



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society
Greater
Northwest
Chapter

The Power of Us

A 2012 ACHIEVEMENT REPORT TO OUR CHAPTER COMMUNITY



Walk MS, South Sound

We all have within us the power to change our own lives – to choose hope over despair, to find courage in the face of challenge, to discover joy on a fresh journey. Individually, we can change one life. Together, we can change many. **That's the power of us.**

In 2012, everyone in our Chapter – the 12,000 people living with MS in Alaska, Montana, Western and Central Washington, along with more than 72,000 others who love, support and care for them – drew strength from the connections we made with each other. As a result, we improved lives by the thousands. Among our most notable achievements:

- The Chapter's loyal donors contributed generously to the Society's bold No Opportunity Wasted (NOW) research campaign, advancing the goal of raising \$250 million nationwide to fuel research around the world that will stop MS in its tracks, restore what's been lost and end MS forever.
- The Chapter's MS Activists protected against legislative budget cuts that would have drastically impacted the quality of life for people living with MS, while also protecting Medicaid coverage.
- We expanded programs to help people manage their disease by leveraging more opportunities for financial assistance and providing more individualized support to address the complex challenges of living with MS.
- We improved our services to help people live well day to day by partnering with professionals in the areas of employment, financial planning, health insurance and benefits to support people affected by MS.

Whether you took advantage of Chapter services, raised funds at an event, volunteered in your community or made a financial donation, you made an invaluable contribution to these successes and many more. Each of us did our part to change lives. Together, there's nothing more powerful.

THE NATIONAL MS SOCIETY, GREATER NORTHWEST CHAPTER educates, inspires and empowers people affected by multiple sclerosis. We create innovative programs to meet the needs of people living with MS and their families, host exciting fundraising events to give supporters a meaningful role in the MS movement, and fund cutting-edge research into treatments and a cure. With a passion for bringing about a world free of MS, we help everyone affected by the disease to live richer, healthier, more independent lives.



Bike MS,
Point B team member

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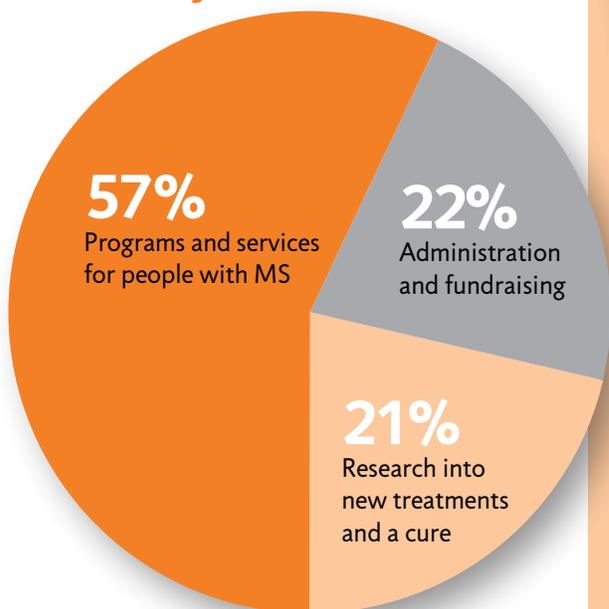
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The power of connections

Our connections run deep. Nearly 14,000 people throughout our Chapter community – from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Billings, Montana, to Kennewick, Washington – cycled, walked, dined and lunched to raise an incredible \$5.1 million in 2012 to support MS research, programs and services. Generous individuals donated another \$1.3 million through gifts large and small. And 1,400 volunteers contributed more than 17,000 hours – the equivalent of nine full-time staff members – to help us fulfill our mission.

Thanks to everyone's participation in our mission, we were able to dedicate an impressive 78 cents of every dollar directly toward helping people affected by MS live better lives. We are proud of the connections we've fostered. We are grateful that the "power of us" achieved a very successful year.

An efficient steward of your donations



The Chapter's fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30

The National MS Society's **vision** is a world free of MS. Our **mission** is to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS.



Revenue sources in 2012