

# A fun time at MDA Summer Camp



Christina Vela Davidson



**F**irst and foremost, I want to thank all those who work so hard to raise money for MDA. Raising money to help find a cure is the reason the NALC works so hard with this charity. The more money we raise, the closer we get to be able to Deliver the Cure. Raising the most money in your category earns you a perk: You get to participate in the annual MDA/NALC Award trip.

This year, the NALC and MDA recognized the winners' efforts with a special trip to an MDA Summer Camp at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, TX. The NALC category winners came

from various parts of the country. Together we spent two great days with President Rolando, our friends from MDA and the participants at Camp Aranzazu.

On Day One, the award winners had dinner and went bowling. On Day Two, we went to Camp Aranzazu and spent time with the children, which was followed by a dinner where President Rolando recognized each category's winning branch.

MDA always has been appreciative of NALC's support over the years. And, MDA hostess Tracy Denton, vice president of organizational partnerships, and Jenny Hanie, the national director of organizational partnerships, did not disappoint. They made all the winners feel at home and welcome. They also shuttled and entertained us while we were in Rockport.

As mentioned before, on Day Two we went to Camp Aranzazu and, while touring the camp, the winners learned that each child has his or her own counselor, as well as access to onsite full-time medical staff, all of whom donate

their time to tend to the special needs of the campers. All of the facilities have been modified to be wheelchair accessible, and special care is given in choosing camp activities to allow everyone to participate.

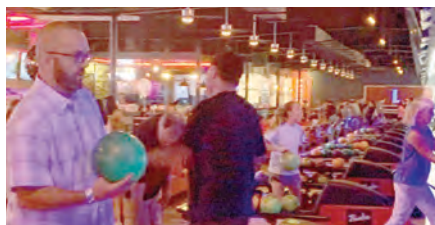
**This was only the second camp I have attended, but it was another amazing opportunity.** Even though I had a family emergency, going to this camp put a smile back on my face. I took great pride in helping with this camp and had an awesome experience. I also met NALC brothers and sisters from different parts of the United States, and got to hear both how they raise money for MDA and how much pride they take in their fundraising.

Watching these kids be kids and forgetting they have a neuromuscular disease was the highlight of the camp. Summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for children living with muscular dystrophy to spend time with kids who are just like them, doing activities adapted to their abilities and building new friendships.

For NALC, camp provides our volunteers a rare opportunity to connect in ways we might not be able to do any other time in the year. If you have not attended a VIP Day at a camp, please try to do so in the future. It is a blast and you will walk away changed.

Thank you to all those who work so hard to raise money for MDA. Let me end with this: "Remember, you never know when it might be you." God bless you all.

**A very early reminder:** Please turn in all money by Dec. 15 of each calendar year to ensure it gets credited for that calendar year. MDA closes its local offices during the holiday season and closes its books shortly after January, so if the money does not arrive in time, it may not get credited properly or at all for 2019. Let's avoid this wherever possible.



NALC MDA fundraising category winners spent time in Texas visiting an MDA Summer Camp and enjoying some camaraderie.