The neuromuscular disease community—people with ALS, muscular dystrophy, SMA syndrome, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and related rare diseases—is among the highest-risk populations for COVID-19. They are also among the most overlooked. While precautions for travelers, older adults and those with conditions that affect respiratory health exist, there is a lack of information specific to people living with neuromuscular diseases, as well as their caregivers.

The freedom to walk, talk, run and play. To laugh, hug, eat—even breathe. Each day, these freedoms are taken away from people with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases that weaken muscle strength and limit mobility.

In 1952, NALC became MDA's first national sponsor and declared it NALC's official charity. The union's first campaign to raise funds for MDA was its Porch Light Brigade, an all-volunteer, door-to-door effort by letter carriers during Thanksgiving week of 1953.

Since that time, NALC has remained faithful to its commitment to help save and improve the lives of people fighting muscle disease, raising millions of dollars—an effort that continues to advance the MDA's mission. NALC and its members are here until a cure is delivered for every neuromuscular disease.

COVID-19 won't stop us! We can't afford to wait for the curve to flatten or for this virus to go away. Children and adults affected by muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases need help now, and together we can achieve that.

I worked with MDA to create a way for branches to raise money through virtual campaigns. This page has access to tools and resources to rapidly activate your virtual events to raise money and keep social distancing in place for everyone's safety.

This virtual campaign can bring your fundraising events to all of your branch members in a safe and healthy way. You can share your fundraising campaign with your friends, family and followers. Live fundraising can be used for any type of event—from walks to poker nights to auctions and other campaigns.

Move your MDA fundraising online

Setting up an online fundraiser for MDA is a breeze with Donor Drive! Funds raised online are received faster, and therefore make an impact on MDA's mission faster, as well as make it easier for NALC members to track their donation totals! Follow these simple steps to set your Branch up for success!


   Remember to bookmark this page for future fundraisers! And don't forget the MDA Chatbot is here to help you with any questions.

2. Click on [CREATE A PAGE](https://mda.donordrive.com/event/nalc2020) to get started

3. Enter the information for the specific fundraising campaign or event

4. Enter your Branch number and click “Continue to Next Step”

5. Enter your personal information as Branch President, and owner of the campaign

6. Create a username and password so you can log back in to manage the pages

7. Congrats! You can now customize your page and start fundraising!
The following links are two recently created virtual campaigns where you can donate to MDA and support Team NALC for the 5K Tough Mudder: mda.donordrive.com/campaign/Tough-Mudder and mda.donordrive.com/campaign/Ladies-Night-for-MDA.

For MDA’s 70th year, I am asking every member of each branch to raise $50 for the “Deliver the Cure” campaign in 2020. If each member is able to rise to the challenge, then NALC will be able to raise over $14 million for kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases.

I am asking presidents to set up an online campaign for their branch at mda.donordrive.com/event/nalc2020 as soon as possible, and to encourage fundraising among members, families and friends.

Need help setting up a webpage or have questions on how to fundraise? Contact me at mda@nalc.org or MDA at nalc@mdausa.org. I also have provided instructions to create your own virtual campaign (see “How to set up an NALC Donor Drive Page” on the previous page).

I would also like to make a correction for the following branch and the amount it raised for 2019: Aiea-Pearl City, HI, Branch 4682—$1900.

Finally, many changes have been made with MDA due to the COVID-19 pandemic; many offices have closed and many employees have been furloughed. If you do not know where your donations should go, use the allocation form provided below and send your money to MDA in Chicago.

MDA MDA Donation Allocation Form

- NALC Branch Number____________________________
- State Association______________________________
- Auxiliary______________________________
- MDA District/City______________________________
- MDA Contact/Staff______________________________
- MDA Event Name/Event Type________________________
- MDA Event Date___________________ Donation Amount_______________________
- Donor Name__________________________________________

Please fill out and mail along with your MDA donation check to:

MDA
161 N. Clark Suite 3550
Chicago, IL 60601

When a Retired Letter Carrier Dies . . .

☑ Notify U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Retirement Operations Center, Boyers, PA 16017, or call toll-free 888-767-6738 and provide: full name of deceased; date of birth; date of death; Social Security number; CSA claim number; and survivor’s name, address and relationship to the deceased.

☑ For quicker action, provide the above information to NALC’s Director of Retired Members, 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144, 202-393-4695, or call toll-free 800-424-5186 only on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 10 a.m. – noon and 2-4 p.m. (Eastern). NALC will alert OPM so that survivor benefits will commence as quickly as possible, and will send you the application for death benefits under the retirement system, and the claim for death benefits under FEGLI.

☑ Return any uncashed annuity checks to the address on the accompanying Treasury Department envelope. If payments are being deposited directly to a bank or other financial institution, contact them with the retiree’s date of death and advise them to return any future payments to the Treasury Department.

☑ Call the local office of the Social Security Administration or toll-free 800-772-1213.

☑ If the retired carrier had a TSP account, notify the TSP Death Benefits Processing Unit, FairVis Post Office, DEDIS—P.O. Box 4450, Fairfax, VA 22038-4998, or call 877-968-3778.

☑ Notify the retired carrier’s NALC branch.

☑ If veteran, notify the Veterans’ Administration local office.

☑ Notify banks and other financial institutions.

☑ Notify insurance companies (life, health, home, automobile, etc.). If the carrier had a policy with NALC’s Mutual Benefit Association, write to 100 Indiana Ave., NW, Room 510, Washington, DC 20001-2144 or call 202-638-4318. If the carrier belonged to the NALC Health Benefit Plan, write 20547 Waverly Court, Ashburn, VA 20149 or call 703-729-4677.

Note: Health benefit coverage for a surviving spouse and dependent children continues automatically if retiree had family coverage at time of death and if a monthly survivor annuity is payable.

☑ To request a duplicate 1099R, Statement of Annuity Paid, call 888-767-6738. Callers will need the former carrier’s CSA number and the last four digits of their Social Security number.

☑ Have mortality officials obtain enough certified death certificates for your needs (they can suggest how many).