

# Accelerated Cure Project for MS

# November 2017



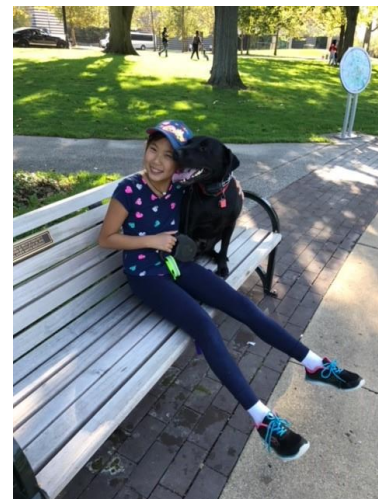
*Accelerating research towards a cure for multiple sclerosis*

## Keeping the Fun in Fundraising

Volunteers make a huge difference in ACP's success. 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, from in office administrative work to tasks done from many states or even countries away! Some of our volunteers give of their time and talents to host third party fundraising events to benefit ACP. Highlighted below are two recent events, hosted by two remarkable individuals.

### **Walk to Cure MS**

Kemp Jaycox has been organizing annual fundraising events in support of ACP for the last 12 years. He has been living with MS since 2003. A year after his diagnosis, he visited the ACP website and was struck and inspired by ACP's mission. Kemp initially organized a local group in Cincinnati, OH to increase awareness about MS and to raise funds for ACP. This group was called the Greater Cincinnati Cure Project (GCCP) for multiple sclerosis. Two of their fundraising events were Canine Happy Hours during which people who enjoyed walking their dogs gathered with their canine companions to



*Kemp's daughter, Kate, and their dog, Toby*

enjoy a drink together, while browsing items in a silent auction to benefit ACP. These events proved to be very popular, raising over \$10,000 with over 150 humans and 70 canines in attendance!

Kemp and his family have since moved to Cleveland, where he has turned his focus to organizing annual walks to support ACP. Neighbors, family members and friends have gathered to participate in these walks in many beautiful places, such as Yellowstone National Park and the Canadian Rockies. This year's walk was held locally in Cleveland on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-three people enjoyed picture perfect weather as they walked around Wade Oval in Cleveland's University Circle and raised over \$4,000 for ACP. It's not too late to make a donation on Kemp's behalf. Anyone interested in making a donation can do so by visiting Kemp's [donor page](#).

Kemp believes medical breakthroughs are possible in MS research and that organizations like ACP are working to get us closer to them. He feels additional studies relating to myelin repair may lead to better understanding of how to stop the progression of MS and restore function and strength. He also feels studies relating to bacteria and the microbiome may lead to understanding the causes of MS.

Kemp's fundraising efforts have raised a grand total of more than \$34,000 for ACP since 2005. We are extremely grateful to him, his family and all their friends!



*Jaycox Annual 2017 Walk*

## Music to Cure MS

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 his work by creating her annual [Music to Cure MS](#) concert.

Approximately 40 people attended this year's concert, which was held on Sunday, 10/22, at Park Ave Congregational Church in Arlington, MA. The event was offered free of charge and advertised on [Meetup](#), which according to Marion, helped boost attendance numbers over last year's concert. Marion states, "Free admission was an experiment this year – a very successful one,



*2017 Music to Cure MS performers and composers*

which I plan to continue.” This year Marion performed “Song to the Moon” from the opera Rusalka. Despite its challenging Czech lyrics, she chose this song for its lyrical and flowing qualities. This year’s concert also featured over 15 other performers. Marion recruited these performers from her connections with groups such as the New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society, the MIT G&S Players, the Sudbury Savoyards, and the Longwood Opera. Marion makes many connections through the Music to Cure MS concerts, not only with potential performers for the future concerts, but also with other people with MS. According to Marion, “It’s all about people helping other people, people who love opera and care about MS.”

This year’s Music to Cure MS concert raised over \$3,600 for ACP. Since 2003, Marion’s concerts have generated an impressive total of over \$33,000. 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.

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.