



‘Fill the Satchel’ coming soon!

We have two national events lined up for this fall dedicated to increasing NALC’s contribution to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. While branches are actively planning, this article is designed to help branches in these efforts.

The “Fill the Satchel” event will be on Oct. 2, and our third annual bowlathon for MDA is the first Sunday in November. Both events will take a great deal of planning, and the best way to begin is to start with collection goals that are challenging, realistic and attainable.

This is our first year for the satchel collection, so contacting local city and county jurisdictions is the first step. Work with your branch executive board to assign roles to each station or branch. Utilize the local branch MDA representative to coordinate all the efforts of your branch.

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For the satchel event, make a plan to safeguard the money your branch collects. Meet with your bank to arrange the counting and depositing of funds. Establish a safe and secure area to handle funds, and arrange a method to pick up money from specific locations.

Determine a system to track individual and station collections. Don’t take securing of funds for granted, or store money in homes, stations, offices or your car! The last thing we need is for money to go missing, and to lose our credibility with the public. Remember to never count money alone, so that results can be verified.

MDA provides supplies for the satchel drive that can be ordered directly from NALC Headquarters or from your local MDA representative. Leftover supplies can be stored for next year’s drive.

Your branch MDA coordinator can be a tremendous resource. He or she should have the following skills:

- Ability to work well with our members and the public

- Committed to do the job
- Able to recruit helpers
- Enthusiastic and involved
- Interested in learning about MDA, local services, summer camp, etc.
- Derives satisfaction from being part of a noble cause
- Active union member interested in developing leadership skills
- Desire to make an impact in the local community

In addition, the national bowlathon will follow on the heels of the satchel event. While this is our third year, I will be writing next month about the bowlathon and how we can prepare. President Rolando and I are very much aware of the closeness of the two events, but with your help, we can make both a success.

Remember, the kids and families we help are in great need:

- Our dollars will buy research and services for these diseases.
- More than 77 cents of every dollar go to services, research

and education.

- The American Medical Association recognizes that MDA-supported research projects have led to breakthroughs and possible therapies for heart disease, cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer’s disease, Huntington’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and cystic fibrosis, as well as neuromuscular diseases.

It takes \$30 to pay for a flu shot, \$74 for one minute of research, \$100 for one support group, \$150 for a consultation for physical or occupational therapy, \$300 for diagnostic work-ups at an MDA clinic, \$500 for annual repairs of durable medical equipment and \$800 for a week of summer camp for one child. The costs are sky-high, so when you bowl at one of our bowlathons or collect at the satchel event, you are doing a good thing.

Thank you for what your entire branch is going to do. Let’s be ready to celebrate our achievements this fall. Please contact your local MDA representative as soon as possible to secure your materials! 