

TOGETHER WE GO FARTHER.

MS RUN THE US

2024 IMPACT REPORT



Another Relay, CRUSHED! Since 2010, Founder Ashley Schneider and the Relay Team have conquered over 42,380 miles across the US, raising funds and awareness for multiple sclerosis. Every year, we further our mission to Stop MS.

2024 RELAY HIGHLIGHTS

2024 Media Crew Manager & Documentary Producer, Drew Schlichtmann. "It's been a blast seeing a different approach to life and running from each runner that sets foot in the RV. Everyone has a different story to tell, and it's been a privilege to get a whole week with each and every one of them to learn just a little bit about that story."

Segment 12 Runner, Matt Knaggs. "MS Run the US provides hope. I came across the organization shortly after I decided to get back into running after I was diagnosed with MS. I had just completed my first half marathon and had already told myself why stop there? Let's see what else you can do! And then I came across the organization, and I saw that people are running a marathon a day for an entire week. And some of those people even had MS! That gave me so much hope. So, I thought, wow! If I could be one of those people, I might give other people hope too... outside of all the great things that they do in terms of funding, research and support; showing others, especially people diagnosed with MS that it doesn't have to be the end of your life - that you can still do incredible things. Even with an MS diagnosis, **providing hope is huge.**"

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

44%

Funds Towards Mission

AWARENESS

43

Financial Aid Projects
Funded

FINANCIAL AID

20k

Contribution To
Research

RESEARCH



OUR MISSION

MS Run the US is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for those living with multiple sclerosis (MS) — to provide hope, to aid those living with disability from the disease and to support research to stop it.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Each year at MS Run the US comes with its own unique set of challenges and opportunities, and the 2024 season did not disappoint.

When I reflect on this year's Relay team, three words come to mind: depth, energy and integrity. And I will always look upon them in awe—something we'll all have the opportunity to do when the documentary that was filmed of the 2024 crossing hits the big screen!

At the same time, my organization's staff continues to improve and evolve, something that is no small feat given the scope of what we do with our lean resources. I am proud of the work, and the continued growth.

Finally, I am deeply grateful for our donors, partners and supporters. Without you this well of hope we provide for those living with MS would dry up. Thank you so much for your trust and belief in the beautiful work that we get to do.

Until there's a cure, onward.



Ashley Schnieder
President & Founder

A YEAR OF UNIQUE WINS

MS Run the US is thrilled to highlight the achievements of the **2024 Ultra Relay Team!** Twenty-one teammates raised an impressive \$272,000, enabling us to raise awareness across the country and advance our mission. This funding also allowed us to provide \$67,000 of financial assistance to 44 individuals living with MS, as well as a \$20,000 contribution to the University of Iowa and the University of Kansas.

This year was filled with significant events for MS Run the US. The virtual **Hometown Challenge** kicked off in March, with 144 runners completing the challenge to cover 160 miles in 6 weeks. Their personal fundraising efforts brought in \$14,400 for the cause. In July, the **No Rules Relay MKE** took place in Milwaukee, attracting over 100 participants at the finish line and raising \$3,500.

As the MS Run the US Ultra Relay approached its final finish line in NYC, the **Finish Strong Campaign** culminated in a three-day fundraising blitz. Thanks to a generous legacy supporter matching donations, this campaign raised \$4,000, resulting in a total of \$8,000 to directly support individuals in need.

New for 2024 is the **Care in Crisis Funding Program**, which offers immediate assistance to those in need. Recently, we were able to cover a gas bill for someone in crisis, bringing comfort when it was needed most.



A letter of thanks: Dear Navigator & Staff,

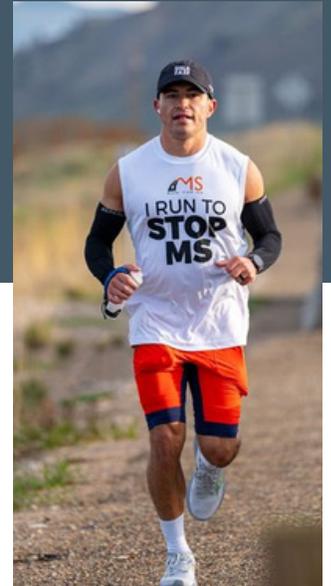
I wanted to take a moment and express how appreciative and blessed I feel to get a tremendous gift due to your hard work and dedication. With multiple sclerosis I have a very high sensitivity to heat and cold, my stress level was to the max when I first contacted you, **I was so unsure on what I was going to do with heat this winter** but your willingness to go above and beyond to help me during this difficult time really brought me to tears. I am so thankful for your determination to get the job done. Thank you so much for being the one to make this possible for me from the bottom of my heart.

Signed, a gal who will have heat this year ☺



MEANING IN THE MILES

Levi Perez took on the most elevation in a segment for the whole Relay. He ran from Steamboat Springs to Denver - a whopping 171 miles in 7 days. The motto for Levi's segment was 'Hold Fast', the same words his father, who lives with MS, has tattooed on his knuckles.



"No matter how tough things look, there's always a way. There is a way to get through adversity. My dad was diagnosed with MS in 2010. It's played a huge role in his life and my family's. MS Run the US is a positive thing. This is something that my family and I are excited for and it has to do with MS, which is usually the other way around. My dad's life in a nutshell is not about what he can't do, it's about what he can. That's like how it is getting through one of these runs [in my segment]." -- Levi Perez, 2024 MS Run the US Relay Runner

LEVI'S STORY

I'm the 3rd of 4 boys; my mom has been a nurse most of her life working nights in the NICU & my dad was a truck driver while he was still able to work. We grew up in Placentia, California where they mostly still are. My dad got diagnosed with MS in 2010 and it was pretty scary, I was about 14 years old. I remember my dad assuring us that this is just something he has to deal with & it does not affect us. Looking back, he really didn't know what he was in for which makes me sad today to think about. I'm older now, but when you're a kid you assume parents have it all together & know everything, but really, they're just adults figuring it out like I am now. My dad was just 11 years older than I am today when he got the news.

The years are such a blur now, and even though he'd get his flare ups occasionally and things were getting worse, they still seemed okay. A cane does not seem like a huge deal at first, or a wheelchair when it doesn't need to be used very often at all. When he could not work anymore or drive, that was an eye opener...same with the stair chair (that my brothers & I messed around with way too much). My mom has really held it down the most all these years working so hard for the family when we were still growing up.



My dad was a great dad growing up; he taught me how to skate which he recorded (you can find that video on my Instagram), he took me and my brothers to the baseball fields on weekends for Little League practice and supported me through Pop Warner football. He never missed a wrestling tournament or a football game all throughout high school. My older brothers and I were blessed for sure. When I talk about my dad today though, it's much different than I would have back in the day. He's a lot more laid back today, he's joyful, and will CONSTANTLY joke around with everyone. I feel weird typing it, but he might be happier today than I remember as a kid. There were some extremely dark times when his MS began progressing, but at some point, he settled into what his life is like now and found Jesus which again, I would have never imagined.

My brothers & my mom do so much I couldn't even know where to start on all they do on a daily basis. It is never easy, nor would we ever choose it, but I believe God is still strengthening us all through it & giving us opportunity to rely on Him.



Hold Fast. "In the 1800s sailors used this saying when a huge storm came, they would hold tight and whether the storm knowing that it will pass, and everything will be good again. I use this in the biblical sense; that MS is my storm, and I know when I get to Heaven it will be over. In the meantime, I am holding tight until that day. I have it on my knuckles as a constant reminder of my beliefs knowing this. I like having it on my knuckles in plain sight to remind me every day of this. I like when people ask me about this, so I can explain to them my beliefs and why I did it." -- Levi's Dad

We couldn't have done it without your generous

support.

A big THANK YOU goes out to all our cheerleaders and supporters, the Relay team, MS Run athletes, ambassadors, and volunteers. Your support, enthusiasm, and efforts have made this year a tremendous success!

Thank you

Our **corporate partnerships** are a vital part of furthering the impact we're able to make annually in the MS community. MS Run the US is grateful to our 2023 partners Industrial Vacuum, Collaborative Technology Solutions, D Watts, Rnnr, Tailwind Nutrition, Tanri Outdoors and Mama D's Coffee supported fundraising, awareness building, and expanding the network with which we share our story and involvement opportunities.



"MS run the US isn't your typical non-profit. They have created a culture of collaboration, transparency and fun all in one organization with the sole mission to further research for MS. It's always exciting to learn what new and innovative collaborations have been created for sponsors to participate in each year. I would encourage anyone who is looking to support the advancement of research within the MS community to become a sponsor of this amazing organization."

Genise Burnett, Owner of Collaborative Technology Solutions & 3x Segment 2 Corporate Sponsor



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT

*Stay tuned for
2025!*



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