

MDA end-of-year wrap-up



Christina Vela Davidson



As we all know, MDA Summer Camp is a magical place where anything is possible for children with muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases. From swimming to zip-lining, horseback riding to dancing under a disco ball, the children are there to have fun and gain valuable life skills. Each summer, thousands of kids attend life-changing overnight camps around the U.S.—at no cost to their families, thanks to our generous supporters.

However, after careful review of the growing seriousness and community spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and discussion with trusted medical professionals and organizations, MDA has made the difficult decision to cancel all summer camp programs in 2020. Their top priority is the health and safety of our campers, volunteers and staff. They know the campers, volunteers, sponsors and MDA staff look forward to these life-changing weeks at camp every year, and this decision was not made lightly.

Remember, we're not going to let COVID-19 stop us. Kids and adults living with neuromuscular diseases face a higher health risk and risk of isolation. A lot is uncertain right now, but one thing is certain—we need support or we won't have enough resources after the virus is gone. The pandemic has caused cancellations of our fundraising events, which will affect MDA programs all year. We will need your help to ensure that MDA can provide the care families urgently need.

MDA has been researching and testing how video gaming can benefit its community. It has been fortunate to forge alliances with many top gaming, technology and accessibility experts—including Microsoft—to determine how gaming can best connect and benefit the MDA

community. After much effort, it is pleased to launch MDA Game Night, an online community where MDA families, medical providers and anyone who cares about those with neuromuscular diseases can join online to play, share stories and safely acknowledge the love, challenges and inspiration that makes us all special. MDA Game Night began on March 21 and will be happening every Saturday from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. (Eastern Time).

I would also like to make some corrections for the following branches and the amount they raised for 2019:

Branch 354	Laredo, TX	\$1,250
Branch 11	Chicago, IL	\$26,617.68
Branch 324	Denver, CO	\$14,000
Branch 60	Stamford, CT	\$6,000
Branch 181	Austin, TX	\$2,000
Branch 852	Yakima, WA	\$14,901.46

Join MDA Game Night

Saturday, March 21st and continuing every Saturday from 7-10PM EST (4-7PM PST).

Play on [Discord](#)

Watch on [Twitch](#)



MDA Game Night
Saturday, March 21st, 7-10PM EST
And every Saturday thereafter!

Questions?

Please contact our Community Manager, Paul Scherer, at pscherer@mdausa.org.

What is MDA Game Night?

MDA Game Night is an exciting new series of scheduled online events that MDA families, volunteers and anyone in the NMD community can join to play, share stories and connect with one another!

Who can join? What does it cost?

Anyone and everyone involved in the MDA Community can join! MDA Game Night is free! There is no cost to join, play games, or watch.

How do I join?

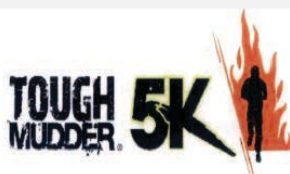
It all starts with MDA's moderated channel on [Discord](#). Discord is a free app used by video gamers to connect and schedule game time. You can play from any computer or gaming console that connects to the internet. You can even watch on your phone. All MDA Game Nights will be shown on MDA Let's Play Channel on [Twitch](#).

Can I fundraise for MDA?

Yes. Anyone can sign-up at www.MDAletsPlay.org to support MDA while they are playing video games and streaming. Fundraising is not a requirement though. MDA Game Nights are FREE to join, play, and watch. To raise money, we will be hosting online games and tournaments. People will be able to pledge donations and sign up for special online events. More information about these activities will be made available throughout the year.

MDA, cont.

Just another reminder: if the COVID-19 pandemic lets up, the Tough Mudder will be on Aug. 30 in Haymarket, VA. If you want to donate, please use the following form. Remember, what you or your branch donates will be added to your 2020 MDA numbers.



Deliver
the Cure
with MDA

Support Team NALC/MDA Run 2020 and President Rolando in his 5K Tough Mudder MDA Fundraiser:
August 30, 2020 - Camp Snyder, 6100 Antioch Rd Haymarket, VA, 20169

Make checks or money orders out to MDA.

Mail this completed form and your donation to address below:

Name: _____

Branch # _____ Amount \$ _____

National Association of Letter Carriers
Attn: MDA - Christina Vela Davidson
100 Indiana Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Staff Reports

Food drive postponed, hunger remains



Assistant to the President
for Community Services
Christina Vela Davidson

I just wanted to remind you all that the 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, scheduled for May 9, has been postponed. NALC, as well as our national partners, are fully committed to rescheduling the food drive later in 2020. A new date has not yet been scheduled, but when it is chosen it will be blasted out on the App, social media and the NALC website.

Millions of Americans donate food on the second Saturday in May every year to help fight hunger in their communities. While we cannot safely conduct the food drive on its traditional date, we encourage those who would participate to consider donations that may be safely made to food banks in the form of food or financial assistance.

There are thousands of food pantries, food banks and churches in need of support because they are running short. These pantries and churches are the ones who will help working families struggling through this uncertain time. NALC has a great history in this fight to end hunger and will continue to help, replenishing food shelves in thousands of communities throughout the country.

The coronavirus pandemic has already cost thousands of Americans their lives, and it is also causing many to go hungry. Thousands have been forced to wait for

hours in long lines at food banks across the country. Pantries and food banks that are helping are not able to assist and reach everyone.

Let's work together to help those in need. Brothers and sisters, you do not have to wait until a date is chosen; you can collect food or donations at

the local level, for your local pantries or food banks. If you want to help a local pantry, call the organization to see what its needs are. Please be safe and always remember, "family first."

Please register online or by mail if you have not registered. Remember it's a first-come, first-serve for the rest of the postcards. We will be sending these requests from the Hub cities around the country to those who need them.

