



MDA updates

As I write this article, the national convention is just around the corner. I'm hoping that the MDA event and reception will be a great success and that we raise an incredible amount for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. I will announce the results and totals along with the winner of the 2012 Harley-Davidson motorcycle in the next *Postal Record*.

In the June article, I wrote about the upcoming events in which branches can take part. President Rolando has set the second Sunday of September to focus on our Fill the Satchel efforts. Many branches are in the final stages of planning for this event. While your event does not have to happen on the exact date, I hope that you have already set the time frame. Have you coordinated with your local MDA representative? I know that some branches had difficulty and we have worked with MDA to help smooth over some of the problems.

“From setting up collections at sporting events to collecting at their local credit union, branches have found that a little planning goes a long way to success.”

Make sure you have systems in place to care for the money you collect. Due to being on the street, there could be concerns for our collectors if you choose to ask for donations in that way. Safety first!

Branches have been very creative in the way they “fill the satchel.” From setting up collections at sporting events to collecting at their local credit union, they have found that a little planning goes a long way to success.

In October, winners of NALC branches will be heading to Tucson, AZ, to celebrate their success and to learn about MDA. We will be visiting the headquarters of the Muscular Dystrophy Association to meet with researchers and hear the latest news about strides being made to fight these diseases. In addition, branch representatives will meet those who work so selflessly every

day to provide help and hope. Each will go away with a new perspective on what he or she does and why they do it.

Every year, MDA appoints a “goodwill ambassador” to take part in functions representing the organization all over the U.S. Bryson Foster is that special person for 2012. He definitely dreams big. No, make that B-I-G. But those with big hearts usually do. “Even if you dream small, those small things can turn into big things in the end,” says Bryson, with wisdom beyond his 11 years. In true sports vernacular, he adds: “Go big or go home.”



MDA National Goodwill Ambassador
Bryson Foster

So, Bryson continues to dream about one day being the starting quarterback for his beloved Cincinnati Bengals, or a professional basketball player, or a professional head coach. Never mind that Bryson has Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a disease characterized by muscle weakness in the hips, legs and shoulders that eventually will not allow

him to walk.

If he inspires at least one person, Bryson Foster says it all will be worth it. If he amuses or amazes, that too will bring a nice inner satisfaction. They all will be part of his role—and much, much more—as the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s 2012 national goodwill ambassador. Many of you will remember Abbey Umali, who served as MDA’s national goodwill ambassador for four years (the longest term in MDA history).

We are still getting updates from branches where their totals were listed inaccurately or not at all in our honor roll. I want to commend Branch 464 in Wilmington, NC, for raising \$1,515 last year. New Jersey Merged Branch 38, our grand-prize winner, actually raised more than \$102,000. Thanks again to all for a job well done. ☒