



NATIONAL
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
SOCIETY

Greater Illinois Chapter



I fight MS.

I fight MS.

“What does it mean to fight MS?” There's no simple answer. For some, it means many hours of exacting laboratory work in the ongoing, and increasingly effective, efforts to reveal the cause and course of an unpredictable disease. For others, it means believing so strongly in a mission that they fundraise tirelessly for events, never doubting that each dollar raised brings us closer to a cure. And for people who have MS, it means living with the constant threat of a debilitating attack which could eventually rob them of their sight or ability to move, while also confronting chronic fatigue, memory loss and a variety of other symptoms. These are the hard facts of multiple sclerosis. It is a devastating disease - one that can and must be eradicated. Through programs and services, advocacy, fundraising, education and research, the Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is leading the fight against MS. . . ***The question is: how will you join our fight?***



I fight MS

National Multiple Sclerosis Society - Greater Illinois Chapter

In the fight against multiple sclerosis, I have no weapon more powerful than my voice. By staying informed and speaking up on the issues that affect people living with MS, I can then promote a better understanding of how the disease affects people's lives. As an Advocacy Ambassador volunteer, I talk to federal, state, and local officials as well as business and community leaders to safeguard rights for the MS community. I work to improve accessibility standards in public transportation and buildings and to protect vital provisions of Medicare and insurance coverage. I also try to initiate MS-appropriate programming at long-term care facilities, ensure that multiple sclerosis research continues to be funded, and knock down barriers to employing people with MS.



with advocacy



I fight MS

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I find all sorts of ways to get involved in the fight against MS. Even if my age sometimes limits the kinds of things that I can do, I know that eventually I will grow up. Unfortunately for my mom, she can't just grow out of the physical limitations that MS forces on her. Sometimes she has trouble standing, or her vision gets blurry or she forgets things. MS doesn't only affect the person who is diagnosed - it changes the lives of those who love them, too. Raising funds for the Greater Illinois Chapter is my family's way of saying, "We're not giving up." This year I'm riding in the MS 150 Bike Tour for the first time ever. The money we raise supports services for families like mine, and it enables researchers to keep looking for cures so that maybe one day my mom can ride with me.



by fundraising



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No other private institution in the world funds more MS research than the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. In the early 1990s, drugs developed with the help of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society were made available to the public and for the first time we successfully altered the course of MS. Today, the Greater Illinois Chapter contributes millions of dollars annually to supporting bold, novel studies which open new avenues to treating, preventing, and curing MS, including my work focusing on the nature of attacks on myelin. But, like so many of my colleagues who depend on grants, I'm only able to continue my work with the financial support of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Together, we make it possible to continue the research which will ultimately unravel the mystery of this disease.



through research



I fight MS

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As a doctor, I know that not enough medical facilities are adequately equipped to treat people with MS, but with the help of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, we're changing that. Affiliation with the Greater Illinois Chapter means that my MS Center offers diagnostic and treatment services, ongoing medical and symptom management, nursing services, and additional services such as neuropsychology, ophthalmology, exercise, and urology. The Chapter supplements these with patient and family education, care management, peer support and counseling. It adds up to complete care tailored to people living with multiple sclerosis, and we provide all these services under the same roof as our continuing MS research.



at MS Centers



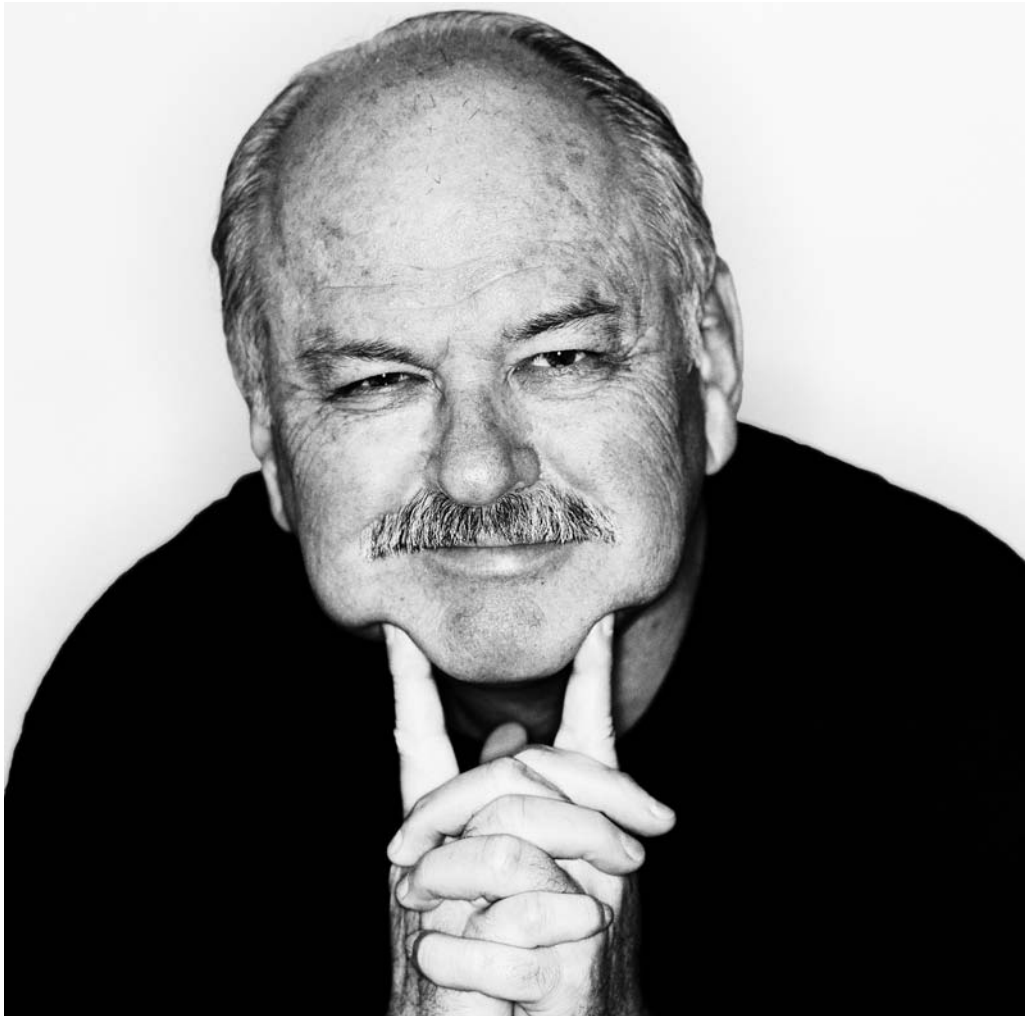
I fight MS

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In Illinois, there are more than 20,000 families living with multiple sclerosis who need assistance *right now*. The Chapter ensures that they can access the programs, information and assistance needed to fight this disease, no matter how they are personally affected by it. Newly diagnosed individuals have overcome their initial fears of MS during the presentations I do in conjunction with the Chapter. Patients receive more informed care when my fellow nurses and I attend the Chapter's continuing medical education courses. And countless people living with MS - and their family members - have told me how much the Chapter's work means to them, be it the Direct Assistance program, online information, social programs, self-help groups, wellness classes or peer support.



in programs & services



I fight MS

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When I think about the difficulties that face people with multiple sclerosis, I cannot help but be *outraged*. It is an unforgiving and seemingly arbitrary disease, and it will take the efforts of many to defeat it. I do my part by donating my time and talents to the Greater Illinois Chapter. I wake up unusually early on the first Sunday of May to help set up for the MS Walk. I use my experience as a social services counselor to advise the Chapter Programs Committee when planning new services. And I recruited my cousin to join Multiple Solutions, a group of young professionals dedicated to fostering MS awareness. But I do my most meaningful work once a month as a self-help group facilitator: because I have MS, and I want others to know they can fight it, too.



as a volunteer



I fight MS

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I have MS. I also have a very fulfilling life. My disease may demand some special attention, but it certainly does not prevent me from living well. Through my involvement with the Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, I have learned how to best care for my body, spirit and mind. I am active in MS Aquatics. I receive free counseling through the Direct Assistance program. I take my family to social programs. I participate in Tai Chi classes created specifically for people with balance issues. I find strength and comfort in my local self-help group. I stay knowledgeable with ongoing education programs. I want others to know that an MS diagnosis is life altering, but not life ending. I am walking, breathing, living proof of that. **I fight MS.**



with wellness

I fight MS... *at the*

Multiple sclerosis is a complex, unpredictable disease that changes the way a person lives. The Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society - can show you how.

Educate yourself...

- subscribe to eNewsletters
- take continuing medical education courses
- read annual and quarterly research updates
- access the online and lending libraries
- attend ongoing educational series and programs

Advocate for change...

- join the Advocacy Action Network
- become an Advocacy Ambassador
- contact elected officials and spread the word to friends through Advocacy Alerts
- participate in MS Lobby Day

Manage MS effectively...

- utilize Direct Assistance funding
- join a local self-help group
- attend the Living with MS program series
- participate in MS Aquatics and other wellness classes

for more info,

Greater Illinois Chapter

person moves, thinks, feels, sees and lives. There are thousands of reasons to be
Fortunately, there are just as many ways to join the fight against MS - the Greater

Raise funds

- raise funds through special events such as the MS Walk, the MS 150 and Dinner of Champions
- remember the Chapter in your will or planned giving
- make a general donation
- organize your own Community Events fundraiser

Participate in events...

- attend the Fannie and Charles Penikoff Research Symposium and Annual Meeting
- enjoy a day of fun at social programs for families living with MS
- come to fundraising and social events organized by Multiple Solutions

Volunteer...

- join an event or program committee
- lend your professional expertise across the Chapter
- provide vital administrative assistance in our office
- support fundraising and Chapter program events

visit...

msillinois.org



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For more information, visit www.msillinois.org
or call 1.800.FIGHT MS (800.344.4867)