NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

Mid America Chapter 2004 Annual Report

The Mid America Chapter of the National MS Society, originally the Kansas City Chapter, began in 1955 with one staff member working out of his home. By 1982, the Chapter had grown large enough to move to its current address and established the Ozark and St. Joseph branches. By 1985, the name was changed to the Mid America Chapter and in 1990, the Mid America Chapter merged with the Eastern Kansas Chapter. The Chapter and its branches currently serve 105 counties and 25,000 people affected by MS in eastern Kansas and western Missouri and annually raise more than $3 million for the fight against MS.

1-800-FIGHT-MS

www.msmidamerica.org

A Message from our President and Board Chairman

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that 2004 was a year of significant progress toward our mission of ending the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. Due to strong fundraising results, we were able to provide more support to both local programs and research coordinated by the National MS Society.

Last year, the National MS Society committed nearly $35 million to support over 300 MS investigations, bringing the cumulative total to $420 million in MS research since the Society's founding. This research continues to bring great hope that a cause and cure for MS will be found. The National MS Society is committed to identifying promising new areas of research and treatment and has launched the Promise 2010 campaign with a goal of raising $25 million by the year 2010. This campaign will support four important targeted projects – nervous system repair, treatment for children with MS, the Sonya Slifka Longitudinal MS Study and the MS Lesions project. More information about these projects can be found online at www.nationalmssociety.org.

Locally, we completed a needs survey of people with MS which has enabled us to further focus our local programs and services. In 2004, people affected by MS contacted us more than 6,800 times for assistance. We were able to provide help in the form of equipment loans, referrals to self-help groups, financial assistance and more. Our educational, advocacy and support programs continue to provide the tools that people affected by MS can use to manage the challenges of their disease. Advocacy efforts in Kansas, Missouri and across the nation were successful in helping to pass legislation favorable to people with MS and, equally as important, to prevent threatened reductions in benefits to people with disabilities.

We are excited that the two HUD-funded accessible apartment buildings on which we partnered with Accessible Space, Inc. are on track for groundbreaking in the spring of 2005. These buildings will provide independent living options for younger people with disabilities.

In the following pages, you will find information about the projects, events and programs we offer to positively impact the lives of people affected by MS. The support we received from our dedicated volunteers, donors, special event participants and sponsors enabled us to make significant accomplishments in 2004. Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

David Caffrey
2004 Board Chairman

Sincerely,

Kay Julian
Chapter President

What is multiple sclerosis (MS)?

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, unpredictable disease of the central nervous system. It is thought to be an autoimmune disorder. Approximately 400,000 Americans acknowledge having MS, and every week about 200 people are diagnosed. MS can cause blurred vision, loss of balance, poor coordination, slurred speech, tremors, numbness, extreme fatigue and even paralysis and blindness. These problems may be permanent, or they may come and go.

Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, although rare individuals as young as 2 and as old as 75 have developed it. MS is not considered a fatal disease as the vast majority of people with it live a normal lifespan. The unpredictable physical and emotional effects can last the rest of their lives. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are giving hope to people affected by the disease.

Who gets MS?

Twice as many women as men develop MS. Studies indicate that genetic factors may make certain individuals more susceptible to the disease, but there is no evidence that MS is directly inherited. It occurs more commonly among people with northern European ancestry, but people of African, Asian and Hispanic backgrounds are not immune.

What are the typical symptoms of MS?

Symptoms of MS are unpredictable and vary greatly from person to person and from time to time in the same person. For example: One person may experience abnormal fatigue, while another might have severe vision problems. A person with MS could have loss of balance and muscle coordination, making walking and everyday tasks difficult to perform; another person with MS could have slurred speech, tremors, stiffness and bladder problems. In severe MS, people may have partial or complete paralysis on a permanent basis.

What medications or treatments are available for MS?

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society recommends that individuals begin treatment with one of five drugs -- Avonex, Betaseron, Copaxone, Rebif or Tysabri -- as soon as possible if diagnosed with a relapsing form of MS. These drugs can help lessen the frequency and severity of MS attacks, reduce the accumulation of lesions in the brain and slow progression of disability.

The FDA has also approved Novantrone for reducing disability and the frequency of relapses for patients with secondary-progressive, progressive-relapsing or worsening relapsing-remitting MS. This is the first therapy approved in the U.S. for secondary-progressive MS. Individuals should consult with their physician regarding these and other treatment options.

Income and Expenses

Statement of Chapter Income

Direct Revenue:

MS Walk	521,575
MS150 Bike Tour	1,682,368
Dinner of Champions	203,262
MS Challenge Walk	221,997
Corporate Achievers	32,322
Other Special Events	31,873
Total Event Revenue	2,693,397
(Less Benefit to Donor)	(215,711)
Net Event Revenue	2,477,686
Memberships/Contributions	246,733
Direct Mail/Received at National	74,889
Legacies	191,759
Total Direct Revenue	**$2,991,067**

Indirect Revenue:

Combined Federal Service Campaign	68
Federated Organizations	36,782
Total Indirect Revenue	**$36,850**

Other Revenue:

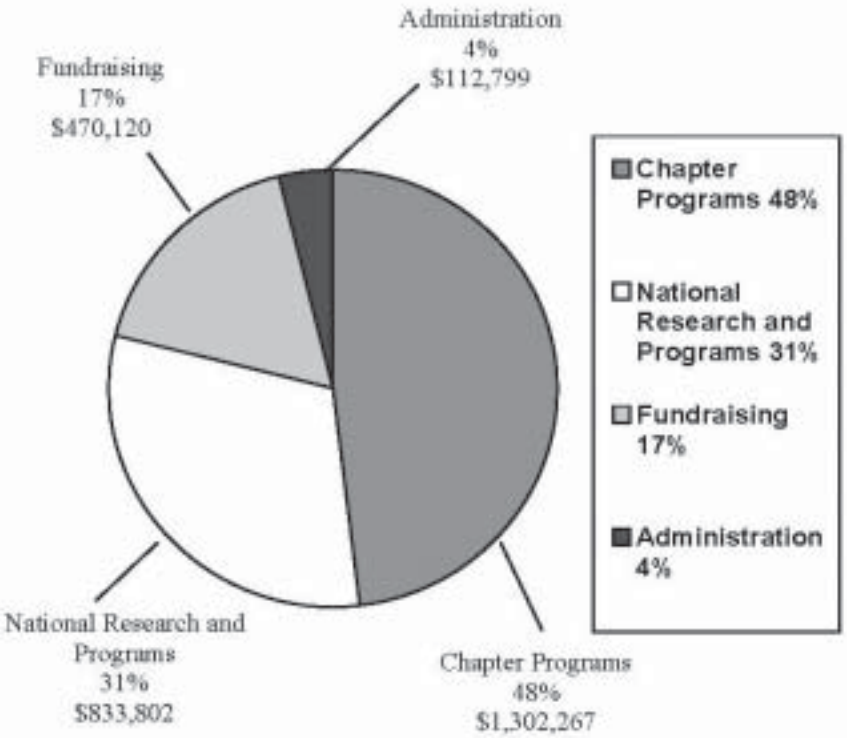
Investment	5,875
Miscellaneous	4,046
Total Other Revenue:	**$9,921**

TOTAL REVENUE	**$3,037,838**

(Audited)

Statement of Chapter Expenses

Chapter Programs	1,302,267
National Research and Programs	833,802
Fundraising	470,120
Administration/Operations	112,799
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$2,718,988**



2004 Programs and Services

Advocacy
Chapter staff and volunteers are involved in local, state and federal initiatives that affect the lives of people with MS.

Educational Programs
Programs for people with MS, their carepartners and families are available to provide information on disease management, research and coping with the symptoms of MS.

Employment Consultations
Phone consultations and workshops are offered to educate participants about employment concerns, Social Security, health insurance and other related issues.

"Thank you for researching my question about MS. I appreciate the time and attention you devote to my concerns." - Helpline caller

"The visits bring a smile to my face, the volunteers are so cheerful and upbeat." – a person with MS residing in a long term care facility

Family Programs
Educational and social programs just for families are available, in addition to the publications *Keep S'Myelin* for children and *Teen Inside MS* to help young people understand the role of MS in their lives and families.

Financial Assistance
People with MS may receive limited financial assistance based on their need and individual situation. Referrals to community service agencies are also provided.

Helpline
People with MS, their families, friends and health care providers may call to receive information about MS, emotional support and referrals to community resources. A wide variety of literature is also available.

Knowledge is Power (KIP)
This series of articles about MS is provided via mail or e-mail and covers topics such as *dealing with your diagnosis*, *working with your doctor*, and *the impact of MS on the family.*

Lending Library
Books, videos and audio tapes covering a variety of topics are available for loan, and can be provided by mail or in person at one of the branch offices.

Long Term Care Support
The Chapter provides information and resources to long term care facilities serving people with MS and works toward the development of facilities for younger adults with disabilities. Volunteers are also available to provide visits and emotional support to people with MS living in long term care facilities.

2004 Programs and Services

Medical Equipment

Walkers, canes, wheelchairs and other medical equipment items are available for short or long term loans through the Mid America Chapter's Loan Closet.

MS Learn Online

Informative online programs, held quarterly, may be accessed by logging onto the National MS Society's website at www.nationalmssociety.org. Participants gain knowledge on a variety of topics and may also access past programs through the website.

Newly Diagnosed Programs

The Chapter offers specialized educational programs and support for people recently diagnosed with MS. A variety of topics are covered through these programs, including information about the disease, physical health, emotional effects and services available from the Society.

"I've learned more from other group members than I could ever get out of a book." - self help group member

Professional Education

Ongoing training opportunities and information are provided to health care professionals in the MS field, including local medical care providers, allied health professionals and long term care providers.

Publications

The *MS Connection* newsletter, published quarterly, reports local Chapter news, activities and programs. *Inside MS* is the National MS Society magazine and provides national coverage of research and advocacy issues. Both publications provide support and information on a variety of topics related to MS.

Public Education

Information about multiple sclerosis and where to turn for help is provided in a variety of public forums including libraries, classrooms, health fairs, etc.

Self Help Groups

These groups are made up of people with MS and their loved ones, providing support to one another as they deal with similar issues. Some targeted groups are also available, focusing on women's issues, carepartner issues or others.

Wellness Programs

Ongoing programs such as Aquatics and Tai Chi emphasize how exercise, nutrition and social support can help individuals live well with MS.

A Glimpse at 2004

Helpline calls: ***2,820***
Program participants: ***2,297***
Community resource referrals: ***913***
Literature packets provided: ***650***
Individuals receiving equipment loans: ***125***

Advances in MS Research

The year of 2004 saw rapid research progress in the fields of science and medicine that impact our understanding of the unpredictable neurological disease of multiple sclerosis. Thanks to its generous contributors, the National MS Society was able to invest nearly $35 million this year into MS research projects in the U.S. and abroad. In 2004, the Society supported over 300 MS research projects, including the launch of 115 new projects.

Significant advances have been made in both clinical and laboratory studies in MS. In addition, more than 160 clinical trials are underway around the world, and still other experimental drugs are in the pipeline. Highlights of the year include:

Nervous System Repair Studies Funded

The National MS Society launched a new initiative to speed research on nervous system repair and protection in MS. The Society has invited proposals from research teams to compete for grants of up to $5.5 million each to pave the way for clinical testing of therapies to restore function in people with MS.

Sonya Slifka Longitudinal MS Study Published

The first paper published from the Society's Sonya Slifka Longitudinal MS Study, following over 2,000 individuals over a long period of time, pointed to challenges facing persons who are aging with MS. Despite their level of disability and care needs, many viewed their health status and quality of life positively. Qualified investigators can now apply to the Society to obtain access to a database created by the study coordinators.

Immune-Modulating Laquinimod Well Tolerated

Results from a study of the oral immune-modulating drug, Laquinimod, indicated that in 209 persons with relapsing forms of MS, the drug was well tolerated. Those on a higher dose had significantly fewer new active MS brain lesions during 24 weeks of testing. Larger studies are needed to explore the drug's potential in MS.

Tysabri® Receives FDA Approval

Biogen Idec and Elan Corporation announced that the FDA approved Tysabri (natalizumab) as a treatment for MS. Formerly called Antegren®, Tysabri is a monoclonal antibody given by monthly infusion into a vein, and is designed to interfere with movement of potentially damaging immune cells from the bloodstream into the nervous system.

Fampridine-SR May Help Nerve Conduction

Acorda Therapeutics announced preliminary results of a phase II clinical trial of Fampridine-SR, an oral, sustained-release formula of 4-aminopyridine, to treat MS symptoms. According to the company, the drug showed a trend toward improved walking speed and significantly improved leg muscle strength. This data has not yet been published, and further analysis is under way. Fampridine-SR blocks tiny pores on the surface of nerve fibers, to help nerve impulse conduction.

Advocacy and Government Affairs

TAKE ACTION: Join the Multiple Sclerosis Action Network

The MS Action Network is the center for advocacy at the National MS Society. Together, we represent the interests of people with MS as important policy decisions are made in both the public and private sectors.

Our advocacy is focused on: federal funding for MS research, quality health care, long-term care, disability rights, and health insurance and prescription drug coverage. The MS Action Network works on these important issues at the federal, state, and local levels. To join the MS Action Network, visit www.nationalmssociety.org.

Below are significant changes in policy helped by advocacy efforts of the National MS Society staff and volunteers.

Health Insurance and Medicaid

There is little doubt that health care is in a crisis in our country—Americans spend an ever-growing portion of their paychecks on health care; many companies are dropping medical coverage entirely or trimming their benefit packages; and most states are working to cut Medicaid budgets that have grown out of control. Legislation in Missouri would have required Medicaid recipients in metropolitan areas to be transitioned to a new managed care Medicaid program, but the Missouri MS Citizens Action Network successfully removed the program from the social service appropriations bill.

MS Awareness

In advocating for the concerns of citizens with MS, it is imperative to develop and maintain relationships with state legislators. The Mid America Chapter provided "Advocacy Day" legislative visits in the Capitols of both Kansas and Missouri, visiting key lawmakers and educating them about the needs of residents with MS. To further enhance visibility for MS issues, the Chapter worked with the Wichita Division of the MS Society to have May proclaimed MS Awareness Month by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, and with the Gateway Area Chapter to have February 25, 2004 declared MS Awareness Day by Missouri Governor Bob Holden.

MO Income Tax Check Box

State budget cuts have put increasing pressure on people with MS who depend on government programs, and our chapter's direct client assistance has experienced increased demand as a result. The MS Society collaborated with eight other organizations in Missouri to introduce a bill to establish an income tax check box, allowing taxpayers to provide voluntary contributions to the health care organization of their choice. The check box will generate revenue we can use to help additional clients with their direct assistance needs.

Additionally, placement of the words "multiple sclerosis" and/or "National Multiple Sclerosis Society" on the millions of tax forms printed for Missourians each year will only serve to raise awareness of the disease and of our organization. The income tax check box initiative moved quickly through the legislative process. The scope of the bill was limited to statewide organizations that have curing a chronic illness as their primary purpose, and a design was created using just one check box and a system for taxpayers to code for which organization they intended their contribution. The legislation passed the Missouri General Assembly on May 6, 2004 and was signed by Governor Bob Holden on June 24, 2004. Look for the opportunity to support the National MS Society on your upcoming Missouri state tax return!

2004 Fundraising Events

The Mid America Chapter is happy to report another successful fundraising year in 2004. Thousands of participants raised nearly $2.4 million dollars for our three major events. Below is a quick review of the year:

All four branches of the Mid America Chapter (Kansas City, Ozark, Eastern Kansas and St. Joseph) held a total of 24 MS Walks in their communities this year. With the help of thousands of participants and hundreds of volunteers, the Walks raised more than $500,000 for the 5,500 individuals living with MS in the area. Walk dates are already set for April and May 2005. Contact your local branch office to find the MS Walk location nearest you.

In its third year, the MS Challenge Walk hosted 97 walkers from all across the country – Texas, California, Iowa and the Kansas City area – all walking 50 miles in three days to fight MS. Participants raised over $200,000. The next MS Challenge Walk will be June 3-5, 2005. Accept the Challenge and join us for this unique, inspiring event!

Results from the 2004 MS150 Bike Tours were remarkable! In its 21st year, over 1,700 riders joined the Jack Miller Subaru MS150 Bike Tour in Kansas City. More than 700 cyclists rode the FedEx Freight MS150 Bike Tour of the Ozarks in its 20th year. The Eastern Kansas MS150 Bike Tour drew close to 300 cyclists for the final ride of the year. The three Bike Tours combined to raise nearly $1.6 million in funding our mission. Mark your calendars now: the 2005 MS150 Bike Tour will be held in the Kansas City area on Sept. 10-11, in the Ozark area on Sept. 17-18 and in Eastern Kansas on Sept. 24-25.

Three Events.
One Goal.
Closer to a Cure.

Top Sponsors

$10,000-$20,000

FedEx Freight
Jack Miller Subaru
Teva Neuroscience

$5,000-$9,999

Farmers Insurance
Phizer
Serono

$2,500-$4,999

AMC
Biogen Idec
Nordstrom's
St. John's Health System

$1,000-$2,499

A&B Cycle and Fitness
Bank Midwest
Berlex Laboratories
Cox Health
John Deere Company
Kansas Medical Clinic
Lockton Companies
Olathe Medical Center
Prairie Band Pottawatomie Tribe
Sac & Fox Casino
Sunshine Bike Shop
Dr. Jody B. Vance
WalMart
Wolf Creek

Top In Kind Sponsors ($1,000+)

Aboud's
Arby's
Banta Foods
Bike Stop
Blue Bunny
Boulevard Brewing Co.
Broome Oldsmobile-Cadillac
Cablevision
Carrabba's
Center Distributing
Cruise Marketing
Del Monte
Dole
Down Home Productions
Earthgrains/Sara Lee
FedEx Freight
Fuddruckers
Hiland Dairy
KBEQ 104.1 FM
Keebler
KFEQ 680 AM
KFKF 94.1 FM
KFME 105.1 FM
KJO 105.5 FM
KKLH 104.7 FM
KMBC TV 9
KMXV 93.3 FM
KOMG 92.9 FM
KOSP 105.1 FM
KQRA 102.1 FM
KSFT 1550 AM
KSJQ 92.7 FM
KSRC 102.1 FM
KY3 TV
Lamar Advertising
Metro Walk & Run
Mr. Goodcents
Old World Spices
Outback Steakhouse
Ozarks Coca-Cola/Dr. Pepper Bottling Company
Penske Truck Rental
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company
ProMail Services
Reckitt Benckiser
ReGen Technologies
Ride Bicycles
Schlotzsky's
Seals Photography
St. John's Health System
Summit Bikes
Sunshine Bike Shop
Viacom Outdoor
Viking Coaches
VML

Top Event Fundraisers

$100,000+

Peter Herschend

$50,000+

Donald Hagan

$20,000+

Bill Gautreaux
David Hinrichs

$10,000-$19,999

Ed Chasteen
David Diebold
Chuck Gilbert
Mike Goldman
Ted Higgins
Lon Lowenstein
Stephen Westhead

$5,000-$9,999

Todd Banks
Lloyd Bingham, Jr.
Richard Boyle
Kevin Collins
Connor Estes
Phyllis Garrett
Olen Greer
Bob Helm
Twila Hillme
David Hokanson
Kyle Kellough
Bill Kennedy
Annie Lackey
Richard Mark
Nicole Pascoe
Maxine Sandman
Bill Shiveley
Kenneth Smith
Lucy Urlacher
Daren Williams
Kimberly Zeiler

$2,500-$4,999

Sharon Bauer
Carol Buchanan
Kate Carmean
Cynthia Chapman
Mark Cianciolo
Paul Conklin
Oleda Cooper
David Eckman
Doug Fowler
Keith Gadt
Jeffry Gerson
Stephen Godfrey
Shirley Gottstein
Dee Jablonski
Joy Jackson
Jon Juett
Jim Kelly
Paul Kimberling
Richard Kohlman
Douglas Lamb
Gary Lee
Earl Lipscomb
Catherine Maassen
Larry Martin
Greg Mather
Barney Mayse
Kathleen McGuire
Myron McKinney
Jean Myers
Helen Neill
Adrian O'Hara
Ron Parker
Christopher Purcell
Beki Rhein
Darius Riley
Lindsay Robertson
Robert Schroeder
Sara Spence
Douglas Stone
Robert Sullivan
Christine Vitt
Jaci Walsh
Mike Williamson

$1,000-$2,499

Bruce Adib-yazdi
Janice Alexander
Raymond Allen
Becki Anderson
Paul Andrews
Jennifer Anzalone
Christopher Armer
LeeAnn Armstrong
Michael Ash
Michelle Atchley
Kent Ayers
Brian Beecham
Thomas Beeson
Joyce Benedict
Debbie Bennett
Michael Berry
C. Eugene Bolin
Meribeth Boone
Brian Boots
Bob Borman
Kimbra Brackman
Kelly Braden
Keith Brandt
Sharon Branson
Jamie Branstetter
Jennifer Bresee
Khela Brewer
Frank Brooks
Sheryl Brower
Dale Brown
Phillip Brown
Shelly Brown
Lisa Burton
Tammy Butterfield
Joyce Came
John Carlock
Gayle Carroll
Sonny Carroll
Greg Caspers
Donna Caton
David Christiano
Cinda Claycomb
Tracey Coffman
Beverly Collins
Connie Conner
Cora Cooper
Robert Corder
Cheryel Cross
Ermilee Crow
Brian Culp
Christopher Culp
Don Culp
Matthew Culp
Becky Dale
Darla Dale
Malaura Deeter
Susan Diebolt
Terrance Diebolt
Steve Doerr
Jeffrey Doggett
John Donaldson
Zoelee Donnel
Danny Dorrell
Daniel Dougan
David Downing
Patrick Dunn
Joyce Eiken
Bob Ellis
Renae Emrich
Christina Esteban
Tami Esteban
Linette Farmer
Marlene Fisher
Veronica Fisher-Tewell
Amy French
Kathy Fugate
Kelly Fuller
Susan Gaiser
Jim Garcia
Scott Garner
Robb Garr
Don Garrett
Michael Gauldin
Larry Gaunt
Patricia Geraghty
Darren Gilmore
Pamala Gilmore
Marsha Goff
Cynthia Goodwin
Phillip Grafft
Christy Green
Heather Greenfield
Joe Greenlee
Arnold Grossman
Ken Grotewiel
Chuck Haber
Mason Hackler
Robert Hagenbuch
Brian Hague
Pamela Hammond
Dorothy Hanger
William Hanlin
Steven Hanson
Carole Harvey
Carol Hatcher
Larry Hazelton
Beth Heidler
Steve Heinking
Jackie Hemke
Betty Henderson
Cathy Hendricks
Collette Hermann
James Hicklin
Lyal Hicks
Mike Hilton
Gary Holcombe
Dan Holiday
Kent Hollingsworth
Rhonda Hopkins-Nelson
Derek Hottle
Joe Hullings
Lee Hunold
Sissy Hurst
David Hutchison
Mary Innis-Jochem
Yvie James
Janet Jarred
Marty Johnson
Paula Johnson

Top Event Fundraisers

$1,000-$2,499 (cont.)

Richard Johnson
Shawn Johnson
Frank Jones
Michael Jones
Steven Julian
Mark Kastner
Vancy Kiesle
Cordell Kirk
Mary Kliewer
Otto Knapheide
Robbie Knox
Nathan Kolb
Stephen Koranda
Brett Kreutzer
Deena Kreutzer
Mark Kroencke
T.J. Kuhn
Daniel Lappin
Brett Leathers
Larry Leibrand
Angela Leikam
Mike Leikam
Kreg Levengood
Shandi Lewis
Amy Lewis-Ferguson
Craig Ligibel
Melanie Linderer
Michael Liss
Danielle Lizotte
Betty Loveland
Jerry Loveland
Bernita Mammen
Elisabeth Martin
Henry Mateja
Renee Matzke
Tom Mayse
Corinne Mccanse
Karen McCarthy
Robert McCoy
Samey McFarlane
Stacey McGhee
Rachel Meiring
Arnold Meysenburg
Gregg Minion
Linda Minson
James Mobberley
Lucas Mobberley
Kathie Money
John Montgomery
Bob Moore
Catherine Moore
Greg Moore
Mark Morris
Debbie Morrow
Cheryl Mortensen
Jerry Myers
Amy Nash
Eric Nau
Barry Nelson
Larry Nelson
Matthew Nelson
Jeremy Newell
Rae Nickell
Linda Norfleet
Anne Nunez
Paul Olinskey
Joe Ormsby
James O'Shea
Skip Palmer
George Parkins
Gregg Parks
Phillip Parra
Nancy Penfield
Lyla Perrodin
Stacia Peters
Harold Peterson
Debbie Phillips
Terry Poole
Matthew Potter
Julie Price
Angie Privett
Lance Privett
Rick Pysher
Michael Ramage
Claire Ranieri
David Rankin
Shirley Reed
Truett Reed
Judy Richardson
Michelle Ripley
Ruthie Robinette
Ralph Rognstad
Greg Rosell
Bob Rowe
Anne Russ
Mark Ruth
Leni Salkind
Rusty Sallee
Opal Sanders
Doug Saunders
Paula Schaefer
Brian Scharf
Robert Schermer
Jackie Schmidt
David Schneider
Paul Scianna
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Meredith Shields
Kevin Simon
Kenneth Sissom
Mark Sisson
Kami Sjoberg
Kathleen Smith
Whitney Smith
Connie Solomon
Tom Solomon
Frederick Spears
Brian Spence
Jennifer Stafford
Kenneth Staley
Ronald Steele
Elizabeth Stone
Robert Stricklin
Scheryl Stubbs
Anabel Stuver
Gail D. Suddarth
Bill Sullivan
Erin Sullivan
Steven Susko
Donald Swartz
Bonnie Taylor
Taylor Tholen
James Thompson
Catherine Thum
John Tindall
Petra Toye
Maureen Trast
Kelly Urich
Stephen Walker
Kathleen Walters
Keith Washburn
Susan Washburn
Kenneth Waterland
Josette Webb
Rosemary Weber
Chris Webster
William Webster
Amy Weir
George Welch
Jennifer Westphal
Ethel White
Mark White
Keith Wilhelmi
Sue Wilkes
William Willhaus
Elva Williams
Tiffany Wilson
Bud Wiltfong
Scott Woermann
Beth Wood
Jeff Woods
Karla Woods
Steve Woodside
Clay Worsham
Scott Wuest
Regan Youngman
Karen Yunghans
Christi Zimmerman

Ted Higgins

Since 1996, Dr. Ted Higgins of Kansas City has ridden in the MS150 Bike Tour with a special mission in mind. A friend and colleague was forced into early retirement after being diagnosed with MS. Dr. Higgins collects pledges and matches them dollar for dollar. Because of his fundraising efforts, Dr. Higgins is consistently ranked as a top fundraiser for the Mid America Chapter and has earned the priviledge of restricting his raised funds for the sole purpose of funding a specific named research fund.

Kathy Van de Ven

Kathy Van de Ven, of Maryville Mo., was diagnosed with MS in 1993. Since 1999, Kathy has organized a golf tournament, "Golf for MS...A Round for Research," to raise funds for the establishment of a named research grant. Kathy's most ardent support, her mother Francine, died in 1998 after a battle with cancer. Francine's spirit continues to inspire Kathy in her work to find a cause and cure for MS. Her efforts have provided more than $100,000 for MS research.

We sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions in this report.

Kansas City Dinner of Champions

The 2004 Dinner of Champions, held on Wednesday, September 22 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown, raised nearly $170,000 for the Mid America Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Each year, the Dinner recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the civic, philanthropic and business areas of Kansas City. This year's honorees were Mr. and Mrs. James E. Stowers, Jr., who accepted the Hope Award, the National MS Society's highest tribute. Approximately 325 people attended the 2004 Dinner of Champions. Proceeds benefit local programs and services for 25,000 people, which include the individuals with MS in eastern Kansas and western Missouri and their families. Funds also help underwrite national programs and research. The following generous supporters contributed to our successful evening:

Platinum Sponsors

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The Raphael Hotel Group
The RH Johnson Company
UMB Bank
US Bank

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Boasberg Wheeler Communications
Charles F. Curry Company
Cohen-Esrey Real Estate Services
Elder & Disability Law Firm
Guier Fence Company, Inc.
Barbara Marshall Hall
Barnett and Shirley Helzberg
Betty Henson
Midwest Airlines
Premier Bank
SGB Communications

David Welte, Dinner of Champions Co-Chair;
Virginia and James Stowers, Honorees;
Whitey Kuhn, Dinner of Champions Co-Chair;
William Lyons, Dinner of Champions Co-Chair

St. Joseph Dinner of Champions

Patt Lilly and Bill McMurray co-chaired the 14th annual Dinner of Champions honoring Pat Dillon, president of the Dillon Company and longtime community leader. On September 18, Mr. Dillon was presented with the Hope Award, the National MS Society's highest honor at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph. Proceeds from the event benefit the St. Joseph Branch and the National MS Society. Funds are utilized for research and programs as well as information and referral services. The following generous supporters ensured the success of the evening:

Platinum Sponsors

Commerce Bank
Heartland Health
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Stevens

Gold Sponsors

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Dillon Company
Gray Automotive
Hall Abstract & Title Co., Inc.
Hillyard Companies
Hy-Vee
McGlade Masonry
Missouri Western State College
Murphy Watson Burr Eye Center
Nodaway Valley Bank
Northwest Missouri Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, LLC
O'Malley Beverage, Inc.
Phoenix Urology
Shughart, Thomson & Kilroy/Watkins Boulware
St. Joseph Frontier Casino
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Ag Processing, Inc.
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Living Community of St. Joseph
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St. Joseph News-Press
Seaman & Schuske Metal Works Company
UMB Bank
US Bank

Corporate Achievers

The Mid America Chapter held its third annual Corporate Achievers Campaign in 2004. This unique leadership program honors executives for their outstanding contributions to the civic, business and cultural betterment of the Greater Kansas City area. The 21 honorees conducted a special gifts campaign raising over $32,000 for the fight against MS.

The MS Corporate Achievers Class of 2004 was featured in a special section of *The Kansas City Star*, in addition to receiving valuable fundraising training, company recognition and numerous networking opportunities. The honorees were presented with MS Leadership awards for their participation in the campaign.

Scott McCormick, a founding partner of VML, Inc., served as honorary chairman of this year's Corporate Achievers Campaign. He directed an advisory council of business and civic leaders that nominated the Class of 2004. A successful business figure in the Kansas City community for more than 27 years, McCormick also served as Vice Chairman of the Mid America Chapter Board of Trustees in 2004.

Carrie Peterson, Director of Marketing for VML, was the top fundraiser for 2004. A member of the Advertising Club of Kansas City and the Kansas City Direct Marketing Association, Peterson also finds time to volunteer for Christmas in October, Head for the Cure, the Granfalloon Bar & Grill Golf Tournament benefiting the Will to Succeed Foundation and the Sunflower House Valentine Gala. She also coordinates the VML Employee Volunteer Program.

The 2004 Corporate Achievers Campaign increased awareness of MS throughout the Kansas City corporate community. Its successful outcome allowed the National MS Society to continue to build positive relationships with the honorees, build on future campaigns and educate the community on the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis.

Special thanks to Jim Mueth, Scott McCormick, SJM Marketing Corp., The O'Renick Companies and The Granfalloon Bar and Grill for their financial support of the 2004 MS Corporate Achievers Campaign.

2004 Corporate Achievers Honorees and Campaign Supporters

Dawn Baker
Patrick Barr
Natalie Blackwood Wetzel
Heather Broderick Mannell
Christy Connelly
William H. Dunn III
Susie Flynn
Sarah Grossmeier
Zach Holden
Heather Holder
Jim Lauterwasser
Tamara Madsen
James D. Myers
Carrie Peterson
Susie Priesmeyer
Paul Rupp
Kristi Veitch

Foundations, Corporations & Organizations

We would like to thank the following foundations, corporations and organizations for their generous support throughout the 2004 fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2003-Sept. 30, 2004).

$10,000+

Teva Neuroscience, Inc.
Prime Health Foundation
Oppenstein Brothers Foundation

$5,000-$9,999

J.B. Reynolds Foundation
Sprint Corporation
Trak East

$2,500-4,999

Biogen/Idec
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
The Racing Association of Kansas East
Serono

$1,000-$2,499

Berlex Laboratories
RH Johnson Company
Theta Xi Fraternity
Transamerica Insurance Investment Group
United States Gypsum Company
USB Financial

Workplace Giving

We thank the many individuals who participated in the United Way workplace giving campaigns and who designated the Mid America Chapter as a beneficiary of their contributions. Your support allows us to better serve the 25,000 people affected by multiple sclerosis in our area.

The Mid America Chapter is a member of Community Health Charities of Kansas and Missouri and receives funding through the Heart of America United Way annual workplace giving campaign through this association. If you would like to donate via this campaign, please designate **#032** on your donor choice card.

We would also like to thank the following Combined Federal Campaigns for their support of our efforts throughout the Kansas and Missouri Combined Federal Campaign area: Heartland, Ozark, St. Joseph, Ft. Riley, Leavenworth, Salina, Capital and Douglas.

Every day, the Mid America Chapter accepts memorials and tributes in memory and in honor of individuals with multiple sclerosis. As we receive a large number of these gifts, we could not include a comprehensive list in this report. We thank all who have remembered the National MS Society in this way.

Top Donors

Event Donors

$7,500+

Commercial Insurance Underwriters
Ted Higgins
David W. Hinrichs
Lockton Companies

$5,000-$7,499

Lorelei Dean
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Herschend Foundation
Hunt Midwest Enterprises, Inc.
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$2,500-$4,999

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Herschend Family Entertainment
Twila G. Hillme
Inergy Propane, LLC
Myco Construction Co.

$1,000-$2,499

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Superior Bowne Asphalt Co., LLC
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URS
Joseph and Maureen Valley
Wayne Angell Family Foundation
Jon Williams
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Estate Gifts

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$5,000+

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Bob Dellinger
Susanne C. Shutz

$2,500-$4,999

Judith Jahn

$1,000-$2,499

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Leah Hurst
Steve McCray, M.D.
Dr. & Mrs. Craig C. Newland
Ken and Kathleen O'Renick
W. Clark Randall
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$500-$999

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A sincere thank you to all of our 2004 donors. We appreciate everything you give to us and to those with multiple sclerosis.

Thanks to our Volunteers!

The Mid America Chapter of the National MS Society relies on countless volunteers to meet its mission of ending the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. During the 2004 fiscal year, hundreds of volunteers shared their time and talents with us. Volunteers served on committees and boards, supported fundraising events, facilitated self help groups, answered help line calls, provided administrative support and held many other roles throughout the Chapter. The time they gave is equivalent to thousands of dollars in cash donations. The Mid America Chapter is grateful to all volunteers who have assisted us this past year and extends a warm thank you to all individuals and groups who have made it such a success. We could not do this without you! In particular, we would like to thank the following organizations for their group volunteer efforts:

Alpha Delta Pi
AT&T Telephone Pioneers
Beta Alpha Psi (Southwest Missouri State University)
Cass County Elks
Christian Motorcycle Association
Citizens of Joplin, Missouri
Citizens of Knob Noster
Citizens of Pittsburg, Kansas
Citizens of Sedalia
Commercial Insurance Underwriters & Employees
Community Learning Center of Springfield
Crooked Post Ladies Club
Daylight Defenders Lions Club
FedEx Freight Customer Care Center of Springfield
Free Wheelers of Springfield
Friendly Farmers 4-H Club
Goldwings Motorcycle Club
Green Ridge, Missouri FFA
Independent Order of Foresters
Johnson County RSVP Volunteers
Kansas City Cares
Kansas City, MO Retired Firefighters
Kansas City Ski Club
KCMSS Amateur Radio Club
Knob Noster School
Knob Noster Volunteer Fire Department
Lockton Companies Employees
MAST Ambulance
Missouri Valley Ham Radio Operators
Moose Lodge - Sedalia
MRI of Pittsburg & Employees
MS Wellness Auxiliary
Murney Associates & Employees
Northland Rugby Team
Northside Eye Clinic & Employees
Phi Mu (Missouri Western State College)
ReGen Technologies & Employees
Republic Chamber of Commerce
Riverside 4-H Club
Sedalia Amateur Radio Club
South Street Christian Church
Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club
Tau Kappa Epsilon (Missouri Western State College)
Teva Neuroscience Employees
Topeka Touring Society
Warrensburg Amateur Radio Club
Washburn Student Social Work Association
University Heights Baptist Church
Jody B. Vance, DDS, MS, PC & Employees
Young Marines

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Cathy Dunlap, St. Joseph Branch Manager
Debbie Mellentine, Ozark Branch Manager
Brandie Stormes, Eastern Kansas Branch Manager

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Sean Allain, Ozark Branch Program Coordinator
Brenda Chezek, Program Coordinator
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Jennifer Sullivan, Program Coordinator

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Adam Riso, Development Coordinator
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Nicole Long, Communications Coordinator

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Patti Ramey, Ozark Branch Administrative Assist.
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Timothy J. San Paolo
Mary Stadler

Map and Office Locations

Mid America Chapter Office/ Kansas City Branch

5442 Martway
Mission, KS 66205
(913) 432-3926
(800) 745-3148
Fax: (913) 432-6912

Eastern Kansas Branch

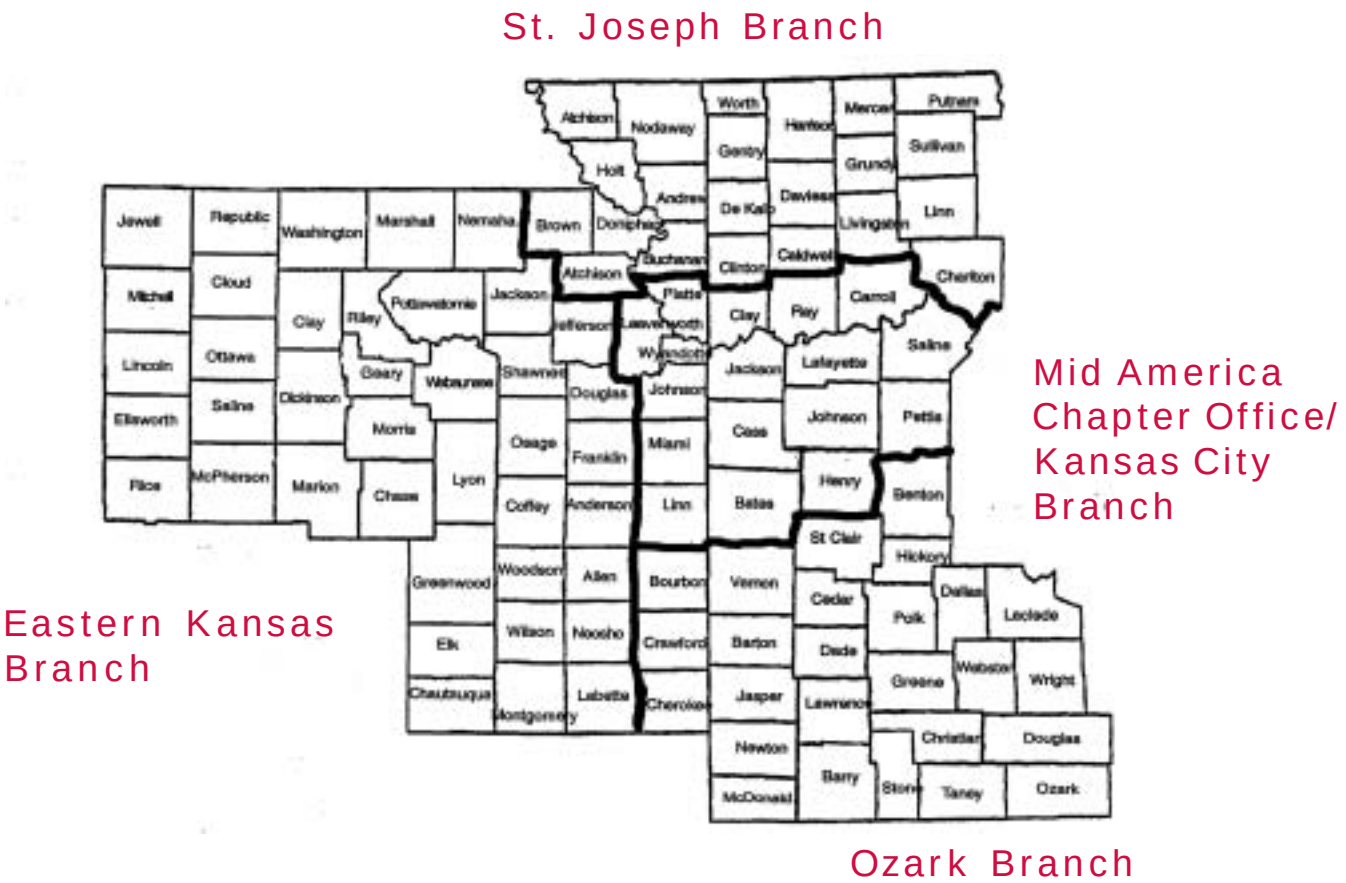
5350 SW 17th Street
Topeka, KS 66604
(785) 272-5292
(800) 745-7148
Fax: (785) 272-4032

Ozark Branch

1675-I East Seminole
Springfield, MO 65804
(417) 882-8128
(800) 745-4148
Fax: (417) 882-2039

St. Joseph Branch

2921 N. Belt Hwy, Suite L1
St. Joseph, MO 64506
(816) 233-1129
(800) 745-6148
Fax: (816) 279-8930



Memories of 2004

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Mid America Chapter
5442 Martway
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