

NALC gives MDA check for \$1.75M but fundraising effort continues

Letter carriers made a muscle for the Muscular Dystrophy Association at the 46th annual MDA Labor Day Telethon by presenting a check for \$1.75 million on the show, which aired in a new primetime spot, Sunday, Sept. 4, the evening before Labor Day.

The contribution helped push the total amount raised by this year's abridged six-hour telethon to \$61 million—an increase from last year's total of \$59 million raised during a 21-hour event.

"Letter carriers pulled through for MDA again this year," President Fredric V. Rolando said. "And we did it big! Once again, letter carriers made a huge impact on MDA. Did you hear the cheers of amazement when we announced the total?"

This year's telethon was the first without longtime host Jerry Lewis. NALC has raised money for MDA, the union's only official charity, since the first telethon aired in 1952. Lewis started hosting the event in 1966 when it became a national, annual event, and he soon

became closely identified with the telethon and MDA due to his tireless unpaid work on behalf of the organization.

NALC Executive Vice President Tim O'Malley appeared live on the show, which was broadcast from the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, and he introduced letter carriers representing the top fundraising NALC branches:

Grand Prize: New Jersey Merged Branch 38, \$101,142

Category I (2,000 or more members): Long Island, NY Merged Branch 6000, \$48,500

Category II (1,500 to 1,999 members): Milwaukee Branch 2, \$16,675

Category III (1,000 to 1,499 members): Louisville, KY Branch 14, \$18,800

Category IV (700 to 999 members): Northeastern NY Branch 358, \$22,796

Category V (500 to 699 members): Grand Rapids, MI Branch 56, \$17,206

Category VI (350 to 499 members): Shreveport, LA Branch 197, \$13,441

Category VII (200 to 349 members): Saginaw, MI Branch 74, \$13,388

Category VIII (100 to 199 members): Fargo-West Fargo, ND Branch 205, \$13,300

Category IX (50 to 99 members): Freehold, NJ Branch 924, \$6,620

Category X (10 to 49 members): New City, NY Branch 5229, \$11,491

"Our commitment to MDA is to be here until a cure is found," O'Malley told television viewers as he presented the NALC's donation.

MDA is the nonprofit health agency dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and related diseases by funding worldwide research. MDA also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education. MDA combats neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive medical and support services, and far-reaching professional and public health education.

With national headquarters in Tucson, MDA has more than 200 offices across the country, sponsors some 200 hospital-

NALC Executive Vice President Timothy O'Malley appeared on the telethon to make NALC's contribution.





The representatives from each of the winning branches were introduced on the telethon.

affiliated clinics and supports more than 330 research projects around the world.

MDA supports more research on neuromuscular diseases than any other private-sector organization in the world. Scientists at MDA are in the forefront of gene therapy research and have uncovered the genetic defects responsible for several forms of muscular dystrophy. MDA's comprehensive services program includes diagnostic and follow-up medical consultations, flu shots, support groups and MDA summer camps for youngsters.

MDA President and CEO Gerald Weinberg said NALC's support has been gratifying over the years. "Letter carriers are the face of our Postal Service and a part of the fabric of every American community," Weinberg said. "We couldn't be more proud to be partnered with them."

'Fill the Satchel' Oct. 2

Letter carriers are pitching in for MDA in a new way this month with the first-ever national NALC "Fill the Satchel" campaign on Sunday, Oct. 2.

This annual event is similar to the International Association of Fire Fighters' annual "Fill the Boot" MDA fundraiser, complete with posters, banners and other promotional materials provided by Headquarters.

"Fill the Satchel is a new tool in our MDA toolbox," Rolando said. "With this annual event, letter carriers can reach even more donors. The satchel is a symbol of our status as America's most trusted federal agency, so we hope the public will feel good about filling our satchels for this worthy cause."

Rolando praised volunteer letter carriers nationwide for making the first Fill the Satchel event happen. "This takes much more work than meets the eye. With letter carriers holding a bag full of cash at the end of the day, someone has to coordinate security, count the money and then pick it up and deliver it, along with all the other coordination. My thanks go out to all the letter carriers who are making this a success."

He also thanked the Postal Service for allowing carriers to wear their uniforms and use their satchels to raise funds for this charity event.

Bowlathon Nov. 6

Letter carriers across the country are readying their bowling shoes in preparation for the third annual National Bowlathon for MDA on Sunday, Nov. 6.

Carriers, family members and friends will fill bowling alleys throughout the nation to raise money for MDA's many programs.

"What's more fun than bowling with friends on a Sunday afternoon?" President Rolando asked. "Bowling with friends to benefit MDA."

Like the new "Fill the Satchel" event, the bowlathon was designed to help branches with additional events to raise funds for MDA, and to encourage them to be creative about devising new ones.

"Letter carriers are always dreaming up new fundraising ideas, from raffles to golf tournaments to bingo nights to poker runs," said National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams, a former national executive vice president. "The bowlathon is another event in their arsenal." ☒

Glenn Hodges 1919-2011



Glenn Hodges, a former

NALC director of life insurance (Mutual Benefit Association), died on Monday, Sept. 5 at his home in South Carolina. He was 92.

After serving in the Army during World War II, Hodges started working for the Post Office in February 1948 in Dallas. As a member of Branch 132, he served several positions and was elected vice president, secretary and president. He served in several positions at the Texas State Association of Letter Carriers, including vice president and state secretary. Hodges was elected assistant director of health insurance at the Boston Convention of 1968. He served in that post until becoming the director of life insurance in late 1970, a position he held until the end of 1978.

In addition to his accomplishments at National Headquarters, Hodges was a master mason at Oak Cliff Lodge and enjoyed carpentry and traveling. He was well known for his friendliness.

He is survived by his spouse, daughter and grandchildren. ☒