

There's no place like MDA Summer Camp or MDA Lock-Up



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Some of our fundraising efforts directly support MDA Summer Camp. Equally important is that many of our letter carriers and their families volunteer time to participate in the camp experience. This year was no exception. All across the country, members talked about the delightful camp experience and how they saw what a difference letter carriers make in the lives of those with MD.

Letter carrier representatives from 11 NALC branches were guests of MDA and NALC in central Minnesota as part of the 2016 MDA Honor Roll trip. Participating branches were

selected based on size and level of fundraising in their categories and announced in the April *Postal Record*. Representatives participated in a full day's activities at an MDA camp in Maple Lake, MN, as part of MDA Sponsor Day.

Summer camp starts with a welcome reception for campers. At the opening meal, campers and counselors get to see old friends and make new ones. Volunteers host many of these welcome dinners, and Camp Courage in Maple Lake was lucky to have representatives from several branches located



NALC representatives participated in an MDA summer camp in Minnesota.

in that state. NALC volunteers and their families brought the meal, set up the serving area, prepared the food and cleaned up after the event. I would like to acknowledge these branches: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Hopkins and Austin—and all the others that participate in similar manners at MDA summer camps across the

nation—with the most heartfelt thank-you.

A banquet, hosted by NALC and MDA in nearby Forest Lake, was held to celebrate the achievements of the Honor Roll winning branches and the overall NALC effort. NALC President Rolando was on hand, along with MDA Executive Vice President Karen Lewis Alexander, MDA Vice President Tony Englert and MDA National Director Tracey Gianelli to present the awards.

As part of the Honor Roll trip, representatives from the winning branches participated in Sponsor Activity Day.

We had a tour of the facility conducted by Minnesota's MDA ambassador, Hunter Bengston. This year, our group conducted four activities: a ZIP code spin, writing letters to home, bowling and a duck delivery race. The activities must have been fun as we saw a lot of smiles from both the kids and our NALC volunteers. We even had repeat customers.

Letter carriers help make MDA Summer Camp one of the best weeks of the year for the campers. If you have not volunteered yet, please consider it. This experience helps volunteers connect with the kids and the cause and will change you in a positive and humbling way. The representatives from the MDA Honor Roll trip are privileged each year to spend time with the families we help with our fundraising effort and get rejuvenated for the current Honor Roll year.

President Rolando is setting the example for all letter carriers in the NALC's continued commitment to "Deliver the Cure," and then Aug. 10 was no exception. The president did a little time and a lot of good as a "jailbird" in his own community of Fredericksburg, VA. Gordonsville, VA Police Chief Clay Corbin and Deputy Officer John Williams arrested Rolando outside of his home, placed him in handcuffs and took him to be arraigned at "MDA court." After the arraignment, Rolando spent some time behind bars before he was allowed to make calls to raise bail and awareness for MDA.



NALC President Rolando took part in an MDA Lock-Up to raise money for the organization.

Leading by example is essential. Rolando said that it's important for all members to participate in our fundraising events, including NALC leaders. With many supporters wanting to help the NALC president make bail (in some humorous cases, keep him there), President Rolando raised more than \$25,000 at this one event. He understands that he could not have achieved this success without the support of hundreds of letter carriers from branches across the U.S. That is why a special effort was made to help individual donations from branch members get credited to their current year's MDA fundraising efforts.

Our national president took this opportunity to show his support for our national charity while doing so as a resident and leader in the community where the event was held. We hope we can count on you to do the same.