

# Award-winners visit MDA camp

**O**n July 17, 24 representatives from the 11 Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Honor Roll category-winning NALC branches joined National President Fredric Rolando, MDA Coordinator Jim Williams, Community Services and Outreach Director Pam Donato and others in attending a day of MDA summer camp at Camp Thunderbird in Apopka, FL.

The day was filled with activities for the campers, such as swimming, basketball, “pimp my ride” (the rides being their wheelchairs), creating floats for the annual camp parade, face-painting and creating mosaic tiles that will be constructed into an NALC art piece to hang in the MDA Research Center in Tucson, AZ. During the visit, the category winners and guests took a tour of the camp grounds and learned what it takes to run a week of MDA camp.

The visitors learned that each child has his or her own counselor, as well as access to onsite full-time medical staff, all of whom donate their time to

tend to the special needs of the campers. All of the facilities have been modified to be wheelchair accessible, and special care is given in choosing camp activities to allow everyone to participate.

“MDA camp is a wonderful opportunity for these children to spend time with kids who are just like them, doing activities adapted to their needs and making new friendships,” President Rolando said. “NALC members should be proud of the fundraising work they do all year long to help make camps like this—along with the research to one day deliver a cure—a reality.”

“The highlight of the day for me,” Donato said, “was when one camper exclaimed that this had been the best week of his life, even though it was only Wednesday morning.”

The day at camp was followed by an awards dinner where President Rolando recognized each category’s winning branch with a certificate. (For more on the trip, see Williams’ column, page 42.) **PR**



NALC members got to see what a day at MDA camp was like (above). The members were representatives of the NALC branches that raised the most money for MDA.

