

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

Although MDA has changed its brand, NALC did not change its commitment to help “Deliver the Cure” for muscular dystrophy. We have been there since 1952 and will be there until the need has disappeared.

I want to thank all of the branches that put forth an effort to raise funds and awareness. Although 11 branches are recognized each year, I know there are several NALC locals that make our national effort a success. NALC is a Diamond Partner, raising more than \$1 million annually for MDA research and services.

Letter carriers from almost every state have held or participated in activities such as bowlathons, “Muscle Walks,” satchel drives, trivia contests and letter-writing campaigns. These and other events make a critical difference. My message to you is to get involved or increase your current efforts. Appoint an MDA coordinator if your branch does not have one. Don’t be afraid your effort is too small; just get started.

2019 INFORMATION

Thanks to you, families served by MDA have a future with hope. Let’s keep up the great work and strive to Deliver the Cure. In 2019, NALC branches, state associations, auxiliaries, headquarters and the Health Benefit Plan raised \$1,363,608.10. Since 1952, NALC has raised more than \$105 million. Our members have also logged several volunteer hours to benefit MDA through camp programs, fundraisers and more.

2019—\$1,356,931.48

MDA activities build camaraderie among members, which in turn builds a stronger union. Let’s do what we can to promote strength, independence and life to MDA while showing the best of what we union members are: trusted and respected public servants.

NALC continues to post to the “Deliver the Cure” Facebook page and to highlight MDA fundraising efforts, family stories, progress toward a cure and new research and services available through MDA. NALC has an email address exclusive to MDA-related email communication, and Headquarters has an improved network of communication with the

branches and a system to update records, especially when branches contact NALC at mda@nalc.org. Additionally, we are using the NALC app to promote all MDA-related issues as we become aware. Don’t hesitate to let us know about what your branch is doing so that we can share with anyone who elects to receive MDA notifications.

Every year, the MDA Honor Roll is published in *The Postal Record*. For the past several years, it has been in the April issue, along with a feature article relating to MDA. With our continued efforts, letter carriers and NALC hope to fulfill our commitment and one day truly “Deliver the Cure” for those with MD.

2020 INFORMATION

Over the last 70 years, letter carriers have raised more than \$105 million for our union’s official charity, the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). We kept the commitment to supporting MDA in 2020—but last year was no ordinary year. The pandemic that changed so many facets of our lives also curtailed a large number of MDA events. But in the same way that letter carriers adjusted to a new reality on the job and at home, we found new ways to support MDA. With traditional events such as bowlathons and golf tournaments called off because of safety concerns related to COVID-19, branches had to generate creative ideas to raise money for the union’s only official charity. The efforts allowed NALC to continue the union’s commitment to supporting MDA’s medical research and support programs for people living with neuromuscular diseases and for their families—a commitment that began with MDA’s founding in 1950.

The pandemic affected more than fundraising. Letter carriers also volunteer at MDA Summer Camps, where thousands of children with neuromuscular diseases make friends, grow more confident, and get the chance to enjoy life like other kids each summer. As MDA volunteers, we get to see firsthand the people we serve and the results of our efforts and help MDA fulfill its mission.

Sadly, the pandemic forced MDA to cancel its summer camps last year, replacing them with online activities. MDA shifted its summer activities to virtual camps to keep children connected and engaged.

With the help of adult volunteers who facilitated the conversations, participants met online to have fun doing activities such as arts and crafts projects, cooking activities, music-making events, scavenger hunts and a virtual escape room. (MDA recently announced that it will hold only online events this summer as well.) NALC also shifted many of its fundraising events to the internet in 2020.

Each year, *The Postal Record* publishes the MDA fundraising results of each branch from the previous year, as reported to us by MDA. The branches listed on the following pages have joined the shared vision NALC set out to realize in 1952 and beyond. The combined efforts of letter carriers resulted in a grand total of \$537,775 raised for MDA in 2020.

2020—\$537,775

President Rolando stated that even though we raised less in 2020 than the \$1.3 million we raised for MDA the previous year, half a million dollars in an historic pandemic and economic crisis is an extraordinary number. This shows that letter carriers never give up on their support for our official charity. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by MDA, whose resources are down over the past year because the pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person fundraising events. Meanwhile, the organization has faced rising expenses with the need to increase advocacy efforts on state and federal levels to secure priority access to vaccines, the need to pivot to a telehealth model instead of in-person care for MDA patients, and other pandemic-related factors. Meanwhile, COVID-19 also has affected clinical trials and research, which have been changed to virtual models, something that also wasn’t funded prior to the pandemic. Not only has NALC’s work helped MDA with needed resources in a tough period; it has provided an important intangible.

Asking your help for the 2021 NALC/MDA Virtual Campaigns:

Branch Online Virtual Fundraising Registration—<https://mda.donordrive.com/event/nalc2021>

MDA Virtual Muscle Walk—August 7th—<https://mda.donordrive.com/team/TEAMNALCVIRTUALWALK>

Tough Mudder 5K—October 17th—

<https://mda.donordrive.com/participant/TEAMNALCToughMudder>

NALC/MDA Gift Bags (\$100 each)—

<https://mda.donordrive.com/participant/nalcmdagiftbags>

NALC/MDA Poker Chips (\$2 each)—

<https://mda.donordrive.com/participant/NALC-MDAPokerChips>

MDA AWARDS

The following are the winners of the MDA Awards. These awards would have been presented at the 2020 National Convention. The awards will be presented in person at the 2022 National Convention in Chicago.

2019

Category	Branch	Net total
1	New Jersey Merged Br. 38	\$69,048.62
2	Portland, OR Br. 82	\$38,081.21
3	Arizona Merged Br. 1902	\$16,184.15
4	Northeastern New York Br. 358	\$26,713.62
5	Grand Rapids, MI Br. 56	\$13,580.00
6	Mid-Michigan Br. 256	\$16,776.29
7	Naples, FL Br. 4716	\$14,422.36
8	Fargo-W. Fargo, ND Br. 205	\$19,026.52
9	Walla Walla, WA Br. 736	\$14,901.46
10	New City, NY Br. 5229	\$2,690.00

2020

Category	Branch	Net total
1	New Jersey Mgd. Br. 38	\$25,514.94
2	Buffalo-Western NY Br. 3	\$13,722.96
3	Northern Virginia Br. 3520	\$10,700.00
4	Syracuse, NY Br. 134	\$5,400.00
5	Birmingham, AL Br. 530	\$11,085.00
6	Yonkers, NY Br. 387	\$14,325.00
7	Green Bay, WI Br. 619	\$10,194.50
8	Fargo-W. Fargo, ND Br. 205	\$11,870.63
9	Manitowoc, WI Br. 490	\$10,351.00
10	Shenandoah, IA Br. 851	\$3,459.25