

# NALC fundraising turns \$1.2 million into accomplishments for MDA



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**N**ALC's fundraising efforts help those with muscular dystrophy "Live Unlimited." When NALC members participate in events for or donate to MDA, we strengthen local communities and branches. This win-win situation is why your involvement is so important, not only to MDA, but also to NALC. Donations fund research and care. Participation in events not only helps raise money used to fund research and care, it also promotes awareness about this devastating disease all while building solidarity in NALC.

With your help, MDA provides information about care, research breakthroughs, support groups, educational seminars, assistive devices, summer camp, goods and services. More than 3.4 million visitors to the MDA website are looking for material that your fundraising helps provide. Your efforts help in the communities we live and work in. The money you raise stays right in your community. You are doing more than just delivering the mail; you are helping to "deliver the cure" for MDA. This partnership is not only powerful for MDA, but also NALC and letter carriers because it demonstrates that letter carriers are relevant and needed in all communities across this nation.

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There is also power in research. MDA is currently funding 150 research projects around the world. Nearly 70 research grants were awarded in 2016 with a funding commitment of more than \$16 million. Dozens of clinical trials are underway. Last year, the FDA approved the first disease-modifying drugs to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). Thanks in part to your efforts, this research has been ongoing since the 1950s, when we became MDA's first national partner.

Your dollars and efforts allow for the care of kids and adults diagnosed with MD from Day 1. This translates into care and support for more than 100,000 individuals while offering the best-in-class comprehensive at more than 150 centers (with 43 care centers dedicated to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [ALS]). Nearly 500,000 visits to the care centers are coordinated by staff into single appointments with multiple health care specialists in one clinic visit, saving time and money for the client and the organization.

NALC fundraising helps MDA provide access to promising clinical trials and highly specialized care for those who have been diagnosed. Advances in screening also provide for earlier diagnosis to help ensure the best possible outcomes for the individuals and their families. NALC continues to help MDA advance care for families affected by MD and related illnesses.

**Letter carriers are known to have a positive impact on** hometowns across America in many ways. As a partner with MDA, some of your support translates into providing the opportunity for more than 3,800 kids to attend MDA summer camps each year at 73 locations in the United States. Letter carriers are also part of the 4,000 volunteers needed to make the week at MDA camps a success. Your participation at camp is a giant part of what makes camp for kids with MD the "best week of the year."

NALC is part of MDA's national grassroots efforts in several hometowns across America. We help MDA raise funds and awareness in unique and innovative ways such as fill-the-satchel drives, auctions and trivia contests. This spirit and involvement is as visible as ever and has helped MDA generate funds and awareness so vital to the notion of "delivering the cure." This tireless work and passionate support in your hometowns translates into your unparalleled commitment to helping MDA accelerate progress in research care and support for families dealing the effects of MD.

**MDA states on its website that "Families are at the heart** of MDA's mission. We wake up every morning to create more hope and answers for families living with muscular dystrophy and related diseases that take away physical strength and mobility. We do this by finding research breakthroughs across diseases, caring for kids and adults from day one and empowering families with services and support in hometowns across America."

Seventy-four percent of all fundraising dollars goes to MDA's mission to cure MD, ALS and related diseases and to provide comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education where requested. The remaining 26 percent is used to manage and set up fundraising.

NALC's monetary contributions make up just more than 1 percent of MDA's gross income. This—and your countless volunteer hours—makes us one of MDA's longest-serving pioneer partners. We have been there from the beginning, but there is still more to do. With your help and continued involvement, we can build upon what the NALC achieved collectively by 528 local branches in 2016. Let's make 2017 another banner year as letter carriers do all we can to help deliver the cure for MDA.