



NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY

Greater Illinois Chapter



I fight MS.

Knowledge. Health & wellness. Independence. These are the tools the Greater Illinois Chapter provides to all those who choose to stand up and fight multiple sclerosis. It is a devastating disease we are fighting, but we can be more devastating in our response. With research, programs & services, advocacy, fundraising, and the help of our volunteers, we will end MS.

2005 annual report

letter from the chairman & the president

Dear Supporters,

Since 1952, the Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has fought tirelessly to help eradicate MS. Along the way we've won many battles, providing assistance and support to thousands of people living with MS in Illinois. But today there's still no cure. And our fight continues.

In 2005, we brought our resources and programs to 13,500 people, empowering them to fight MS through education and by living well every day. We fought on behalf of the 20,000 families currently living with MS in Illinois through research support. Our Chapter reached out to more diverse and wider-reaching audiences, bringing an even greater number of people into our fight to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis. We sought new opportunities to deploy a growing number of advocates out into the community to help identify and address the needs of those impacted by MS.

We recruited more heroes - volunteers who donated their time and talent to our education programs, our special events, and our advocacy work. And the Chapter's fundraising events (including the MS Walk, the MS 150 Tour de Farms, and the Dinner of Champions) smashed all previous records, bringing in more than \$5.5 million to help support services and research that are leading to new MS therapies and treatments.

When confronted with the difficulties that multiple sclerosis poses to far too many of our loved ones, this Chapter stood up and said we're ready to fight. MS can *and will* be defeated - and thanks to your generosity and the contributions of thousands of others who stand alongside us, we'll continue our fight until that victory is achieved.

Sincerely,



Mike J. Shelton
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Greater Illinois Chapter



Lynda M. Chott
President
Greater Illinois Chapter

I fight MS.

Multiple sclerosis has proven to be a devastating disease, and there are currently 20,000 families in Illinois who are battling it. But in 2005, the Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society stepped up our fight against MS, determined to be equally devastating in our approach to ending the disease. We fought on many fronts: through research, education and programming, and advocacy initiatives. We fought with volunteer opportunities and fundraising activities. And we fought by providing the necessary services and information for people living with MS to be healthy, independent, and knowledgeable. We are prepared to do all it takes in order to end multiple sclerosis, and that means fighting every way we can.

I fight MS... *through research*



We can fight multiple sclerosis, but we cannot will a cure into being - only research holds the potential to truly end the devastating effects of MS forever. That's why the Greater Illinois Chapter remains so dedicated to supporting all manner of research initiatives.

In 2005, the Chapter raised over \$2 million to fund projects investigating pediatric MS,

remyelination, and the longitudinal impact of multiple sclerosis. Illinois' own MS Centers were home to National Multiple Sclerosis Society-funded projects which tested the ability of specific proteins to limit the activation of MS immune attack cells, examined the conditions under which viral or bacterial infection might trigger autoimmunity, explored a oligodendrocyte-targeted gene therapy, and much, much more.

In the fight against MS, we...

- Contributed in part to 17 Illinois-based research projects
- Helped fund approximately 350 research projects around the world

I fight MS... *in programs & services*

In 2005, there were over 20,000 Illinois families living with multiple sclerosis, and that number will continue to grow. The need for information and resources is ever increasing, ever more urgent - and the Greater Illinois Chapter has responded to the demand.

For the first time, the Chapter offered a multi-part program designed exclusively for individuals who were recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis; these initial *Success with MS* offerings were so well-received that the program expands statewide in 2006.



The wildly popular *MS Day at Shedd* social program grew into a series of events for families throughout Illinois, with additional gatherings in Peoria, Moline, Mt. Morris, Kane County, Springfield, and Mahomet. People living with MS also gained unprecedented access to immediate and "on-demand" support, with the launch of peer support services (a completely volunteer-driven project) and the transfer of all information & referral services to a central Information Resource Center at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's home office in Denver.

Healthcare professionals seeking a greater understanding of MS found no shortage of learning opportunities through the annual *Research Symposium* and numerous continuing medical education programs. By educating the medical community, especially primary care providers, the Chapter is working to facilitate earlier diagnoses of MS, which is crucial in limiting the devastating effects of the disease.

In the fight against MS, we...

- offered 63 support groups, with 1,570 members
- served 570 social program attendees across six regions, and 813 additional attendees at MS Day at Shedd
- educated 350 healthcare professionals who attended CME sessions
- handled 4,500 calls from Illinoisans through the IRC

I fight MS.

I fight MS... *with advocacy*

To advocate for people living with multiple sclerosis, we know that you only have to possess the will to truly make a difference. With so simple a premise, a steadily increasing number of volunteers joined the advocacy effort in 2005.

In May, volunteers in the Advocacy and Government Relations committee attended a five-day conference in Washington, D.C. making a record 20 congressional office visits. Throughout the year, Chapter advocates took part in teleconferences, participated in strategic taskforce planning sessions which looked to the year 2010, and met with 50 legislators on issues ranging from NIH funding to Medicare to accessible housing.

In the fight against MS, we...

- Worked with State Senators Kirk Dillard and Pam Althoff to ensure that all new multi-unit housing is constructed in accordance with accessibility standards
- Pushed for continued state funding for paratransit on Metra and PACE
- Joined the Campaign for Better Health Care to help pass the Health Care Justice Act, which begins the process of bringing affordable and accessible healthcare to Illinois
- Raised more than \$125,000 for those living with MS through the Illinois Income Tax Check Off program

I fight MS... *as a volunteer*

With over 16,000 volunteers donating their time and talent to the Chapter in 2005, there seemed to be limitless possibilities for those who wanted to fight MS. Some dedicated themselves to planning programs and events, many more used their resources to fundraise, and still others lent their professional expertise to furthering our mission.

Demonstrating precisely what greatness can result from singular commitment to a cause, JoEll Allen and Amy Paul earned the Volunteer of the Year Award for their work with the Peoria Council and for planning Carnivale. Under their supervision, the Chapter's signature winter fundraising event in Peoria raised \$67,000 in 2005 - a 48% growth in revenue. More than driving donations, however, their efforts helped educate the entire Central Region and improve service to people living with MS in the area.

In the fight against MS, we...

- had 302 volunteers join 14 event and program planning committees
- welcomed 68 volunteers who provided administrative and skilled support
- recruited 273 volunteers who lent their support in 10 programmatic areas
- registered 1,735 volunteers for the MS Walk and MS 150

I fight MS... *by fundraising*

Donors large and small, anonymous and en masse, came together in 2005 to contribute more funds than ever toward combatting the devastating effects of MS. Nearly 25,000 donations were made online, mostly for the *MS Walk*, *MS 150 Tour de Farms*, *MS Half Court Classic*, and *MS Slugfest*. Corporations such as Serono Pfizer, Coca-Cola, American Airlines, and American Family Insurance provided support as title sponsors through material and in-kind donations, as part of teamMS, and through employee matching gifts.

2005 also saw stellar efforts from individual fundraisers. The top five *MS Walk* fundraisers for 2005 were Bill Gillispie, John & Dolores Bopp-Potterton, Bob Gregory, Mary Boustany, and Laura Schallman. The top five *MS 150* fundraisers include Michael Krasny, Chad Smith, Kevin Murphy, Bruce Berman, and Ron Fiebelkorn. Praise is equally deserved for the 200 event planning and leadership volunteers, and the over 2,000 event volunteers.



In the fight against MS, we...

- raised \$2.9 million through the *MS Walk*
- raised \$1.35 million through the *MS 150 Tour de Farms*
- raised \$1.3 million through the *Dinner of Champions*
- raised \$277,770 through Community Events
- achieved a fundraising efficiency of 12.6%
- collected \$1.5 million in total online donations

2005 chapter revenue

Special events - \$5,525,421 (60%)

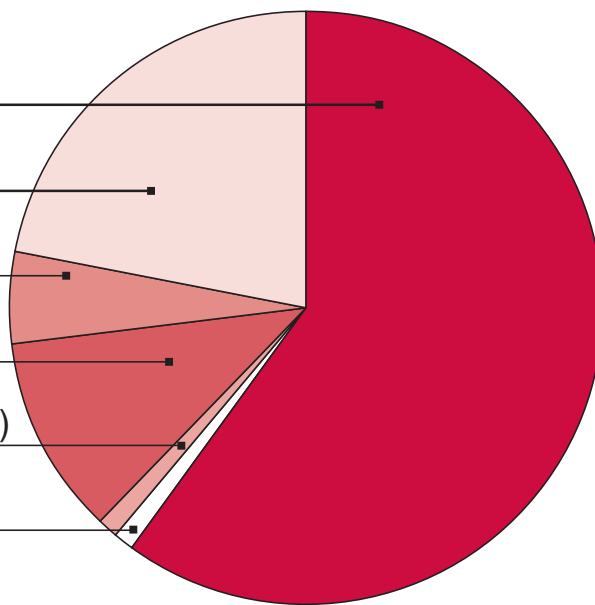
Memberships & contributions - \$2,003,575 (22%)

Received at National - \$456,780 (5%)

Legacies - \$996,260 (11%)

Grants from government agencies - \$109,718 (1%)

Interest & other - \$58,120 (1%)



2005 chapter expenses

Illinois programs - \$3,736,432 (41%)

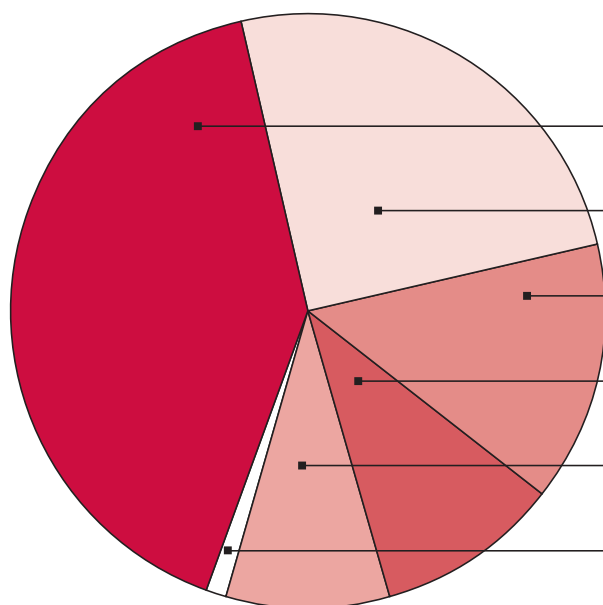
National research - \$2,048,869 (25%)

National programs - \$1,244,564 (14%)

Fundraising - \$925,299 (10%)

Add to reserves - \$833,421 (9%)

Operations - \$120,289 (1%)



2005 board of trustees

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spread the word

Thanks to significant advances in research, the FDA has approved several treatments that may alter the underlying disease course of multiple sclerosis, and early treatment is critically important. People with MS should consult their doctors about using one of these FDA-approved medications and other effective treatments for the symptoms of MS. If you or someone you know has MS, contact the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at 1-800-FIGHT MS or msillinois.org for more information.

contact us

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I fight MS... *at www.msillinois.org*