



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

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About MS and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

- The Society mobilizes people and resources so that everyone affected by multiple sclerosis can live their best lives as we stop MS in its tracks, restore what has been lost and end MS forever.
- Last year, the Society invested \$54 million to advance more than 380 research projects around the world. Through its comprehensive nation-wide network of services, the Society also invested \$122.2 million to help more than one million individuals affected by MS connect to the people, information and resources needed to live their best lives.
- The Society partners with the healthcare community to promote access to quality healthcare. Information about MS and the Society's services are available 24-hours a day by calling (800) 344-4867.
- There are approximately 1,200 positions filled by professional staff in addition to more than 500,000 volunteers who, together, carry out the Society's daily operations.
- The Society depends on support from members, friends, corporate partners and the public at large. Nationwide income last year was \$232.7 million, the majority of which came from private contributions, 63 percent of which is generated through special events. Approximately 10 percent is received from government grants and corporate support, including 4 percent in pharmaceutical company funding for programs that enhance the lives of people living with MS.

- Approximately 75% of total revenue is devoted to research and services for people living with MS, while the remainder is invested in support services such as fundraising and management. Because of dedicated volunteer support, 84 cents of every dollar raised directly supports MS research and services.
- Since its founding by Sylvia Lawry in March 1946, the Society has invested more than \$974 million to advance MS research and is recognized as the catalyst for all major advancements in MS.
- The National MS Society is one of 44 sister Societies forming the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation also founded by Sylvia Lawry, who died at age 86 in 2001.
- Cynthia Zagieboylo became the National MS Society's president & CEO in 2011 and has devoted nearly three decades to the MS cause.
- Multiple sclerosis is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms vary from person to person and range from numbness or tingling, to walking difficulties, fatigue, dizziness, pain, depression, blindness and paralysis.
- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are leading to better understanding and moving us closer to a world free of MS.
- Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.3 million worldwide.
- Some prominent people living with MS with whom the Society has worked are: actress Teri Garr, singer Alan Osmond and his son David, country music singer Clay Walker, song writer producer Noah "40" Shebib, country music singer Julie Roberts, R&B singer Tamia Washington, singer Chad King, singer Victoria Williams, author/ commentator Richard Cohen, newscaster Neil Cavuto, newscaster Janice Dean, actress Jamie-Lynn Sigler, reality broadcast star Jack Osbourne, comedian David "Squiggy" Lander, comedian Jonathan Katz, NASCAR racer Trevor Bayne, former college football star Tyler Campbell son of football legend Earl Campbell, NHL goalie Josh Harding,

former NBA player Chris Wright, Seattle Seahawks Mascot Ryan Asdourian, American Thoroughbred racehorse trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, extreme sports activist Wendy Booker, marathoner Zoe Koplowitz, writer/director Henriette Mantel, author Ellen Sue Stern, author Jackie Waldman, political activist and wife to Mitt Romney former governor of MA. Ann Romney, and television host Montel Williams, as well as the late actress Annette Funicello, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, cellist Jacqueline du Pre', singer Lena Horne, and comedian Richard Pryor.

- Other prominent people with connections to MS with whom the Society has worked are: model Alessandra Ambrosio (father), model Emme Aronson (father), TV personality Phil Keoghan (family member), actor Martha Madison (mother), actor Shemar Moore (mother), actors Chris Pratt and Anna Faris (parent), actor Bill Pullman (friend), actor Michael McKean (friend), author Jacquelyn Mitchard (friend), entertainer Rain Pryor (father), actress Madeleine Stowe (father), TV host/commentator Meredith Vieira (husband noted author/commentator Richard Cohen), comedian Amy Schumer (father), hockey player Jake Voracek (sister), and First Lady Michelle Obama (father).

For more information about multiple sclerosis and the National MS Society, please visit: www.nationalmssociety.org

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