

A carrier from San Diego, California Branch 70 helps the kids run a camp post office.



Region 4 Regional Administrative Assistant Ray Tillman (l) and Centennial Colorado MDA Coordinator Katrina Lindell join Savannah, a camper in Empire, Colorado.

Carriers make a difference at MDA camps nationwide

The letter carriers of San Diego Branch 70 work hard at the post office every day, but on June 22 they “played” it with the kids at the local MDA camp.

Fifteen carriers, along with members of Postal Service management, brought a virtual post office to Camp Cuyamaca in Descanso, California, giving about 60 children with muscular dystrophy the chance to collect, case and deliver letters. The case, with legs cut short enough for campers in wheelchairs to reach, was listed with the names of each camper. Children wore pith helmets and carried satchels of mail to deliver to each other. Two campers even served “rural routes,” delivering mail to the tents of campers sleeping outside.

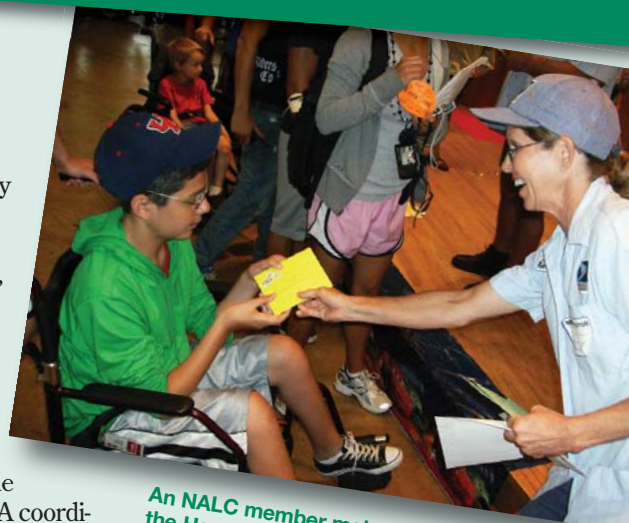
Branch 70 is one of many branches that participate in the 90 or so MDA camps held nationwide this summer. The union’s national business agents and regional administrative assistants also go to at least one camp, which provide a chance for children with muscular dystrophy to experience the same kind of summer fun other kids enjoy, with

special accommodations for those in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. The camps are an opportunity for kids to meet others with their condition.

“If you really want to see why NALC has MDA as a national charity, go to one of the summer camps,” said Jim Williams, the union’s national MDA coordinator. “You’ll be blown away by the courage of the kids and their families, seeing how they cope.”

Letter carriers can get as much out of the experience as the campers do, said Branch 70 MDA coordinator Susan Ellison. “I think everybody enjoys it,” she said. “It’s an eye-opener to get involved with the kids.”

For branches wanting to help raise money and awareness for MDA in other ways, NALC’s national bowlathon for MDA will be held in the fall. For more information, contact Linda Giordano at NALC Headquarters. ✉



An NALC member makes friends during the Houston, Texas, Metro Summer Camp.

Branches from around southeast Michigan came together with Region 6 National Business Agent Pat Carroll, RAA Jeff Fultz and former Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Korolowicz to spend the day at Camp Cavell in Lexington, Michigan.

