Chapter Programs

The National MS Society, Connecticut Chapter, responded to the ongoing adversity faced by the more than 6,000 Connecticut residents living with MS by offering a wide range of programs and services in 2011.

To address the needs of those with MS, the Connecticut Chapter Programs and Services Department provided 40 community programs on employment issues, education and emotional support. The chapter also held family and caregiver programs throughout the state, which were attended by more than 500 individuals with MS and their families. Additionally, more than 30 self-help groups brought people together to share common life experiences and resources. The chapter also funded $35,000 in care management for members across the state, helping them to live as independently as possible.

In 2011, the Connecticut Chapter continued to receive support from the Hayley’s Hope and Michaels’s Miracle MS Memorial Fund. The fund generously supported MS Community Day at a New Britain Rock Cats baseball game in May as well as MS Family Discovery Weekend, held in the Mystic area in July. Additionally, a record 10 scholarships were awarded this year at the Hayley’s Hope and Michaela’s Miracle MS Scholarship Reception at the Farmington Country Club in June.

This year saw exciting progress on the research front, with unprecedented opportunities on the horizon and more scientists than ever working on important questions. Several emerging therapies continued to advance through the pipeline; including several large-scale clinical trials focusing on progressive MS. Progress was also made toward the crucial goals of finding ways to restore function and improve quality of life, and toward addressing specific MS
symptoms through exercise, meditation, rehabilitation and medications. And our understanding of factors that influence whether a person develops MS deepened this year, bringing us closer to finding ways to prevent the disease.

In 2011, more than $1 million was granted to fund research projects at UConn Health Center and Yale University School of Medicine. The funding is essential to identify promising new areas of research to help find the cause of MS, prevention strategies, better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

The Connecticut Chapter continues to advocate for the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Disabled, a state-funded program administered by the Connecticut Department of Social Services. This critical and unique pilot project has funded $720,000 toward providing a range of services including home care, care coordination, meals on wheels and adult daycare for adults between the ages of 19 and 64 who have degenerative neurological conditions, including MS.

The chapter was also instrumental in passing Public Act 11-172, An Act Concerning Health Insurance Coverage for Routine Patient Care Costs for Certain Clinical Trial Patients. This legislation forwards the society’s research and clinical outreach goals by removing a significant barrier to clinical trial participation as well as supporting access to vitally important symptom management medications.

The next initiative for the chapter is to develop housing for people with MS, particularly young people who can’t find appropriate housing and are currently forced to live in nursing homes. A housing survey was recently launched to better learn the needs of people with MS in Connecticut.

For a complete listing of services offered by the chapter or to locate dates and times of programs and workshops, please visit www.ctfightsMS.org.
The first-ever Connecticut Executive Choice Awards (CECA) was held Sept. 15 at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. The event, designed to honor business leaders in Hartford and New Haven counties recognized Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, Paul McCraven, Senior Vice President of Community Development at First Niagara Financial Group, and Jim Torgerson, President and CEO of The United Illuminating Company for their significant contributions to the business, civic and cultural betterment of our community. Bill Rancic, winner of the first season of Donald Trump’s “The Apprentice,” served as keynote speaker.

The Seventh Annual Golf MS Classic, presented by GE Capital Real Estate, was held Sept. 26 on the Lake of Isles exclusive private South Course in North Stonington.

For more events visit www.ctfightsMS.org.
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Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report

REVENUES

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$$$</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>Memberships and Contributions</td>
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<td>Bequests and Legacies</td>
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<td>Donated Services, Programs, Materials</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Combined Health Appeal and FSC</td>
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<td>Direct Mail Program</td>
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EXPENSES

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Client and Community Services</td>
<td>2,137,711</td>
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<td>National Programs and Research</td>
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<td>Direct Benefit to Donor</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Decrease in Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3,949,632</td>
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Client and Community Services 54%
National Programs and Research 30%
Direct Benefit to Donor 6%
Management and General 6%
Fundraising 9%
Decrease in Net Assets -5%

2011 Year In Review

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