



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
Greater Illinois
Chapter

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

Kelley Moran
Marketing & Community Engagement Associate
312.423.1118
Kelley.moran@nmss.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOP FUNDRAISERS HONORED BY NATIONAL MS SOCIETY

GREATER ILLINOIS CHAPTER AT 'TREMENDOUS 200 CELEBRATION'



CHICAGO, December 6, 2012— In 2012, Walk MS, the flagship fundraising event of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Illinois Chapter, raised \$2.7 million for MS research, programs and services statewide, with nearly 12,000 walkers and volunteers participating at 13 official sites across Illinois.

The Society honored its top Walk fundraisers at the *Tremendous 200 Celebration*, November 19, at the Chicago Cultural Center. The exclusive Tremendous 200 Club includes Walk MS participants who raised a minimum of \$2,000 in the previous year's event. More than 150 honorees and guests attended the festivities and awards were presented to 14 dedicated fundraisers.

“Without the dedication of our top fundraisers, team captains and volunteers we would have never been able to reach our \$2.7 million goal this year,” said Walk MS Director Monica Eiden. “Not only the dollars raised, but the increased awareness that our participants bring to MS research and resources statewide has a huge impact on the 20,000 individuals and family members affected by MS throughout Illinois.”

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TOP 200 WALK MS, Add One

The 2012 Walk MS Fundraising Impact Award recipients included:

Walk MS Most Valuable Players: The MVP awards go to top fundraisers and Walk MS Teams who lead the movement through fundraising, recruitment and awareness.

- **Karie's Krew**, led by team captain Karie McClure of Schaumburg, participated in Walk MS 2012 in Palatine. They were ranked the #12 team overall by raising over \$22,000 in 2012. Since the team's formation, they have raised over \$120,000.
- **Sylvia Kemp**, of Frankfort, hosted four separate fundraisers, the most successful of which, a stand-up comedy show, raised over \$6,000 for MS. She ranked as the #2 overall individual fundraiser for Walk MS 2012 by raising over \$27,000, while her team ranked third overall with over \$40,600 in donations.
- **Team Union Leasing**, led by team captain Sheri Smith, of Schaumburg, participated in Walk MS 2012 in McHenry. They raised \$25,605 in 2012, more than doubling their previous year's fundraising efforts. Team Union credited their fundraising success in large part to the generosity of Union Leasing's workplace giving and their parent company Sasser Family Holdings. Team members Patrick Cronin and Kathie Jarzombek accepted the MVP award.
- **Terry Mazurkiewicz**, of McHenry, was a first time participant in Walk MS 2012. After being diagnosed with MS in June 2011, he formed his Walk MS team, Multiple Strengths, and found great success through fundraising with Facebook. Through the generosity he received from his friends, family and even strangers who wanted to help out, he raised over \$11,600 in donations, ranking him as the #12 individual fundraiser.

Walk MS Mission Champion Award: The Mission Champion Award is given to an individual and team who embody what it means to MOVE IT. This person(s) spreads awareness and supports the Walk MS community.

- **William Gillispie**, of Chicago, was diagnosed with MS in 2000. He decided to be positive and proactive, by rounding up seven friends and participated in his first Walk MS in 2001. Team Gillispie raised \$6,000 that year; in 2012, his team, Team Gillispie, passed the \$1,310,000 mark. Bill was ranked the #1 Walk MS individual fundraiser for Walk MS 2012 by raising over \$37,000.

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TOP 200 WALK MS, Add Two

- **Team: South Cook MS Self-Help Group**, which consists of 148 members, participated in Walk MS 2012 South Suburbs (Orland Park), led by Team Captain Yolanda Treiguts, of Oakbrook Terrace. She is a MS Society Board member, support group facilitator, Chair of the Volunteer Development Committee and has led her Walk MS team for many years. This past year, The South Cook MS Self-Help Group raised over \$70,000, making them the #1 overall fundraising team in 2012.

Bold Walk MS Achievement Award is given to an individual and team who stop at nothing to lead the movement through fundraising. This person or team has long standing success in their fundraising and continues to be a voice of Walk MS.

- **Dave Sackett**, of Oswego, team captain of Team DaveBob, was diagnosed with primary progressive MS in August 2010. Sackett, a firefighter and paramedic, quickly became involved in fundraising and participating in National MS Society events. His first event with the Society was Walk MS 2011 where he recruited 60 people by getting his community involved in his efforts and the mission to create a world free of MS. In 2011 Sackett's team raised \$16,980 and increased that total in 2012 to \$23,000, ranking them as the #11 overall fundraising team.
- **Team: Colleen's Team** participated in Walk MS 2012 Chicago. Team Captain Susan Malloy, of Wilmette, and her team have been part of Walk MS for 20 years. She formed her Walk MS team in honor of her sister Colleen who is living with MS. Many of their team members have been participating since they were toddlers and will keep walking until Colleen and many others can walk free of MS. Colleen's Team raised over \$37,000 making them the top #4 Walk MS Team in Illinois.

Collaborative Walk MS Achievement Award is given to an individual and/or team who is creative in their fundraising through community involvement

- **Paul Schafer**, of Springfield, participated in Walk MS 2012. He is the head of the committee for the Fat Ass 5K Street Party for Charity, which is a fundraising event in Springfield that donates proceeds to a number of charities each year. In 2012, the event donated \$27,500 to Walk MS.
- **Team: Walking with Dolores**, attended Walk MS 2012 West Suburbs, Naperville. Team Captain Dolores Bopp Potterton, of Naperville, was diagnosed with MS in 1998. In addition to the annual Walk MS, four years ago she began organizing an annual MS gala to help raise even more money for MS. 2012 marked a special milestone for Bopp Potterton, her 15th year walking and raising funds for MS research. This year her team raised \$36,000 and surpassed \$500,000 in cumulative career fundraising. In 2012, Bopp Potterton was the #3 overall fundraiser and her team was ranked 5th.

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TOP 200 WALK MS, Add Three

Imaginative Achievement Award goes to an individual and team who show the most innovation and creativity in their fundraising and recruitment.

- **Laura Machonis**, of Bartlett, created an event known as Crop for a Cause. This event provides hundreds of fellow croppers the opportunity to spend the day making MS a memory by creating their own scrapbooks. In 2012, the event raised \$18,431 that went toward Machonis's Walk team. She was the #9 Walk MS 2012 fundraiser, individually raising nearly \$15,000 while her team ranked #7 by raising over \$26,000.
- **Team: Myelin Milers**, participated in Walk MS 2012 North Shore in Glenview, led by team captain Gretchen Waitley, of Vernon Hills, who has been participating in Walk MS since 2010. This past year, Waitley and the Myelin Milers hosted a salsa funk fundraiser at their local fitness center complete with dancing, a silent auction and raffle that raised over \$6,200. This event contributed greatly towards the over \$24,600 that they raised overall and earned the Myelin Milers their place as the #9 Walk MS team.

Walk MS is the rallying point of the movement to end multiple sclerosis and largest annual fundraiser of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Illinois Chapter. Walk MS events take place on Sunday, May 5, at 11 official statewide sites and on Sunday, Sept. 8, in Peoria and Urbana. For more information or to register, visit walkmsillinois.org.

Every hour someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling autoimmune disease of the central nervous system. The disease affects more than 20,000 people in Illinois, 400,000 throughout the United States and 2.5 million worldwide.

The Greater Illinois Chapter 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, education, collaboration, programs and services. Visit MSIllinois.org for more information.

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Editor's Note: A photo from the Tremendous 200 Celebration has been included.

Members of South Cook MS Self-Help Group Walk MS Team and Greater IL Chapter Staff, from left to right: Tony Maro, Ashley Carroll Maro, Lauren Carroll, Lori Carroll (Co-Chair of South Suburbs Walk MS Volunteer Committee), Yolanda Treiguts (Board of Trustees Member), Samantha Edidin (Walk MS Coordinator), Belinda James, Monica Eiden (Director, Special Events & Walk MS), George Treiguts.