

# Accelerated Cure Project for MS

## December 2017



*Accelerating research towards a  
cure for multiple sclerosis*

### Volunteers Make a Difference

Volunteers from all over the world help us with a wide variety of tasks each year. In our [November newsletter](#) we told you about two individuals who give of their time and talents to host third party fundraising events to benefit ACP. Some of our volunteers come in to the office to help with administrative tasks and other projects, while others work remotely. ACP recruits many of its volunteers through postings on [Volunteer Match](#), a network that connects volunteers with opportunities that match their skills in the nonprofit sector.



## VolunteerMatch

We'd like to introduce you to some individuals that have answered the call to volunteer at ACP. They all have different backgrounds and interests, and volunteer their time and talents in different ways.

Corinne Rhode's most recent project was to review ACP's mailing list to ensure that it is accurate and up-to-date. Corinne worked in banking for 13 years and has since transitioned to photography, focusing mainly on travel and landscape photography. Corinne learned about ACP through Volunteer Match. ACP's posting caught her eye because she has friends with MS. Corinne shares, "I thought my skills were a good match to the posting and I thought I could add value to the organization." When asked about

volunteering at ACP, “It’s quite rewarding, knowing that I am helping out, and the people at the office have been so friendly and welcoming. It’s enjoyable coming in for my weekly stint.”

Betty Lapide helps by writing thank you notes to donors, packaging t-shirts and tote bags for people who complete their surveys on [iConquerMS™](#), organizing things in the office and “whatever else needs to be done.” She is from a small town in western Pennsylvania, and moved to Boston after college. Betty was an elementary teacher, grades 4-7, for 38 years. She loves to bake, garden, play MahJongg, have lunch with friends and exercise. She learned about ACP while doing online research after she was diagnosed with MS in 2007. Betty states, “I want to do anything I can to help find a cure for MS.” When asked about volunteering at ACP, “I love it! The people are extremely friendly and helpful, and I feel as if I’m a member of the staff! It’s sort of like a family atmosphere there.”

Christian Lazzari is currently helping us create a database of potential corporate donors and sources of funding in order to streamline the grant application search and submission process. He’s currently a senior at Bentley University graduating in May 2018 with a major in Corporate Finance and Accounting. Christian is currently applying for rotational finance programs at companies in NH and MA. Outside of academics and work, he is a huge Denver Broncos fan and loves to cook. Christian learned about ACP through Volunteer Match. Christian states, “I volunteer at ACP because I care about the work that’s being done. Finding better ways to treat and possibly cure MS would be amazing and I feel proud that I can help in any way possible.” When asked about volunteering at ACP, “Volunteering at ACP is very enjoyable because everyone is extremely friendly and welcoming. Also, coming in, I was able to sit down and figure out tasks that I could work on that I’d enjoy, which made it easy to quickly start contributing.”

David Hallan worked remotely to gather valuable information for ACP in the recent past. Utilizing various data extraction techniques, David compiled a list of social media outlets related to Multiple Sclerosis to potentially be used in ACP’s outreach efforts. He also gathered information on MS sample availability from a number of different biorepositories and compiled a detailed list comparing 40 organizations with available MS samples. David’s third project was to research diagnostic companies to determine whether or not they provided some form of MS or autoimmune testing. From this research, he compiled a detailed list of 95 companies with an MS or autoimmune connection. David has a

research background in biophysics, and is currently a medical student at Penn State University College of Medicine. Previously he worked in the nuclear industry, and is a former full-time LDS missionary. David learned about ACP on Google. When asked about volunteering for ACP, David states, “Everyone was so kind!”

It’s been a pleasure working with Corinne, Betty, Christian and David this year. We appreciate the contributions they, and many others, have made in support of our work. Their efforts make a big difference in ACP’s success. If you are interested in joining the ACP team as a volunteer, please visit [ACP’s post](#) on Volunteer Match for available volunteer opportunities, or feel free to contact us. We strive for each of our volunteers to contribute in a way that they find rewarding and fun. Do you have an idea for a project that would help us in our mission? We are open to your suggestions! In either case, contact Lindsey Santiago by phone (781) 487-0013, or by email [lsantiago@acceleratedcure.org](mailto:lsantiago@acceleratedcure.org). We would love to hear from you!

