



# About MS And The National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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- 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 2011 alone, through our national office and 50 state network of chapters, we devoted \$164 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 \$40 million to support more than 325 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 2011 was \$221 million. The majority of Society income comes from private contributions, 67% of which is generated through special events. Approximately 8% is received from corporate support, including pharmaceutical companies and government grants.
- Approximately 76% 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. 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 \$761 million to advance MS research.
- During the last 65 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. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS. 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 400,000 people in the U.S., and 2.1 million worldwide.
- Some prominent Americans with MS are: actress Teri Garr, actress Annette Funicello, country-music singer Clay Walker, song writer producer Noah “40” Shebib, R&B singer Tamia Washington, newscaster Neil Cavuto, newscaster Janice Dean, comedian David “Squiggy” Lander, comedian Jonathan Katz, Seattle Seahawks Mascot Ryan Asdourian, extreme sports activist Wendy Booker, marathoner Zoe Koplowitz, writer/director Henriette Mantel, singer Alan Osmond and his son David, author Ellen Sue Stern, author Jackie Waldman, singer Victoria Williams, Triple Crown horse trainer Kiaran McLaughlin, and television host Montel Williams, as well as the late 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), and author Jacquelyn Mitchard (friend).