



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
Greater
New England
Chapter

January 21, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of introduction and support for the efforts of Michael Augustine and his team, Team Velox Rota (TVR). They have committed to raising money by hosting events and cycling in the 2012 Cape Cod Getaway. This event is a 2-day, 150-mile bike ride to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis.

On the following page is additional information about the National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter.

I hope that you will consider supporting our efforts to raise money to create a world free of MS. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Megan Alexander
Development Coordinator

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National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter

The mission of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Greater New England Chapter is to mobilize people and resources to drive research for a cure and to address the challenges of everyone affected by MS. The mission is supported by five strategies: research, advocacy, programs, awareness, and clinical.

For 58 years, the Greater New England Chapter has been providing help for today, and hope for tomorrow to nearly 19,000 individuals and families affected by multiple sclerosis in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

During our last fiscal year, an impressive 85 percent of funds raised by the Chapter were spent on the mission. Nearly \$3 million remained in the Chapter area to support local, community-based education, support, and advocacy for individuals and families who are affected by MS. Close to \$2.9 million went to national research and programs. Nationwide, the Society spent over \$35 million on MS research projects and fellowships investigating the cause, a cure, and better treatments. Scientists in New England are among the very top recipients of Society research dollars, with more than \$14 million currently committed to ongoing, multi-year projects. A bare 15 percent of Chapter resources were spent on fundraising and administrative costs.

Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms may be mild, such as numbness in the limbs or severe paralysis or loss of vision. The progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are giving hope to those affected by the disease.

Every hour of every day another person in the United States is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. MS affects 400,000 people nationwide and 19,000 individuals and their families in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, the area served by the Greater New England Chapter.

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