



What a difference a day can make

Most of us can remember a single day that made a real difference in our lives. Maybe it was the day a child was born or perhaps the day you got married. Those days are filled with emotion and cause us to remember the feelings we experienced.

I believe that those types of days are touchstones in our lives and can bring deep meaning to us. Those days can change our lives. I have had many such times in my life, and working with MDA has added to the treasure trove of touchstones that bring a smile or remembrance to mind.

Most of you know that MDA recently had to cancel what would have been a week's worth of memories to kids impacted by muscular dystrophies. MDA summer camp, which many look forward to all year, had to be canceled

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due to the risks associated with the swine flu. Needless to say, respiratory diseases carry an even greater danger to kids with MD. So for all these kids, it was a big blow to their summer plans.

One group of letter carriers took on the challenge of helping lessen the disappointment by choosing to work



Michigan letter carriers joined together in August to put on a one-day camp for “Jerry’s kids.”

with MDA to have a one-day camp for “Jerry’s kids.” Carriers in the Detroit, Michigan, area and as far away as Flint and Western Wayne County, decided to volunteer and make the best of a difficult situation. After all, that’s what letter carriers have always done.

RAA Jeff Fultz worked with these branches, and on August 1, 25 to 30 letter carriers showed up along with MDA representatives to put on a one-day camp. They provided T-shirts, food and fun for the 50 to 60 kids who showed up. From seven “Pony Express” stations to games and food, they all had a great time.

I personally want to thank all the letter carriers who took the day off to make it special for kids in need. The carriers described the day as emotional and talked about the different perspective they received by getting to know the families. The more personal we get with people with MD, the more we realize why we work so hard on their behalf. The NALC contingent will never forget that one day that created a “touchstone” of memories for them.

By now, you all are aware of another one-day event where we can make difference. On November 1, we will be kicking off

NALC’s first attempt at a national fund-raiser for MDA. President Fred Rolando and I are asking all branches to schedule a bowlathon for that weekend. Every branch should have received a packet of information in the mail that contains forms to report the results. For more information, read my August *Postal Record* article that lays out the goals and specifics. If you have any questions, please contact President Rolando’s office at NALC Headquarters.

It is my great hope that this one-day effort will lead to others that will increase the amount of dollars we raise for MDA. Let’s give it a try and show that letter carriers are up to the challenge. And remember, while prizes will be awarded to the category winners and to individuals, the real winners are those who benefit from the kids and adults with MD. It will be a day to remember!

Clarification to the 2008 MDA Honor Roll: Anchorage, Alaska Branch 4319 raised \$5,351. 