

# December 2019 Newsletter



## Great things are done by a series of small things brought together

- Vincent Van Gogh

Volunteers make a huge difference in ACP's ability to accelerate and advance MS research. We are grateful for hundreds of donated hours that support our work each year. Our volunteers help us with a wide variety of important tasks, both in the office and remotely. Some of our volunteers give of their time and talents to host fundraising events raising funds to enable the work we do. Highlighted below are recent fundraisers, organized by remarkable people who had fun and made a difference at the same time!

### **Scholarship and Fellowship For a Cure**

Five members of the Medeiros family have been diagnosed with MS, including Nancy Medeiros and her late brother, Edmund. For the last 17 years, Nancy and her sister, Judy, have organized two charitable events each year in memory of their brother.

The Medeiros family annual event is a wonderful gathering of family and friends held at the Dante Club in Somerville MA. For a small entrance fee, everyone gathers to enjoy a buffet dinner, drinks and music. They offer a wide variety of raffle prizes and gift certificates. The proceeds from the evening benefit the [Medeiros family scholarship](#) and ACP. According to Nancy, “I never really thought about MS until I got it... My brother and I were diagnosed with MS at the same age, when we were 35 years old. He passed away 18 years ago in June... My sister wanted to do a scholarship in his memory and I wanted to do something for MS... We give two book awards of \$500 each to Somerville high school students to use toward a college of their choice.” The remaining proceeds from the event are donated to ACP. This year’s event was held on May 24th and has raised over \$1,200 to date. In Nancy’s words, “I promised my brother we were going to do this until we have a cure and I believe we will.”



When asked why she raises money for ACP, Nancy said, “I liked the idea of ACP’s founder starting it himself ... just knowing the passion he had and he focused on research... that’s why I chose ACP.”

### **Music For a Cure**

Marion Leeds Carroll is an experienced opera singer and stage director from Arlington, MA who has been fundraising for ACP since 2003. Every year in October, Marion and a group of colleagues perform a concert at a local church, donating all proceeds to ACP. This concert features solo instruments and chamber-music ensembles as well as singers who perform a diverse repertoire of classical music.



Marion first studied voice privately in New York City. When she was in her 30’s she decided to formally study opera at the Mannes College of Music. With a lifelong love for the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, after college she was a founding member of the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. Over the course of her career, she has performed in and directed many operas in New York and Massachusetts.

Marion has lived with MS since 1988. As her MS symptoms grew, Marion began limiting her performances, concentrating instead on directing and organizing concerts. She first read about ACP in a newspaper article. In the article, she learned ACP's founder attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a successful high-tech entrepreneur. After he was diagnosed with MS he used his skillset to work toward a cure for MS. She was inspired to use her talents and love of music to help support ACP's work by creating her annual [Music to Cure MS](#) concert.

Over 50 people attended this year's concert, which was held on Sunday, October 27th, at Park Ave Congregational Church in Arlington, MA. The event was offered free of charge. Marion states, "Free admission seems to attract a larger audience - who are quite generous." This year's concert featured 22 performers, including Marion. In her words, "I wanted to sing a serious, dramatic, passionate piece... until I looked at all the serious, dramatic, passionate pieces my colleagues had chosen... so I chose Schubert's "Liebhaber in allen Gestalten", also known as "I Wish I Were a Fish" - a popular, silly song." When asked what she enjoyed most about this year's concert, Marion states, "That's hard to say... it was one triumph after another!"

This year's Music to Cure MS concert raised over \$1,800 for ACP. Since 2003, Marion's concerts have generated an impressive total of over \$34,000. If you are interested in making a donation on Marion's behalf, please visit the Music to Cure MS [donor page](#). We appreciate the generosity of our donors, and Marion's willingness to devote her time and talents to support ACP.

## **Climbing For a Cure**

Patrick Curley is a Certified Elder Law Attorney with Curley Law Firm LLP in Wakefield, MA. Over the last few years, he has turned his passion for sports into fundraising opportunities to benefit ACP. The process is simple. Patrick chooses the athletic event, and ACP sets up a fundraising page so that his sponsors can easily support him and donate to ACP.

From 2014 to 2018 he raised money by paddling in the Essex River Race. This year, on



November 3rd, he and his son, Alan, collected almost \$5,000 as they climbed Mount Monadnock for a cure.

When asked why he fundraises for ACP, Patrick stated, “Because I’m an elder law attorney, many of my clients have MS and other chronic illnesses, and so it means a lot to me and my clients to raise funds for this important charity. No matter how hard the climb is, it’s nothing next to what those living with MS may have to go through in their day-to-day life... I think ACP is the best organization to drive research toward better treatments and a cure, plain and simple... I think there are a lot of nonprofits in the MS space, but none of them have the fixation and focus and mission that ACP has to really accelerate toward treatments and a cure.”

## **Rocking for a Cure**

Stubhy Pandav is the lead singer of the popular Chicago band, [Lucky Boys Confusion](#). After having symptoms for many years, he was diagnosed with MS on Black Friday last year. The timing of his diagnosis was especially difficult as his wife was three months pregnant with their first child at the time. However, now that he is on MS treatment, his disease is stable and he is feeling good.

Stubhy is using his musical talent and connections to raise awareness about MS and funds to benefit ACP. In his words, “I realize how lucky I am to be born when I was because back in the 80’s, MS was a wheelchair sentence. So, it’s my turn to give back... I realize that I have a platform here where I can make at least a little bit of a difference... This platform has been a wonderful piece of my life.”

Stubhy will be hosting the first annual “[MS Sucks, Singing for a Cure](#)” concert at 6PM on Saturday, 12/21 at The Bottom Lounge in Chicago, IL. The show will feature well-known bands such as Lucky Boy Confusion,



The Plain White T's, AM Taxi, Ike Reilly and many others. The bands performing are donating their time and talent to support Stubhy, ACP, and to bring awareness to MS. Promotional merchandise will be available at the concert, and there will be a raffle. To date, the event has raised an impressive \$9,000. Anyone unable to make it to the show

can still make a donation by visiting the MS Sucks, Singing for a Cure [donor page](#). Stubhy is directing all proceeds to ACP to support our work to accelerate research in MS to improve the health, healthcare, and quality of life for those affected by MS.

Funds raised from events like these help us to continue our work to improve diagnosis, optimize treatment and find a cure for MS. If you have a favorite activity friends and family members enjoy doing or talents you would like to share, hosting a fundraiser is a great way to reach out to your community, raise funds for ACP and have fun while doing it. For more information on hosting your own fundraiser, contact Lindsey Santiago at [lsantiago@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:lsantiago@acceleratedcure.org) or (781) 487-0013.