



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
National Capital
Chapter

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National MS Society Accepting Scholarship Applications from Local Students Affected by Multiple Sclerosis

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Capital Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is now accepting applications for its 2009 Scholarship Program. The program is open to high school seniors who have been diagnosed with MS, high school seniors who have a parent with MS, and adults living with MS who will be attending an accredited post-secondary institution for the first time.

“Multiple sclerosis is a very expensive disease, and this can have an effect on the entire family,” said J. Christopher Broullire, President of the National Capital Chapter, which serves individuals residing in Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia, and Southern Maryland. “Often there is no money left for a college education. The National MS Society’s scholarship program exists because we believe that MS should not stand in the way of an education.”

Direct and indirect costs of MS, including lost wages and increased medical care, are estimated at more than \$69,000 annually with a total lifetime cost per family of \$3 million, according to a 1994 Duke University study indexed for 2007 by the National MS Society.

The scholarship program was established in 2003 to help people affected by MS pursue full-time college or technical school education. It continues to grow in both the number of applicants and the number of scholarships awarded. In 2008, the National MS Society awarded a record \$1.14 million in scholarship funds to 518 students across the country. Locally, the National Capital Chapter awarded scholarships to six students.

The National MS Society Scholarship Program is administered by Scholarship America. Applications will be accepted until January 15, 2009, and scholarships will be awarded in May 2009. Individuals and organizations can make an impact on local scholars by contributing to the program today.

To learn more, obtain an application or support the program, visit the National Capital Chapter’s website at www.MSandYOU.org or call (202) 296-5363.

About Multiple Sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to 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 moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S., and 2.5 million worldwide.

Studies show that early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can reduce future disease activity and improve quality of life for many people with multiple sclerosis. Talk to your health care professional and contact the National MS Society at www.MSandYOU.org or (202) 296-5363 to learn about ways to help manage multiple sclerosis and about current research that may one day reveal a cure.

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. Locally, the National Capital Chapter provides a wide range of vital services in the areas of counseling, education, employment, information and referral, public policy development and advocacy, and financial assistance to the many thousands of people with MS and their families who live in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. For more information about MS or the National Capital Chapter, please call (202) 296-5363 or visit www.MSandYOU.org.

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