



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**

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## About MS And The National Multiple Sclerosis Society

- MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. We help each person address the challenges of living with MS. In 2012 alone, through our national office and 50 state network of chapters, we devoted \$121.9 million to programs and services that assisted more than a million people. To move us closer to a world free of MS, the Society also invested \$43.3 million to support more than 350 research projects around the world.
- The Society partners with the healthcare community to promote quality healthcare. Information on MS and the Society's services are available 24-hours a day by calling (800) 344-4867. We are people who want to do something about MS now. You can join the movement at [www.nationalMSSociety.org](http://www.nationalMSSociety.org)
- There are approximately 1,200 positions filled by professional staff members and over 500,000 positions filled by volunteers. Together they carry out the Society's daily operations. The Society has some 750,000 general members, including over 370,000 individuals who identify themselves as having MS.
- Nationwide income in 2012 was \$215.9 million. The majority of Society income comes from private contributions, 66% of which is generated through special events. Approximately 10% is received from corporate support or government grants. This also includes pharmaceutical company funding and grants for programs that enhance the lives of people living with MS.
- Approximately 75% of Society total revenue is devoted to research and service programs while the remainder is invested in support services such as fund raising and Society management. Because of dedicated volunteer support, it costs the Society about 17 cents to raise a dollar.
- Since its founding by Sylvia Lawry in March 1946, the Society has expended over \$771 million to advance MS research.
- During the last 67 years, the Society has been at the core of virtually every major breakthrough in treating and understanding the disease.
- The U.S. Society is one of 43 sister Societies forming the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation also founded by Sylvia Lawry, who died at age 86 in 2001.
- Cynthia Zagieboylo, who became the president & CEO of the Society in 2011, came up through the ranks of the organization, devoting more than two decades to the MS cause
- 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 the rest of the body. Symptoms range from reduced or lost mobility to numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.

- The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with at least two to three times more women than men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 2.1 million worldwide.
- Some prominent Americans with MS are: actress Teri Garr, singer Alan Osmond and his son David, country music singer Clay Walker, song writer producer Noah “40” Shebib, R&B singer Tamia Washington, newscaster Neil Cavuto, , newscaster Janice Dean, reality star Jack Osbourne, former college football star Tyler Campbell son of football legend Earl Campbell, NHL player Josh Harding, NBA player Chris Wright, Seattle Seahawks Mascot Ryan Asdourian, Triple Crown horse trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, comedian David “Squiggy” Lander, comedian Jonathan Katz, extreme sports activist Wendy Booker, marathoner Zoe Koplowitz, writer/director Henriette Mantel, author Ellen Sue Stern, author Jackie Waldman, singer Victoria Williams, and television host Montel Williams, as well as the late actress Annette Funicello, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, cellist Jacqueline du Pre’, singer Lena Horne, and comedian Richard Pryor.
- Some prominent Americans with ties to MS are: model Alessandra Ambrosio (father), TV personality Phil Keoghan, actor Martha Madison (mother), actor Shemar Moore (mother), actor Bill Pullman (friend), model Emme Aronson (father), actor Michael McKean (friend), author Jacquelyn Mitchard (friend), and entertainer Rain Pryor (father).