



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
Greater
Northwest
Chapter

TOP TEN TALKING POINTS

1. **The cause of multiple sclerosis (MS) is unknown and there is no cure.**
2. Approximately 2.1 million people worldwide are estimated to be living with MS, including more than 12,000 people served by the Greater Northwest Chapter in Alaska, Montana, Central and Western Washington.
3. MS is a chronic disease that attacks the central nervous system, which is made up of the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. The progress, severity and symptoms of MS are unpredictable and vary from one person to another.
4. Effective strategies for some are available to modify the disease course, treat exacerbations, manage symptoms, improve function and safety, and provide emotional support. There are also currently nine FDA-approved disease modifying therapies, including two oral medications, on the market.
5. The Society's vision is a world free of MS. The Society's mission is to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS.
6. The Society addresses the challenges of each person affected by MS by funding cutting-edge research, driving change through advocacy, facilitating professional education, collaborating with MS organizations around the world, and providing programs and services designed to help people with MS and their families move forward with their lives.
7. The Society's bold NOW (No Opportunity Wasted) research initiative aims to STOP disease progression, RESTORE function that has already been lost, and END MS forever.
8. Volunteers are the cornerstone of the MS Movement. In 2012 alone, over 1,400 committed volunteers throughout the Greater Northwest Chapter territory logged an impressive 17,000 volunteer hours to help fulfill the mission of the Society.
9. The Greater Northwest Chapter hosts four signature fundraising events throughout the year; Walk MS and Dinner of Champions in the spring, Bike MS in late summer and the On the Move Luncheon during the fall. These events bring thousands of people together to have fun, celebrate successes large and small, build a caring community and raise money for programs, services and research.
10. As efficient, effective stewards of our donors' contributions, the Greater Northwest Chapter makes sure that 78 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to support Society programs, services and research.