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Central & Southeast Ohio 651G Lakeview Plaza Blvd. Worthington, OH 43085 800.344.4867

Northeast Ohio 6755 Rockside Rd., Suite 202 Independence, OH 44131 800.344.4867

Independence and Worthington.

We provide quality programs and services to over 10,000 Ohioans living with MS and their families in a 38-county area. Areas served include the Akron, Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown metropolitan areas as well as all Central and Eastern Ohio counties. Our two offices are located in

Established in 1953, the Chapter is an important part of a nationwide network that advances the Society's mission to achieve a world free of multiple sclerosis.

## National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Ohio Buckeye Chapter



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National Multiple Sclerosis Society Ohio Buckeye Chapter

Diagnosed with MS in 1992 Living with MS for 10 years prior to diagnosis

This is my story...

What is your connection to multiple sclerosis?

I have multiple sclerosis. I have a friend and family member with MS. I am a volunteer and event participant and donor for the National MS Society.

How has MS impacted your life?

It's always traumatic to hear that you have a disease that isn't curable and will be with you forever. How you handle the news is what makes us special. I have chosen to live each day as if it were my last. I am willing to try new things whether they are scary, challenging or out of my "comfort zone". To date I have tried zip lining, climbing a pyramid in Mexico (not knowing if I'd be able to get down), did a triathlon (not being able to run and barely being able to limp through the race part) have ridden my bike nearly 2,500 miles in one season, and continue looking for personal challenges. I don't feel that I have the luxury of putting things off, or squandering my days "because there's always tomorrow."

Are you receiving or have received assistance from any services or programs? I have not received assistance.

Have you experienced issues with any services or programs? If so, which ones? I have not experienced any issues.

What else should we know about your unique story?

I watched my mother live with MS when there were no therapies available. Her life was difficult and she lived with a lot of pain. She seldom left the house. We are very lucky today to have a variety of therapies available with new ones being tested all the time. I try to live the life my mother was unable to have with her MS.

Thank you for listening to my story! Barbara Abrams - Powell, Ohio