



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

FILL the SATCHEL

FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY



Above: NALC President Fredric Rolando asks motorists to 'Fill the Satchel' in Fredericksburg, VA.

Right: A member of Naples, FL Branch 4716 receives a donation outside a supermarket.

Below, left: NALC Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel in Bethesda, MD

Below right: Carriers from Philadelphia Branch 157

Bottom: Kingsport, TN Branch 1999 members were joined by young helper Austin during their collection.

Bottom right: West Palm Beach, FL Branch 1690 members Carole Berry and Terry Mahoney help collect more than \$700.



The second annual "Fill the Satchel for MDA" event helped add to NALC's already-impressive fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Letter carriers, in uniform and with their postal satchels, set up at various locations around the country on Sunday, Sept. 9, collecting from motorists, pedestrians, shoppers and even from the crowds heading into baseball and football stadiums.

But NALC President Fredric Rolando hoped branches wouldn't stop there. "It's important to be out collecting on street corners and outside of stores, but I want to challenge our members to think bigger," he said. "It's about whatever it takes to fill the satchel. That can mean barbecues, poker tournaments—whatever our members think works best."

The MDA is the lone official charity of the NALC. America's letter carriers have helped lead the search for a cure for neuromuscular diseases for 60 years. The NALC was the first national sponsor of the MDA and has collected more than \$20 million in the last 15 years alone to finance research and provide care and services for children and adults affected by any of the more than 40 muscular dystrophy diseases covered by MDA's comprehensive medical services and research programs. MDA's programs are funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from individuals and organizations.

"It's important that our branches make these fundraisers their own," Rolando said. "The results are always better when they do. And every dollar we bring in is one more dollar we're closer to delivering the cure." ✉





Left: The Spacecoast Florida Branch 2689 effort
 Right: Eugene, OR Branch 916's Sandy Connell accepts a donation.
 Below: Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta Jr. helps members of Washington, DC Branch 142.
 Below, r: The pitch by Branch 938, Hattiesburg, MS



Boston moves forward with bioterror preparations

Boston became the latest city to move forward with Cities' Readiness Initiative planning, holding a tabletop exercise on Aug. 8. Developed in 2003, CRI calls on the Postal Service to deliver medicines directly to residents in the event of a biological incident, with letter carriers volunteering to do so.

"No other entity had a network capable of carrying out such a mission," NALC Director of Safety and Health Manuel Peralta Jr. said. "Letter carriers were ideally suited for such a complex task. No one knows neighborhoods like letter carriers."

The tabletop exercise, held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, was a walkthrough of what the response to an attack should be and how several departments and agencies must coordinate their activities. In addition to letter carriers, officials were on hand from Boston Emergency Medical Services, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Police Department, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Office of Emergency Management, FBI, Massachusetts State Police



and Boston Fire Department, among others.

"Emphasis was placed on opening and nurturing lines of communication within all agencies," Boston Branch 34 President Bob Lind said of the exercise. "Providing correct and accurate information in a timely manner amongst the involved agencies will be of the utmost importance."

Lind hoped this communication would lead to the next step. "We must

move beyond what may occur and speaking in the abstract to what will occur and how it will occur," he said. "Safety for the general public and those volunteering to serve should be our primary concern, with nothing left to chance."

Several other communities are also engaged with the Cities' Readiness Initiatives, including Philadelphia; Louisville, KY; Seattle; Minneapolis and St. Paul; and two towns in San Diego County, CA. ✉