National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New York City Chapter

Volunteer Position Description

Department/Program: Programs and Services
Position Title: Government Relations Committee

Key Responsibilities:

- Develop a general understanding of the five major public policy areas of importance to people with MS
- Assure the chapter's full compliance with applicable lobbying regulations
- Gather information about issues that are important to people with MS and their families
- Raise awareness about legislative issues important to people with MS and their families by participating in media campaigns and letter/email writing campaigns
- Research expected or pending issue activity in the legislative or executive branches concerning our five major public policy areas
- Attend meetings with legislators to promote the chapter's advocacy agenda
- Review the need and opportunities for chapter representation on public commissions dealing with health or disability issues at the state or local levels, and make appropriate recommendations.

Initial Impact: The Government Relations Committee members will assist with influencing the public and private sector in obtaining benefits and results for people with MS and their families.

Sustainable/Long Term Outcome: The Government Relations Committee will help to increase legislators' and the community's awareness of MS related advocacy, policy, and legislative issues.

Training and Support: Initial volunteer orientation is provided along with staff and Chapter introduction and an overview of basic office equipment required to perform this position (i.e. fax machine, copier, etc…). Education provided regarding legislative priorities and issues. Ongoing feedback and training is available from the Advocacy Manager.

Commitment: Committee meets 4-5 times per year for 1.5 hour meeting. Additional commitment of 1 hour a month.

Qualifications:

- Willing to attend on-site quarterly committee meetings
- Willing to travel to advocacy events and planning meetings
- Live in the NYC area
- Have a strong connection to MS or advanced knowledge of or connection to government activities/public policy

Benefits:

- Learn in depth knowledge about a large, nationally respected non-profit organization
- Impact the lives of the over 34,000 people living with MS in New York state
- Chance to meet new people
- The chance to contribute to a professional and friendly workplace that embraces each individual's skills and abilities
- To become part of the movement to do something about MS

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