

## “Top Ten” Talking Points

1. Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease of the central nervous system – the brain, spinal cord and optic nerves - that can affect the way you see, move, and even the way you think.
2. Every hour of every day, someone is diagnosed with MS. About 400,000 people nationwide are living with an MS diagnosis. This includes near 35,000 people in the Society’s South Central States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
3. Symptoms can include difficulty walking, trouble speaking, nerve pain and overwhelming fatigue. Some people even experience blindness or paralysis.
4. Symptoms may come and go, and are characterized by unpredictability. Although people may have the same symptoms, everyone with MS experiences the disease differently.
5. Through research, we will one day find a cure. Until then, FDA-approved medications have shown to reduce the number of relapses and "modify" or slow down the underlying course of MS.
6. The South Central Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) ensures that people living with MS have access to essential local services that help them face the daily challenges of MS.
7. MS affects each person differently. We help those affected not only understand the basics about MS, but also help them learn how to live life well with MS by offering educational, social, and wellness programming, emotional support, and financial assistance.
8. The support provided to those affected by MS is made possible through donations and numerous hours provided by dedicated ambassadors and volunteers.
9. We are people who want to do something about MS NOW, and are dedicated to achieving a world free of MS.
10. In 2011, the South Central Chapter invested almost \$7.5 million into research and treatment to stop disease progression, restore function and end MS forever. The South Central Chapter also provided \$389,598 in the Direct Financial Assistance Program to serve 574 people living with MS.