



## National Multiple Sclerosis Society Rhode Island Chapter

### OUR MISSION:

*We mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure, and address the challenges of everyone affected by MS.*

### OUR VISION:

*A world free of multiple sclerosis.*

### WHAT IS MS?

Multiple sclerosis, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system, interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.

### WHO GETS MS?

Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, but teenagers and even young children can have the disease. More than twice as many women as men have MS, which affects more than 400,000 people in the United States and more than 2.1 million worldwide.

### WHO DO WE SERVE?

We serve 2,000 individuals and their families in Rhode Island.

### HOW DO WE HELP?

- ⇒ Direct Assistance: Financial Assistance (home and vehicle modifications, respite care, crisis funding for utilities, assistive technology, wheelchairs and scooters, counseling services, transportation, care management services, etc.)
- ⇒ Information & Referral
- ⇒ Newly Diagnosed education and support
- ⇒ Community Programs & Support Groups
- ⇒ Online resources, education for professionals
- ⇒ Scholarship Fund & Medical Student Fellowship

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

- ⇒ 85% of money raised by the Rhode Island Chapter funds the mission.
- ⇒ Eligible people with MS can receive up to \$650 annually in direct assistance.
- ⇒ The National MS Society funds more MS research than any other private organization.
- ⇒ \$40 million was spent on research in 2011 to fund 325 research initiatives.

## WHAT IS THE RESEARCH FOCUS?

- ⇒ Immunology
- ⇒ Genetics
- ⇒ Pediatric MS (six clinics across the United States)
- ⇒ Gender
- ⇒ MS Lesion Project
- ⇒ Sonya Slifka Longitudinal Study
- ⇒ Fast Forward, entrepreneurial approach

## WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TREATING MS?

### IN 1993

First MS disease modifying drugs approved by US FDA. 14, 583 people with MS on a waiting list.

### IN 2012

Nine FDA approved medications; and more treatments in the pipeline than ever.

Second oral disease modifying drugs approved

Intriguing research leads on the horizon, including :

1. Correlating MS risk factors to how close one lives to the equator
2. Using robotics to improve walking ability
3. Gender differences in MS
4. Genetic risk factors for MS

## WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

- ⇒ Stop progression of disease activity
- ⇒ Restore all function lost to MS
- ⇒ End MS for all future generations
- ⇒ *MS NOW, a research revolution! The goal? Raise \$250 million by 2015*

## HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?

- ⇒ Walk, Bike, Run, and Pull!
- ⇒ MS After Dark Wine Tasting
- ⇒ Planned Giving
- ⇒ Volunteer

**VISIT [WWW.NATIONALMSSOCIETY.ORG/RIR](http://WWW.NATIONALMSSOCIETY.ORG/RIR)  
OR CALL 1-800-344-4867  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN  
*JOIN THE MOVEMENT!***