filled with possibility. Her work continues fueled by urgency, guided by compassion, and grounded in the belief that no diagnosis should steal a life’s potential. Los Angeles is a city built on dreams. Nancy Davis is building something even more enduring: cures. And she is racing steadily, courageously toward a future where the words “incurable” and “untreatable” no longer exist.