Collaboration is at the heart of what the MSC is all about. By working together, we create a dynamic network of support to best meet the needs of the MS community. One of the vital collaborative efforts of the MSC has been to advocate for a new national MS database. As part of the “National Neurological Diseases Surveillance System Act,” the MSC is working to establish a permanent MS surveillance system to measure the incidence and prevalence of MS in the United States. This would provide accurate statistics to help direct future research, plan for healthcare needs, and gain a better understanding of the MS population—particularly in terms of geographic clusters, gender ratio, and disease burden.

Improving the efficiency of services to the MS community means coordinating our efforts as individual MS organizations. Our goals are to avoid duplication of services, promote sharing resources, and obtain maximum results. Through mutual cooperation, we can achieve our goal of providing the best possible services to the MS community. Together we make good things happen.

THE MS COALITION’S PURPOSE
The Multiple Sclerosis Coalition (MSC) was founded in 2005 by three independent multiple sclerosis (MS) organizations in an effort to work together to benefit individuals with MS. Since that time, the MSC has grown to eight member organizations, all of whom provide critical MS programs and services.

The vision of the MSC is to improve the quality of life for those affected by MS through a collaborative national network of independent MS organizations. Our mission is to increase opportunities for cooperation and provide greater leverage in collaborative and effective use of resources for the benefit of the entire MS community.

The primary objectives of the MSC are to educate, advocate, collaborate, and improve the efficiency of services for individuals with MS and those who are close to them. With so much on the horizon in terms of MS research, treatments, advocacy, and symptom management, the MSC provides critical momentum to work together to enhance these exciting MS initiatives and to ensure this collective support continues.

A Collaborative Network of Independent MS Organizations

THE MS COALITION’S PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Education is a continuing need among everyone involved with MS—from medical professionals to patients, family, and friends. Worldwide research leads to a constant flow of new treatments and a new understanding of MS. Topics such as newly diagnosed MS, progressive types of MS, services, and advocacy have been highlighted in educational workshops sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition (MSC). The MSC also has a website which provides important information to the MS community, specifically in terms of emerging therapies.

Advocacy is important in gaining much needed support and funding for research, programs, and awareness. A unified voice generates far greater impact on critical public policy initiatives. One example of how the MSC actively participates is in the support of research funding, making sure the needs of the MS community are heard. Another example involves healthcare reform, which is an area of vital concern for all individuals with MS, searching for ways to afford essential medical care and prescriptions.