



FUELING
IMPACT

NATIONAL MS SOCIETY
NEW JERSEY METRO CHAPTER

2015

ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT

FUELING IMPACT

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the amazing turn out at our annual meeting on November 14th! The Board of Trustees greatly appreciate this time, not only to reflect upon the achievements of the year but to connect with the individuals and families we support in the New Jersey Metro area.

We began the meeting, pondering on the eleven words that brought us all together – “Multiple Sclerosis. Will anyone recovered from it please communicate with patient”. A request made seventy years ago when it was printed in a New York Times personal ad. The ad was placed by Sylvia Lawry and the patient was her brother, Bernard. Sylvia did receive numerous replies. Unfortunately, not with a story of recovery, but with similar stories of struggle and frustration from others living with MS. Sylvia launched a revolution to end the devastating effects of MS and brought us our family - the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Sylvia Lawry is the gold standard in proving that one individual can make a tremendous difference. We are privileged to have staff, volunteers, sponsors and donors that have made a difference contributing to our results to date. Our progress to STOP MS is significant in the past twenty-two years, with twelve medications to reduce disease activity and progression. It is thrilling today to hear the buzz among the research community in expectation of successes that will RESTORE what has been lost. It is imperative that we find solutions for all effected by MS. We will fulfill our mission to END MS forever and we will do it together. Because, together we are stronger!

Thank you for contributing to our strength!

Bonnie Higgins
Board of Trustees, Chair

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Connect Online and on Social Media

Connect with us and other people affected by MS online:

- www.nationalMSSociety.org/NJM
- www.facebook.com/NMSSnjm
- www.twitter.com/NMSSnjm
- www.youtube.com/NewJerseyMetro
- www.instagram.com/NewJerseyMetro

Connect with the MS Community

Join thousands of people supporting one another and exploring issues that shape your world. Start a blog, learn about Society news, and create online peer connections at MSconnection.org.

Keep up-to-date with chapter news and information regarding programs and resources in your area, advocacy and public policy, advances in research, volunteer positions, fundraising events, and giving opportunities through our quarterly newsletter MS Connection. Call us at **1-800-344-4867** for information about receiving MS Connection by mail or email.

FUNDING RESEARCH

The National MS Society's 2015 research investments topped a record **\$53.4 million** and illustrates the society's commitment to increase funding to accelerate vital research progress.

With the guidance and expertise of hundreds of MS research leaders, the Society surveys MS research activities taking place across the globe – identifying opportunities, sizing up the risks and remaining focused on investments that will have the most significant impact on the lives of people with MS. Our recent investments to convene experts around the microbiome in MS and to expand the Pediatric MS Center Network are clear examples of this strategic approach.

As you know, there is great urgency to find solutions for everyone living with MS. The National MS Society is the organization with the knowledge, track record and momentum to achieve results.

Your continued support of the NOW Campaign is critical to ensuring that we reach our **\$250 million goal**. Together we can continue to accelerate research breakthroughs that will change lives and end MS forever.

NOW momentum:

The groundbreaking NOW MS Research Campaign has launched **779** new research projects including:

- **25** commercial research partnerships aimed at overcoming barriers to commercial development to propel promising new therapies
- **71** clinical trials to speed treatment solutions
- **132** projects testing rehabilitation and wellness approaches
- **137** grants to train promising MS researchers



Society supported studies uncover important leads:

Promising research findings are rapidly increasing thanks to your support. Here's a look at just a few of the studies currently funded that are in New Jersey.

- Cognitive problems are common in people with MS, with difficulties in thinking speed being the most common. One measure that can be used to measure thinking speed is the Symbol Digit Modalities Test (SDMT). Lauren Strober, PhD, of the Kessler Foundation in West Orange, NJ, received a research grant from the National MS Society to improve the use of the SDMT by updating what is considered “normal.” The end result will be an updated set of normal results, or norms, that will allow for better interpretation of results obtained when examining cognitive function in people with MS.
- Rutgers University researchers led by Cheryl Dreyfus, PhD, are investigating new molecules that may be capable of protecting cells that make nerve-insulating myelin, with the goal of preventing degeneration of myelin and enhancing its repair in people with MS.
- Nancy Chiaravalloti, PhD, of the Kessler Foundation in West Orange, NJ, has received a research grant from the National MS Society to test whether a treatment program known as Speed of Processing Training (SPT) can improve test scores and everyday functions of people with MS. SPT has been shown to improve processing speed in older adults. In this study, Dr. Chiaravalloti and colleagues will conduct a randomized, double-blind trial of SPT. In the study, 100 people with definite MS and reduced processing speed will be randomly assigned to treatment or control groups. Tests will examine changes in processing time for people in the treatment and control groups.

Stay current with all promising MS research findings by visiting:

<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/Research/Research-News-Progress/Research-News>

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Knowledge is truly empowering. The National MS Society offers an extensive variety of programs, services, resources and connection opportunities for people living with and affected by MS, including family members, caregivers and other members of their support systems. These resources can be accessed in person in your community, online, by phone and by mail.

Visit www.nationalmssociety.org to learn more about currently available resources, including:

Family Matters	Insurance & Financial Information	Resources for Specific Populations
Library & Education Programs	Living With Advanced MS	Links to Local Programs & Services
Support Groups	Employment	

New Jersey Metro Chapter - Local Programs & Services 2015 Highlights

- Provided **494** interventions to qualified applicants for financial assistance totaling **\$175,875**.
- Offered a variety of **69** programs, presented to more than **1700** people. The programs are focused on several areas including: education, emotional, family and social health and physical wellness.
- More than **30** self-help groups were available for clients and their family members to participate and learn.

2015 ADVOCACY IN REVIEW

- Staff and volunteer activists held meetings with 13 members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill in March. Activists discussed our federal priorities including: increasing MS research funding, Ensuring Access to Complex Rehab Technology Act (H.R 1516/ S. 1013) and the Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act (H.R. 292/S.849).
- In August, activists held 6 meetings with members of Congress in their district offices to further discuss our federal priorities.
- In July, we hosted our first annual “New Jersey Activist Week”. During this week activists from across the state met or contacted their state legislators to advocate for increased health care transparency, expanded access to accessible doctor’s offices and medication synchronization programs.
- Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-12) was honored as the Society’s 2014 Representative of the Year. As Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, Representative Frelinghuysen has shown support for federal research and programs that improve the lives of people affected by MS in many ways. He has been an advocate of continuing and increasing funding for the MS Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), and is notably committed to collecting better data on the incidence and prevalence of MS so researchers can better understand the disease and more effectively work toward a cure.
- Chapter volunteer and activist, Tammy Quasius was inducted into the Society’s Volunteer Hall of Fame for Advocacy. Tammy shares her personal experience of living with MS as a young mother in order to compel legislators to support the MS movement. As a District Activist Leader, the relationships that Tammy has solidified with her representative and several other members of her state delegation have led to increased support of federal medical research, the MS Caucus and other legislative priorities.



2015 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

We raise more than **\$165** million through Bike MS, the 5th largest event in the nation, and Walk MS, the 12th largest event in the nation.

More than **318,000** individuals donate more than **\$33** million each year.

The Society is mentioned in 86% of all articles related to MS.

WALK MS

More than **10,000** participants and 500 volunteers raised more than **\$1.6** million across 12 Walk MS sites in northern and central New Jersey.

BIKE MS

More than **1,700** cyclists and volunteers raised more than **\$1.1** million at Bike MS: Coast the Coast in West Long Branch, Bike MS: Barrels & Brews in Ringoes, and Bike MS: Country Challenge in Morristown. Cyclists enjoyed riding 25 to 170 miles over one or two days.

Several Bike MS milestones were achieved this year:



- Bowen's Iron Eagles raised a lifetime total of more than **\$500,000**. Michael Bowen, Team Captain, individually raised over **\$250,000**.
- Lisa's Team and Park Pedalers raised a lifetime total of more than **\$250,000**.
- Cyclists Michael "Bike Mike" Dowd and Susan Applegate both celebrated 25 years of cycling Bike MS.

2015 FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS

ROCK FOR A CURE

This sellout event raised **\$255,655** in revenue through the sale of 300 tickets, sponsorships and a silent auction.

WOMEN ON THE MOVE LUNCHEON

One of the New Jersey Metro Chapter's premier annual fundraising events, this luncheon raised over **\$75,000** through ticket sales, sponsorships, and a designer handbag auction.



MS SPRING GOLF CLASSIC

Held at the prestigious Ridgewood Country Club, this year's event had over **200** participants and raised in excess of **\$320,000**.



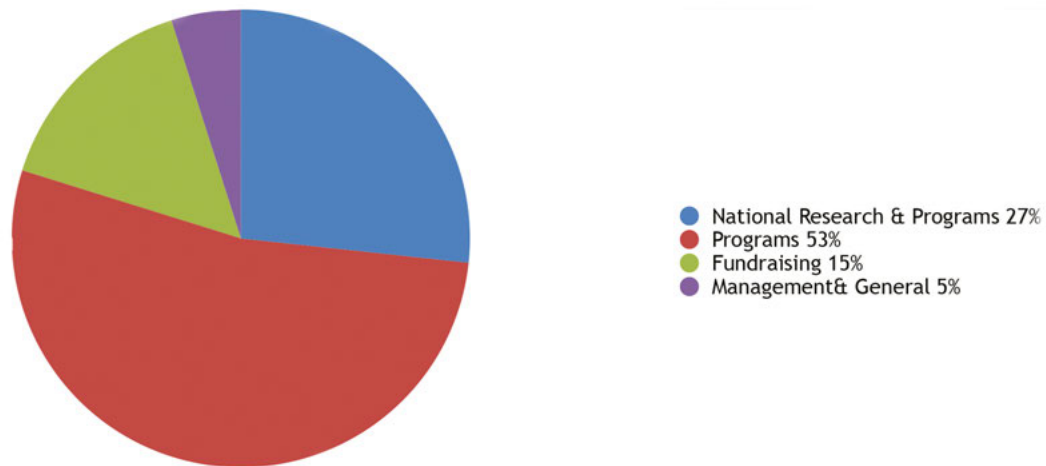
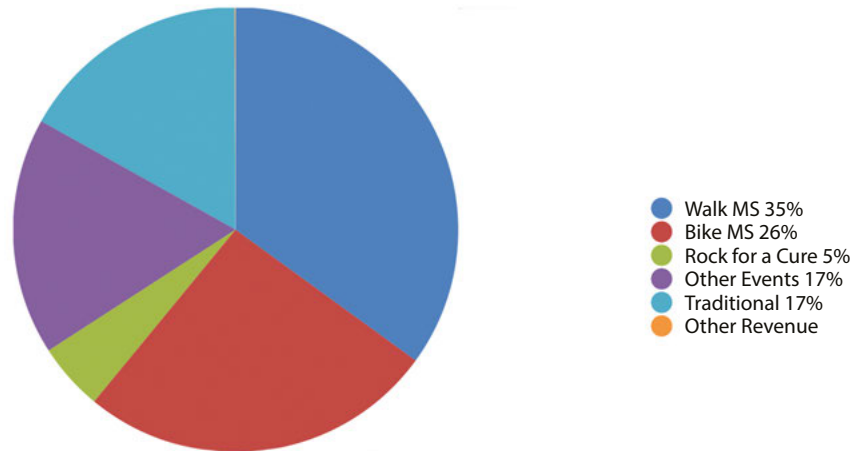
2015 FINANCIALS

ACCURAL – AUDITED FIGURES: Fiscal Year 2015: October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015

Total Revenue (Net of Direct Benefit to Donor): **\$4,264,911**

Total Expenses: **\$4,386,789**

Net: **(\$ 121,878)**



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**Joined Board of Trustees after close of fiscal year.*

EVENT SPONSORS

Without the support from local and national companies, our events wouldn't be possible. The following sponsors are truly committed to their community and to our mission in 2015.

WALK MS

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EVENT SPONSORS

MS ROCK FOR A CURE (CONTINUED)

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Dr. Mitchell & Lisa Zimmel

MS SPRING GOLF CLASSIC

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Undertone
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Yahoo! Inc.
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COCKTAILS FOR A CURE

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Flying Fish Brewing Company
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Mr. Cupcakes
TinCup
Tito's

WOMEN ON THE MOVE LUNCHEON

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Regan Development
TEVA



GOLDEN CIRCLE

Golden Circle members are fueling progress by annually giving \$1,000 or more to the National MS Society. The Golden Circle is comprised of a nation-wide community of leaders who share a passion for a world free of MS.

\$20,000+

Hattie Segal

\$15,000 - \$19,999

Dana Langerman

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Kenneth Segal

Clemens Hergenhan

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bernard Small

Edith White

Paul Higbee

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Lauret McCabe

Gary Zanfagna

Rosalyn Zohn

Christopher Cordaro

Robert Litterman

Albert Lukin

Kristine & John Bradley

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Elizabeth Del Tufo

Jonathan Sabin

Jennifer Shanks

Michael Scrocca Memorial Fund

Priva Safier

Kevin Fischbeck

Jacqueline Coelln-Hough

Michael King

Michael Rachlin

Matthew Shatz

Mark Thierfelder

Mike Smith

Mary Turso

Kenneth Regan

Tom Wallisch

Virginia Hoffmann

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Michael Brosse

Matthew Shatz

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Howard Frey

Paul & Carol Ramsperger

Aurora Ferrero

Timothy Barnes

Giorgios Vlamis

Lisa Kent

Harvey Schultz

Hariklia Deligianni

Christophe Michaels

Kenneth Wachtell

Arthur Stokrocki

Sheila Kallman

Veronica Curran

NEW JERSEY METRO CHAPTER

The New Jersey Metro Chapter works to improve the quality of life for people affected by MS living in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties and raise funds for critical MS research.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Lisa Gallipoli*
Chapter President

Karen Drzik
Executive Vice President of Development

Debbra Elko
Senior Director of Finance

Nancy Chazen
Vice President of Programs and Services

**Joined the New Jersey Metro Chapter on January 5, 2016*

The image features a large, stylized graphic of a mountain range. The mountains are represented by dark gray, solid-colored shapes. One mountain peak is on the left, and a larger, more prominent mountain peak is on the right. The background is white, and the overall composition is minimalist and modern.

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