



National MS Society, Colorado Chapter

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society funds more MS research, offers more services for people with MS, and provides more professional education programs than any other organization in the world. Across the country, an estimated two million people contribute funds, time and expertise to the Society that has approximately 599,000 members; 351,000 of them indicate that they have MS.

The mission of our nonprofit organization: to end the devastating effects of MS. Colorado Chapter goal: to raise more than \$5 million in 2006. Colorado has one of the highest prevalence rates of multiple sclerosis (MS) in the country, as one in every 580 people in our state has MS. The disease not only affects those diagnosed, but it impacts the lives of spouses, parents, siblings, children and caring friends. The result is that 63,000 people in our state are directly affected by the disease.

PROGRAMS

The Chapter offers a number of programs every year for people with MS, their families and health professionals.

Program highlights include:

69 educational seminars and workshops • A resource call line servicing 6,000 callers • Counseling services, including providing over 1,300 information packets to people impacted by MS • 27 self help groups to support 400 people • 32 exercise and recreational therapy classes • 82 durable medical equipment loans • health professional training • financial and long-term care planning • Family and social programs • Education programs serving 1,781 people • ILEAP (Independent Living Empowerment Advocacy Program) providing over 6,050 hours of direct care management to assist people with more progressive MS.

ADVOCACY

By staying on top of the latest legislation and government regulations, the Colorado Chapter ensures the rights of people with MS and other disabilities are preserved. Advocacy is focused on: federal funding for MS research, quality health care, long-term care, disability rights, health insurance and prescription drug coverage.

OFFICES

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Colorado Chapter was recently recognized in The Rocky Mountain News for being among the five most efficient charities in the state in its use of contributions. The Chapter was founded in 1959 and operates four offices in the state:

- Denver
- Fort Collins
- Grand Junction
- Colorado Springs

MAJOR EVENTS

The Colorado Chapter organizes several events in the state to help raise funds and increase awareness of the disease:

- **MS Walk:** A one-day event held in May at 12 locations across the state; distance ranges from 3-8 miles. In 2005, more than 7,000 participants raised more than 970,000.
- **Great-West Life MS 150 Bike Tour** presented by Subaru: 2006 marks the 21st anniversary of the longest running benefit bike tour in the state. Cyclists ride 150 miles in two days in July 8-9 In 2005, 2,360 cyclists raised more than \$2 million.
- **Dinner of Champions** — A dinner that honors corporate and community leaders held in July. The event has raised nearly \$4.25 million in its 18-year tenure.
- **Women Against MS Luncheon** — A luncheon held in September. In 2005, more than 650 people attended to raise more than \$186,000.