



Jeremy Barewin
V.P., Marketing & Community Engagement
312.423.1124
Jeremy.barewin@nmss.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**35th ANNIVERSARY CAROL COHN & MARGIE WEIL MEMORIAL MS OUTING
RAISES CLOSE TO \$1 MILLION FOR MS RESEARCH & PROGRAMS**

*Renée Crown and the Crown Family honored for their
long-standing commitment to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society*

CHICAGO -- July 17, 2013 -- Raising a million dollars for multiple sclerosis research is all in a day's work for the dedicated committee and staff who organize the annual **Carol Cohn and Margie Weil Memorial MS Outing**, which has become one of the premier charity golf events on Chicago's North Shore. More than 500 people attended the 35th anniversary event, **Monday, July 8**, at a local Highland Park country club. The all-day outing included an 18-hole golf tournament with morning and afternoon tee times, bridge and mahjong tournaments, silent and live auction, and a sit-down gourmet dinner and program.

Proceeds from the outing are expected to top the **\$1 million mark** for the first time in the history of the event. **BMO Harris Bank** served as the title sponsor of the 2013 outing. More than **\$11 million** has been raised for MS research and programs throughout the event's 35-year history, with funds raised from the outing benefiting the more than 20,000 individuals affected by MS in Illinois.

Joseph Weil, of Highland Park, whose mother lived with the disease, has been instrumental in the outing's success and growth having served on the committee since day one and now as the event's chairman since 1984.

"This cause is one that is very personal to me as my mother was diagnosed with MS when I was a very young child" said Weil, who was also emcee of the evening program. "I watched her face the physical and

psychological challenges of having one's mobility and independence taken away in the prime of her life and watched her courageous fight for many years before her passing."

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COHN-WEIL 2013, Add One

Honored at this year's outing was **Renée Crown and the Crown Family, of Wilmette**, who have been generous annual supporters of the Cohn Weil Outing throughout the event's 35 year history. Crown, who has played an enormous role in philanthropy in Chicago by providing leadership that has helped a variety of organizations realize their full potential, is a life director of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

In addition, a prestigious award was established at this year's outing in the names of **Chuck and Margie Barancik, of Northbrook**, to create "The Chuck and Margie Barancik Hall of Fame of Giving." The award acknowledges those selfless individuals, who have exemplified extraordinary annual financial support of The Carol Cohn and Margie Weil MS Outing over the past 35 years. For over 20 years, the Baranciks have been major supporters of research projects in the field of multiple sclerosis.

Weil credits the event's success to the many dedicated individuals who have served on the committee over the years, which is comprised of many talented individuals including several members of the Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) fraternity from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign during the mid 1970's.

"I learned a long time ago in life that Tom Sawyer knew what he was doing and when you get people to help you paint the fence, then you hand out as many paint brushes as there are capable painters. We are very lucky, we have lots of painters in our community helping us grow the event and we have a lot of fun," said Weil. "This is truly a fraternal feeling when you come to this golf event."

The first **Carol Cohn Invitational Golf Outing** was held in August 1979 at Westmoreland Country Club in Wilmette, Ill. The outing honored the wife of Norman Cohn, then president of the National MS Society, and former chairman of the chapter. Mrs. Cohn, who lived with MS, was a regular attendee at the outing until her passing in 1988. Margie Weil lived with MS for 40 years, and during that time raised three children while

dedicating many years to counseling MS clients and supporting her husband Julian Weil's 20 years of volunteer leadership with the chapter. In 1998 after Mrs. Weil's passing, the event was renamed the Carol Cohn & Margie Weil Memorial MS Outing in their honor.

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COHN-WEIL 2013, Add Two

Multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. The disease affects more than 20,000 individuals in Illinois and 2.1 million worldwide. The Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society mobilizes people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. Envisioning a world free of MS, the Chapter moves toward that end by driving change through advocacy, facilitating education, collaborating with others and by providing helpful programs and services. For more information, visit MSillinois.org.

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