



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
National Capital
Chapter

From our clients: Examples of how funds raised are making a difference

The National MS Society is committed to providing vital support and personalized services to the many thousands of individuals living with MS in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, their families, friends, and colleagues. The Society offers a range of programs and services to help you cope with the everyday demands of living with multiple sclerosis.

The following quotes and examples from clients we serve express how important and appreciated services are to those living with MS and their friends, family, and caregivers. These quotes are provided to help you share the story of how the Society is helping those affected by MS.

“I hope that someday I can give something back to the National MS Society of equal or greater value to what you all provide for me in many different ways.”

“Your organization has made a difference in my life and many others who are in my situation. Without the National MS Society, my goals may not have been possible. Thank you again for a chance at success. Just as this has made a significant difference in my life, I plan to pay it forward by making a difference in other’s lives as well” - Jacqueline

Transportation:

“I had to give up driving one year ago, so the transportation program is an absolute Godsend. It is efficient and easy to use from start to finish. The staff coordinator is wonderful to speak to, and my driver is fantastic. I use the program every month for an infusion. I would not be able to get to my doctor’s appointments without this program. I cannot say enough good things about the program and the support of the National MS Society.”

[Click to learn more about Transportation Programs](#)

Emergency Assistance Funds:

“As someone who spent 20 years as the primary weekend and evening caregiver for my wife until her passing in 2007 at age 53, I understand all too well the additional challenges that MS places on individuals and families so affected. These folks are often stretched to their limits and beyond. Even the small amount of assistance the Chapter can provide to any one person through the MS Emergency Financial Assistance Program seems like a lifeline. These funds, distributed in amounts of up to \$500, allow families to pay a bill for life necessities such as utilities, rent/mortgage, or telephone to help them maintain financial stability as they face the challenges associated with living with MS.”

[Click to learn more about Financial Assistance Programs.](#)

Program Services:

Men's Day Program: Focuses on issues related to being male and having MS

"They provide a wide variety of topics along with the opportunity to network not only with the presenters but also other men. I have received many valuable tips that make living with MS easier, and the events are always accessible. Men's Day is my favorite Society event to attend."

Day of Healing: a day of creative self-exploration and wellness

"I cannot single out the most beneficial of *A Day of Healing*, because I see as all of them as being beneficial to my life. I am now adapting what I learned in FlexAware and using the nutritional ideas in my day to day experience."

Kidventure: Kidventure offers a day of recreation, support, and fun for kids and teens, ages 7 to 17, who have a parent with MS.

"I have been diagnosed with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis since 2004. I have not been able to take my son to games and/or large events that require energy and strength on my end. It is because of Kidventure I am able to ensure that my son enjoys good times with the Society staff and kids with like experiences. I love hearing the stories when he comes home after an event. His day or week has not only been enriched, but also his family's. I feel so blessed to have a child that is a part of it. He has been with this group for at least two years now and has established friends and always meeting new ones. From my heart and my family's thank you so very much!!!" – Single mother living with MS

[Click to learn more about our Programs](#)

Advocacy:

"Being an MS activist makes me feel like I am in charge of this disease"

A treatment known to improve nerve conduction, 4-aminopyradine , was only available through a compounding pharmacy until January 2010 when the FDA approved use of Ampyra (Fampridine-SR) with the same active ingredient, 4-aminopyradine, to improve walking ability in people with all types of MS.

"Having my mobility and my life back is priceless. When I lost my mobility and became dependent on other people, it felt as though I lost a part of who I was." -EJ Levy

[Click to read a NOW Quarterly Update & more on EJ's Story](#)

Our three major federal advocacy issues for 2013 are:

- Urge Congress to continue its investment in innovative medical research at the NIH that can help prevent, treat, and cure diseases such as MS.
- Ask Congress to preserve funding for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) which provides funding for novel MS research.
- Due to the tremendous impact the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has on the development and availability of drugs and devices for individuals living with MS and other disabilities. The MS society supports an empowered agency that is adequately resourced through congressional appropriations.

[Click to learn more about Advocacy.](#)

Every person touched by MS has their own unique and powerful story to tell:

"I was diagnosed with MS on October 31, 2005. It is a day I will never forget. It was the day that changed my life forever...and for the better! While I may not be able to do all the things I use to I have found joy in activities I would never had tried before. I have become a better, stronger person through my struggle to learn to LIVE with MS."

"I love volunteering with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and working towards a cure for MS. I have met some of the most wonderful people with the best of personalities through the Society. Please support your local MS Bike or Walk to help us move closer to a cure...every little bit helps!"
- Tonya Andrews, District Activist, Christiansburg, VA

[Click to share your story](#)

What's Next: Fundraise!

1. Share these stories! Share your story! Share why you are involved and why you are fundraising. Make sure you are actively using the Participant Center.
2. When you send out a fundraising letter or e-mail use these quotes and include the link to the program you are quoting so that they can find out more information.
3. Read "How to become a Top Fundraiser" and incorporate these quotes in your efforts.
4. Once a week **POST** one of these quotes on one of your social media platforms or on your personal fundraising page.
5. Memorize one or two of these stories and when you ask for a donation share it with the potential funder. It will help capture their attention and get them to become passionate to move toward a world free of multiple sclerosis.