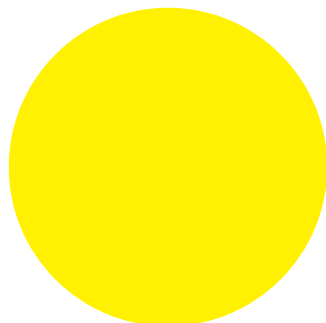
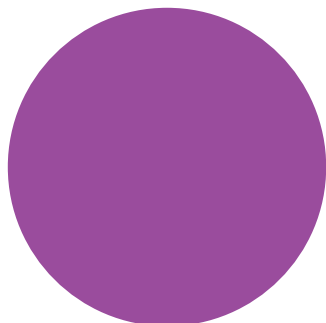
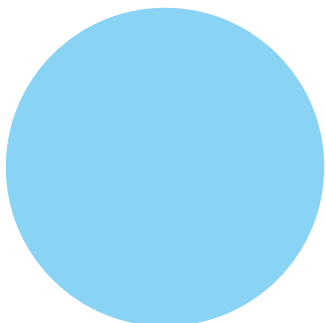
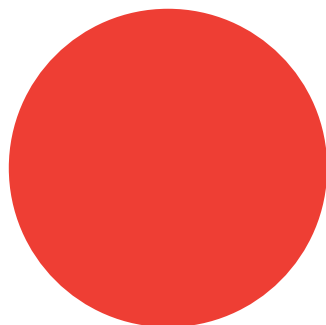
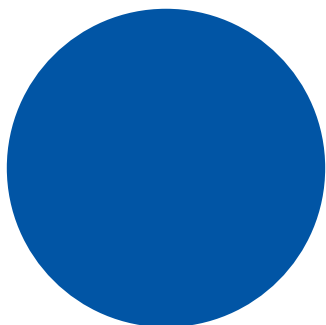
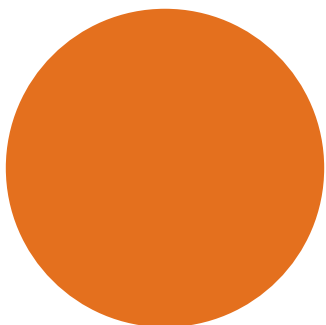
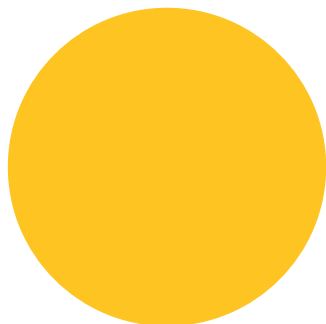
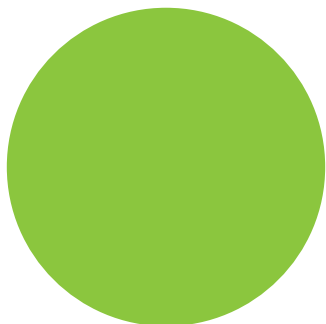
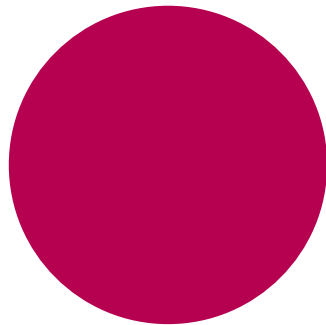
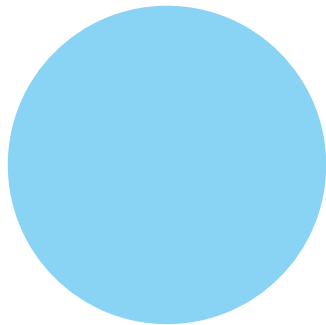
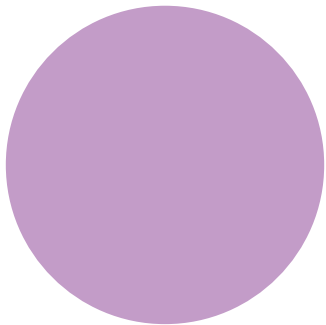
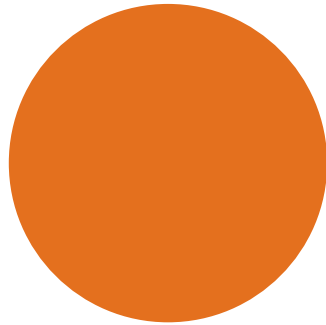
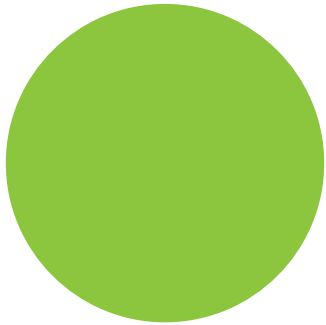


ANNUAL
REPORT
2008



Mission Statement

To enable and empower people affected by MS to live the life of their choice to their fullest potential

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Aims

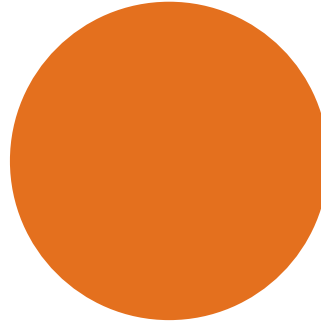
- to empower people with MS to control their lives and influence their environment
- to allow people with MS to live with dignity while participating in the community
- to provide support for the families and carers of people with MS
- to co-operate with the medical, scientific, social and caring professions
- to promote scientific research into the causes of MS
- to encourage the better management of MS and its symptoms
- to exchange and disseminate information on MS
- to develop an efficient, effective and caring organisation to serve the needs of people with MS

Services

The Society provides a wide range of services, programmes and activities designed specifically to meet the needs of the MS community and to ensure that the fundamental objectives of the Society are achieved. These include:

- Individual and family support
- Living with MS programmes, activities and workshops
- Confidential helpline, 1850 233 233
- Respite Care Centre
- 41 Voluntary Branches, nationwide
- Professional counselling
- Advocacy and lobbying
- Publications and Website www.ms-society.ie
- MSnews magazine and e-newsletter
- Research funding and information
- National Conferences

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



In 2008 we moved into a time of rapid change, challenging economic times and its impact on our Society and in particular, on people affected by MS.

MS Ireland has had to face up to addressing these difficulties and we put our energy into achieving the best outcomes for people despite reduced financial resources from the HSE and fundraising.

Despite this change, we are proud that we delivered direct services and programmes, including our first national 'Getting the Balance Right' Programme which is delivered physiotherapy and exercise programmes to people in every county.

We were in contact with over 5,000 people in 2008 and 3,200 people benefited directly from our frontline services, Many more availed of our Helpline and information supports. More than ever we focussed on improving our interventions in case work (individual and family support).

In our Care Centre we introduced the 'MS Specialist Nurse Programme', which gives clients the unique opportunity to have a full assessment carried out by the MS Specialists Nurse, in conjunction with the Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and other professionals. The Care Centre received EQIA accreditation this year, and we were proud to be a winner of an 'Committed To Excellence' award.

With regard to our role in MS awareness and campaigning, it was needed more than ever as we endeavoured to ensure existing services. Personal

Assistants and neurology services were not reduced but through our inputs into the rehabilitation strategy and other policy service planning areas they continue to be developed.

As you will see in the report, MS Ireland supported Irish research and disseminated international information on encouraging emerging research into disease modifying drugs and coping measures. People affected by MS constantly tell us how important this area of our work is.

Access to new disease modifying treatments is inequitable and difficult for people deemed suitable. Our campaign to achieve equity of access will continue into 2009.

Again in 2008 we worked with many people (people affected by MS, professionals, fundraisers, supporters, volunteers) and organisations nationally and internationally. It is critical that we continue to appreciate and enhance that collaborative working in this time of scarce resources.

We would like to sincerely thank the Board, staff, volunteers, supporters and the State for their direct work in supporting people affected by MS and in funding/ fundraising. We have a dynamic and energetic team. A special thanks to Joe Cahill who filled the role of Interim Chief Executive from June to October. We would also like to thank people affected by MS and their families for their positive and voluntary contribution to making a difference and we encourage the growth of that active involvement in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

Allen O'Connor
Chairman

Anne Winslow
Chief Executive

OUR SUPPORT AND SERVICE PROVISION GOAL:

To provide appropriate quality nationwide services based on individual and family needs

How We Moved Forward in Support and Service Provision in 2008

Regional Services

Casework

Our regional services offer individual and family support, which can assist with the concerns, changes and challenges of living with MS. In 2008, MS Ireland's regional services were in contact with approximately 4,727 clients nationwide. Some 6,652 individual visits were carried out by Regional Community Workers. Meanwhile, 605 new clients were seen, 314 of whom were newly diagnosed. Staff also attended 788 meetings on behalf of clients, assisting them with accessing services and resources.

Living with MS Programmes

Each regional office provides a range of group activities to those affected by MS. Living with MS programmes such as newly diagnosed sessions, fatigue management courses and exercise/therapeutic programmes brings people together to explore issues and ways to living with MS.

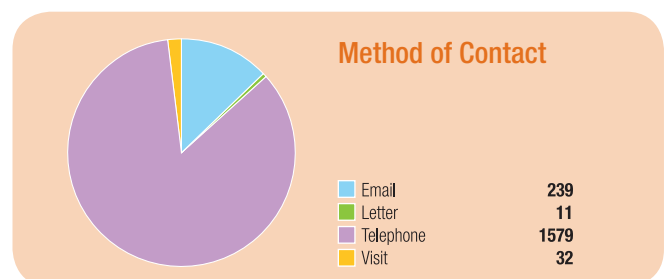
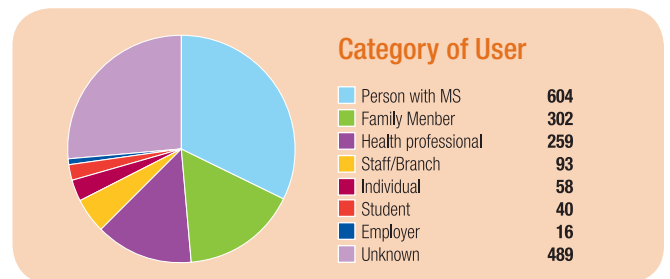
Regional Highlights in 2008

'Getting The Balance Right' was the main focus of all regions in 2008. However, other highlights include:

- In the South West Dublin and Kildare, a new 'First Patient Programme' was run with Tallaght hospital, assisted people with chronic conditions to manage their illness more effectively.
 - In the Mid-West Region and Southern Region, a joint seminar was held to celebrate International Women's Day. Speakers focused on issues relating to women and MS, including lifestyle, complementary therapies and pregnancy.
 - The North East Region conducted and published a report entitled 'A Research Study: Exploring the Experiences of People with MS dealing with Health, Financial, Employment and Other Issues Associated with Everyday Living in the Community'.
 - The East Coast Dublin and Wicklow ran a three-week carers' course, 'Living Well with MS Refresher Day' and a number of informal support/coffee mornings.
- The North County Dublin and City ran a 'Respite and Empowerment' programme, as well as participating in the production of 'Room to Manoeuvre', a DVD on one family's experience of adapting their home.
 - The North West Region ran two three-day breaks for carers and teens, allowing each group to share information and experiences relevant to them.
 - The South East Region ran a newly diagnosed day for people with MS and their partners in addition to conducting interviews for people participating in the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database.
 - The Midlands Region focused on casework and the 'Getting the Balance Right' programme.
 - The Western Region organised and hosted the 2008 National Conference focusing on the issue of rehabilitation. A one-day health professionals day was followed by a two-day conference for people affected by MS.

MS Helpline

The MS helpline provides information and support on all aspects of living with the condition to people with MS, their families, friends and colleagues. The helpline is staffed by a team of trained professionals who are on hand to talk or, more importantly, listen to anyone concerned about MS. In 2008, 1861 people used the services of the helpline, 233 of whom were newly diagnosed.

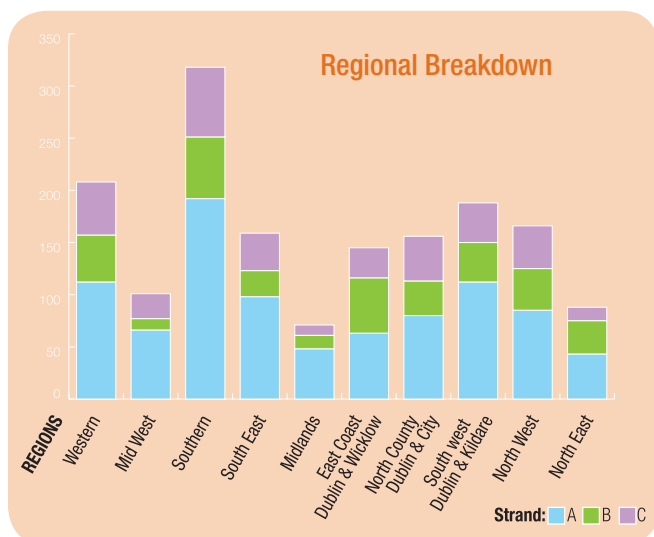


Getting the Balance Right

Our nationwide exercise, health promotion and research programme for people with MS was an enormous success in 2008. The programme offered a range of opportunities for people with MS to maintain and improve a full range of motion, which may have been impacted on as a result of their MS. The programme was delivered across the country in a variety of venues, with interventions ranging from physiotherapy-led group programmes, physiotherapy 1:1, yoga, gym-based programmes, hydrotherapy and tai chi.

For the research arm of the project people with MS were divided into three distinct groups, depending on their level of mobility. Strand A participants consisted of those who use a walking stick outside. Strand B participants comprised those who use bilateral aids, and Strand C participants included those who are non-ambulatory. Each region provided suitable interventions to each of these groups.

Regional breakdown of the number of people participating in the 'Getting the Balance Right' programme:



MS Care Centre

In 2008, 450 people of varying care needs stayed in the centre, which represented 3730 bed nights. A number of key developments also took place in the centre:

- The entrance day for residents reverted back to Saturdays.
- Accredited FETAC training was provided to staff in the areas of care skills, work practices and health and safety.



Pictured at the awards are from left to right, Niamh Sweeney, MS Care Centre Administrator; Lorna Mitchel, Board Member MS Ireland; Irene Collins, Managing Director, EIQA; Mary O'Grady, MS Care Centre Community Employment Programme Supervisor; and Mary Blake, MS Care Centre MS Specialist Nurse.

- The centre received its 'Committed to Excellence' award from Excellence Ireland Quality Association (EIQA) after completing an intensive 18 month accreditation programme.
- An MS Specialist Nurse Programme was launched, which gives residents the opportunity to receive an assessment by one of the centre's new MS Specialist Nurses. The specially trained nurses can talk through any issues the person may be having with treatments, symptoms, access to services or any other issue that is impacting on the person's health or quality of life. The MS Specialist Nurse works with the centre's occupational therapist, physiotherapist and general nurses to assist clients in addressing issues of concern. The team produce a report for clients, which outline appropriate interventions or courses of action. This may include particular exercises to use, information to read or specific follow-up with the community services available in the resident's locality.

National Welfare

- In 2008, three families who needed assistance with house extensions, property maintenance and mortgage costs were awarded funding from the emergency fund. This assistance was offered in conjunction with the Branch Welfare system in emergency circumstances.

Counselling

- In 2008, 562 counselling sessions were conducted nationwide for people with MS and their family members. The service allows people to explore issues relating to their MS in an individual and confidential manner.

OUR CAMPAIGN AND ADVOCACY GOAL:

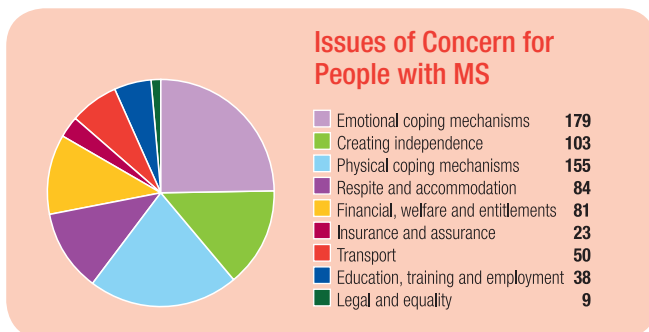
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To effect change in policy and service with respect to people affected by MS and to ensure equitable access to services and programmes throughout Ireland.

How We Moved Forward in Campaigning and Advocacy in 2008:

MS Ireland advocates on behalf of all people affected by MS, individually and collectively.

Individual advocacy centres on the personal issues and concerns of the person or family living with MS. With the support of our professional staff, the person or family is assisted to address these issues. This may involve everything from providing information on how to access an entitlement service, through to sending letters or attending meetings on the person's behalf to arrange for services or supports in the community. In 2008, 788 meetings were attended by Regional Community Workers on behalf of clients.



MS Ireland collectively advocates or campaigns on issues affecting the MS population at large. Our aim is to find ways to address those issues that lack adequate policy, structural or service provisions. In 2008, MS Ireland worked in a key number of areas and in consultation with a variety of agencies and organisations.

- MS Ireland explored models of rehabilitation, which included a visit to a state-of-the-art rehabilitative day centre in Iceland. We were also active in furthering the Department of Health and Children's commitment to develop a rehabilitation strategy for 2009. A working group was established with MS Ireland, represented firstly by Barbara Westin and then Alexis Donnelly, both of whom have MS. A parallel professional working group was also established by the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) to advise the rehabilitation group. Aidan Larkin, National Coordinator of the 'Getting the Balance Right' programme was the MS Ireland representative.
- MS Ireland made representations to relevant bodies on housing and long-term accommodation.
- MS Ireland set up a new company - The Multiple Sclerosis Ireland Housing Association Limited - to qualify to become a social housing agent for the HSE. The long-term goal would be to create suitable housing for people with MS who may find themselves in residential care that is inappropriate to their age or needs.

- MS Ireland made a submission to the HSE regarding the Carers' Strategy
- Our regional services staff made representations to the HSE's Coordinating and Planning Committees in their areas.
- MS Ireland participated in National Brain Awareness Week. The theme was: 'Neurological Conditions: The Health Care Challenge of the Next Decade'. A number of events were held around the country.

Identification of Need

It is vital that we continue to listen to the views of people affected by MS and carry out our response through a variety of approaches. To help us in this regard, MS Ireland began a pilot scheme with the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD). Run by the Health Research Board on behalf of the HSE, it collects, analyses and reports on a range of issues relating to the status of people with disabilities e.g. their primary diagnosis, service needs and quality of life issues.

MS is the most common neurological condition reported on the database. The pilot scheme gives us direct access, allowing us to add, amend and analyse data. It is hoped the use of the database will be beneficial and that long-term access will help with our own service planning through the profiling of people with MS.

MS Ireland's Campaigning Issues 2008

- An increase in the number of neurologists and associated multi-disciplinary teams to the recommended EU level of 39, within a three year timeframe.
- The development of a national rehabilitation strategy that adequately reflects the needs of people with MS.
- The provision of the required staff and facilities for the delivery of approved treatments on an equitable basis throughout the country.
- The introduction of a Cost of Disability Payment of €40 per week for all people with MS.
- A significant increase in the Disabled Persons Housing Grant and equity of access to grants throughout the country.
- The issuing of a medical card to every person diagnosed with MS.
- The assurance that the necessary physiotherapy services will be made available to people with MS on an equitable basis throughout the country.
- A review of the current criteria for drivers' tax concessions, so that anyone diagnosed with MS automatically becomes eligible for these rebates.
- Additional personal assistants who can assist people with MS and their families to participate in the community.

OUR RESEARCH GOAL:

To support, promote and advocate for all aspects of research beneficial to people living with MS and to disseminate research findings.

How We Moved Forward in Research In 2008:

- In March, MS Ireland called for applications to its dedicated 2008 Research Fund. Eight applications were received, representing such institutions as Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and the National University of Ireland. The Medical Advisory and Research Committee considered each application thoroughly and recommended seven for external peer review. From this process, two applications were deemed most appropriate to support.
- MS Ireland invested significant financial, staff and volunteer resources in 'Getting the Balance Right', our national exercise, health-promotion and research programme for people with MS. The research was conducted through participation in a tailored exercise programme, which was also accessible to those choosing not to take part in the research element. (See page 4 to read more about the programme)
- MS Ireland invested €20,000 into research conducted by the Neurology Department of St Vincent's Hospital Dublin. The study is looking at the role of vitamin D in MS, as well as exploring various quality of life issues for people with MS.
- Information about various developments and research were reported in our array of communications tools e.g. MSnews, eNews, website etc



Dr Hugh Brady, President of University College Dublin, presents Dr Geoffrey Dean with his Honorary Doctorate, in recognition for his commitment to MS research. Dr Dean's research established the cause of MS was both genetic and environmental.

Findings from 'Getting the Balance Right' Pilot Scheme

In February, a pilot scheme was run between two groups; one consisting of six people with mild to moderate MS and another consisting of four people with moderate to severe MS.

Mild to Moderate Group

Intervention:

Seven people participated in a six-week, physiotherapy-led programme of progressive strengthening and aerobic exercise. This involved a weekly class of two to three reps of 10 to 12 sets of each exercise and an independent aerobic exercise such as walking, cycling or aqua aerobics exercise twice a week.

Results: Results showed there was a significant difference in arm strength. The physical component of quality of life, the fatigue questionnaires and fitness were clinically significant, approached statistical significance and there was a trend for improvement in leg strength and the psychological aspect of quality of life.

Moderate to Severe Group

Intervention: Six people participated in a weekly hour-long class for six weeks, which consisted of a circuit class of balance and strength exercises.

Results: Results showed there was an overall statistically significant improvement in balance and quality of life for this group. The improvements in balance scores were also clinically significant. Fatigue and walking ability showed a trend for improvement and subjective reports from participants were also positive.

Research projects supported in 2008 through our dedicated Research Fund

Title:	In-vitro assessment of the efficacy of the nootropic nefuracetan to enhance plasticity after experimental demyelination
Research Lead:	Dr Mark Pickering
Institution:	Conway Institute, University College Dublin
Duration:	1 year
Funding Amount:	€66,000

Title:	Endoplasmic Reticulum as a component of neurodegeneration in MS grey matter lesions.
Research Lead:	Dr Una Fitzgerald
Institution:	National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science at the National University of Ireland, Galway
Duration:	1 year
Funding Amount:	€15,000

OUR STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY GOAL:

To enable MS Ireland to be at the forefront of good organisational practice and governance and to maximise its capacity to deliver on organisational objectives and value to its stakeholders.

How We Moved Forward in Strengthening Organisational Capacity in 2008:

Human Resources

- In the area of training and development we were allocated financial assistance under the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) skills project, which provided training for Care Centre staff. Intense management training was also provided for newly appointed Regional Coordinators. A number of staff also received bursaries to assist in related programmes of study.
- The pension scheme was enhanced by improvements in information dissemination and the appointment of trustees with employer and employee representatives and an independent Chairman. Deeds of appointment have been amended accordingly and forwarded to the Pensions Board.
- A number of new policies were implemented including time and attendance, time off in lieu, remote working, complaints and certified and uncertified absence.
- The Performance Management system was enhanced.

Organisational Structure and Development

- Regional Coordinators were appointed in the regions to assist with the coordination of work and activities in each region. This led to the development of Regional Plans, which assist in informing and standardising the activities of each regional office. This is leading towards the delivery of a standard suite of services.
- Child protection training was carried out with relevant members of staff.

Collaborations and Partnerships

Many services and resources are maintained and developed through strong partnerships with various national and international organisations. The HSE and Pobal continue to be significant partners in relation to financial support and policy formation. In 2008, MS Ireland was particularly active with the DFI, NAI, Multiple Sclerosis International Federation, the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform, Citizens Information Board, National Disability Authority and the Carers' Alliance.

Communications

- In October the new MS Ireland website was launched with a fresh new look and more information on MS and MS Ireland.
- Two editions of MSnews and eight editions of our electronic newsletter, eNews, were published in 2008.
- A number of MS Ireland-generated PR campaigns garnered publicity for MS Ireland including the **MS READaTHON**, **Tysabri**, **neurology** and the launch of the **'Getting the Balance Right'** programme.
- A review process began on a number of booklets and information sheets, which will be published in 2009.



Membership, Branches and Volunteering

- At the end of 2008 MS Ireland's membership stood at 5,627.
- MS Ireland's **Branch network** continued to be the stronghold of MS Ireland support around the country. Some 41 voluntary Branches operate for the benefit of our members. Indeed, 2008 was a successful fundraising year for all Branches with hundreds of successful fundraisers, projects, events and programmes of activity.
- In late 2008, MS Ireland established a volunteering pilot scheme for those who wished to volunteer their administrative skills and experience in our national office. Five people took part in the programme and carried out such tasks as data entry, spokesperson interviews, donation follow-up and reception duties. The programme will be continued and developed in 2009.

Some Branch Highlights 2008:

- The Carlow Branch celebrated its 25th anniversary of providing services and support to the local MS community.
- The Cork City Branch was a joint benefactor of a spectacular show performed by the Celtic Divas in the grounds of University College Cork.
- The Limerick Branch received a donation of €10,000 from the Limerick branch of the Lions Club, generated through the club's own fundraising endeavours.
- The North Wexford Branch received funds from the ever successful Carnew Heritage Day.
- The Donegal Branch held a golf classic.
- The Offaly Branch held the Ballingar Fun Run.

MS Ireland National Awards 2008

MS Ireland's Annual Awards were announced at the National Conference in Galway in September. Mary O'Boyle from Roscommon was named Carer of the Year, Mary Horan from Kerry was named Person with MS of the Year and Sean Murphy was named Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations to the winners and nominees, who demonstrate such grace and commitment to MS Ireland, their local communities and families.



Some of the 'ladies' who participated in the Cork Mini-marathon for MS Ireland



Members of the North Wexford Branch holding their cheque from proceeds from the Carnew Heritage Day



Allen O'Connor Chairman of MS Ireland presents awards to Mary O'Boyle and Sean Murphy with their awards



Mary Horan and friends gather to celebrate her win as MS Person of the Year

OUR FUNDING GOAL:

To increase levels of funding to deliver on the organisations objective.

10

MS Ireland is funded through state-aided contributions and fundraising donations and campaigns. In 2008, 46% of our funding came from the state. MS Ireland is indebted to the generosity of all our fundraisers and supporters who help us to continue to meet the needs of the MS community. We greatly appreciate the work of all our walkers, readers, raffle sellers, star buyers and all those who support us in many other ways.

Fundraising Highlights 2008:

Failte Towers

In August 2008, MS Ireland was delighted to be part of RTÉ's Failte Towers, a reality programme where celebrities were charged with running a hotel for two weeks. RTÉ weather forecaster Evelyn Cusack kindly chose MS Ireland as her charity. MS Ireland received some great publicity and raised some money from the event, which was supported thoroughly by viewers through the voting lines.



Evelyn Cusack launches her campaign to win Fáilte Towers for MS Ireland.

MS READaTHON

Some 30,000 students, 683 schools, 2,600 teachers and librarians participated in the 2008 MS READaTHON. Celebrity endorsements by Cecelia Ahern, Laura Woods, Aidan Power, Malcolm O'Kelly, Marita Conlon-McKenna, John Boyne, Derek Landy, Philip Pullman and Jacqueline Wilson helped to raise the profile and ensure the success of the campaign.



RTE presenters Laura Woods and Aidan Power pose with two young MS READaTHON participants at the Awards ceremony in Movies@Dundrum in March 2008.

Walks Sports and Adventures

- 137 people participated in three foreign treks to Spain, Peru and Nepal.
- 580 people ran, walked or crawled the Womens' Mini Marathon.
- Hundreds more people took part in the Dublin City Marathon, regional marathons and triathlons and other sporting events around the country.

MS Raffle

The nationwide raffle was very successful with the help of staff, Branches and the generous public. John Joe Flaherty walked away with the top prize of a €3,000 travel voucher.

Christmas 2008

Celebrity chef Kevin Dundon, weather forecaster Evelyn Cusack and model Roberta Rowatt launched the Christmas campaign in the MS Care Centre.

- Individual stars were sold throughout the country.
- 57 corporates took a star on the MS Christmas Tree in Blanchardstown, in lieu of sending cards out to their clients.
- A catalogue gave people the opportunity to donate to MS Ireland through a series of gifts.



Model Roberta Rowatt, celebrity chef Kevin Dundon and weather forecaster Evelyn Cusack launch the 2008 'Reach for Star' Christmas campaign for MS Ireland.



Bernie Sweetman, third from right, with friends and family at the gala Ball she organised for MS Ireland.

MS Swim

The annual swim took place in Marian College Swimming Pool, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Forty swimmers and paddlers took to the waters to raise nearly €10,000.

Corporate Contributions

Throughout the year a number of businesses and organisations donate to and organise events in aid of MS Ireland. From pharmaceutical companies to local supermarkets many owners, chief executives and staff support our work.

Individual Contributions

Many of our members and people affected by MS support our work through direct debits, gala dinners, quiz nights, wedding favours and race nights. The Sweetman family from Dublin raised a significant amount of money through a gala ball, participation in the New York City marathon and a BBQ.

MS Ireland's national campaigns and activities are complemented by the vast array of local fundraising events held by our 41 voluntary Branches. They fundraise to support the work and services of the Branch.

Join the MS Team

MS Ireland's year is jam packed with activities and events you can participate in to support our work and raise funds. Here are 10 ways you can get involved:

1. Make a donation or set up a direct debit
2. Take part in some of our walks, sports or adventures
3. Sponsor a young person to take part in the MS READaTHON
4. Donate good quality goods to our charity shop
5. Volunteer with one of our 41 local Branches
6. Set up payroll giving in your work
7. Become a life member
8. Include MS Ireland in your will
9. Buy or sell raffle tickets

Or if our planned events and activities don't suit you.....

10. Organise your own event and send the proceeds to MS Ireland. How about a BBQ, a casino night, a coffee morning, a golf classic, a jumble sale, a non-uniform day, a sports day, a teddy bears picnic, a quiz night etc.

Check out our website www.ms-society.ie for more details on all our fundraising events and campaigns

Our fundraising department can provide you with promotional materials like t-shirts, balloons and posters. There are also available for help, support and encouragement when organising your event.

Get into action and contact our Fundraising department today! Tel: 01 678 1600 or email: fundraising@ms-society.ie

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2008	
	Total Funds 2008 €
INCOMING RESOURCES	
Incoming resources from generated Funds:	
Voluntary Income	
- Donations and fundraising	4,581,490
- Research	18,964
- Subscriptions	5,540
Activities for generating funds	
- Trading	81,466
Incoming resources from charitable activities	
- Fees received	418,128
- Grants and other service contract income	3,626,789
- Government schemes	906,135
- Other income	184,106
Total incoming resources	9,822,618
RESOURCES EXPENDED	
Costs of generating funds	
Costs of generating voluntary income	
- Fundraising	1,517,594
Charitable activities	
- Community services	3,161,977
- Respite care services	1,779,442
- Research	15,340
- Government schemes	864,821
- Local MS services	2,854,586
Other resources expended	
- Trading	62,770
Governance costs	70,163
Total resources expended	10,326,693
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(504,075)
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2008	8,117,516
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2008	7,613,441

Consolidated balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008

2008

€

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets	7,430,716
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CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks	12,688
Debtors	739,930
Investments	70,664
Cash at bank and in hand	3,571,996
	4,395,278

CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	(1,438,018)
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NET CURRENT ASSETS	2,957,260
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TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,387,976
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CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due after more than one year)	(2,774,535)
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NET ASSETS	7,613,441
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FUNDED BY:

Restricted funds	2,014,644
Unrestricted funds	5,598,797

FUNDS	7,613,441
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All gains and losses arose from continuing activities.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 18 July 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Allen O'Connor
Director

Gemma Donnelly-Cox
Director

MS Ireland is the only national organisation working for people and families living with MS. It is a limited company with charitable status. It is governed by a Board of Directors, which is accountable for the financial dealings and overall execution of the Society's vision. MS Ireland's structure enables it to develop as an organisation that continually meets the needs of the MS Community in a professional and accountable manner.

The Board

MS Ireland is governed by a Board of 17 voluntary members. These members have a wide range of experience and skills. Some have MS themselves or have family members with MS. Others have long careers in business, social services and other areas. The Board promotes the vision and aims of the Society and charges the Chief Executive to meet these aims through the various departments, services and resources of the Society.

In 2008, the Board met nine times. Significant work was carried out in the areas of finance and funding, governance and strategy.

The Council

MS Ireland's Council is a representative body of the voluntary Branch network. It encourages communication on a range of issues and enhances cooperation between all structures of the Society. In 2008 the council met four times.

All Branches are represented in the Council. Three Council members are elected and sit on the Board of Directors.

Management and Staff

The management and staff carry out the day-to-day activities of the Society through various services, departments and facilities. These are directed by the Senior Management Team, headed by the Chief Executive.

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive: **Ms Anne Winslow**
 Financial Controller: **Mr Paul Flood**
 Services Manager: **Ms Olga Estridge**
 Human Resource Manager: **Mr David Allen**
 Fundraising Manager: **Mr Paul Collins**
 Communications Executive: **Ms Taragh Donohoe**

Just under 100 people work for MS Ireland on a permanent basis in a number of locations around Ireland. A further 48 people work with MS Ireland in a number of Community Employment Projects. MS Ireland's work is supported by committed volunteers around the country. MS Ireland is delighted to have Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, as sole patron.

2007/2008 Board members:

Mr Allen O'Connor, CHAIRMAN	Mr Brian Barrett
Mr Brian Farrell, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN	Ms Margaret Burke
Mr Joe Cahill	Dr Art Cosgrove
Ms Deirdre Dolly	Dr Gemma Donnelly-Cox
Mr Kevin Doyle	Ms Maureen Feeney
Prof Michael Hutchinson	Ms Mary Keane
Ms Lorna Mitchell	Mr Gerry Murphy
Mr Sean Murphy	Mr Paddy Power
Ms Louise Wardell	

Board Committees

A number of Board committees inform and complement the work of the Board. Each committee is made up of Board members who have particular interests, experiences and knowledge.

- Finance
- Strategy
- Structural
- Nominating
- Medical Advisory and Research
- Remuneration

As the need arises a number of staff and external professionals sit on these committees.

The Multiple Sclerosis Ireland Housing Association Limited was established in 2008. The company, run by MS Ireland will explore avenues for social housing solutions for people with MS.

Voluntary Branch Network 2008		
Athlone	Fermoy	Mullingar
Ballina	Galway	Offaly
Ballinasloe	Kerry North	Mullingar
Bandon/Kinsale	Kerry South	Offaly
Bray	Kildare	Roscommon
Carlow	Kilkenny	Skibbereen/Bantry
Cavan	Laois	Sligo
Clare	Leitrim	Tipperary
Cork City	Limerick	Tralee
Cork North West	Limerick West	Tuam
Donegal	Louth	Waterford
Dublin North	Longford	Wexford North
Dublin South	Mayo South	Wexford South
Dublin West	Meath	
Dungarvan/Sth Tipp	Monaghan	

CONTACT DETAILS

National Office

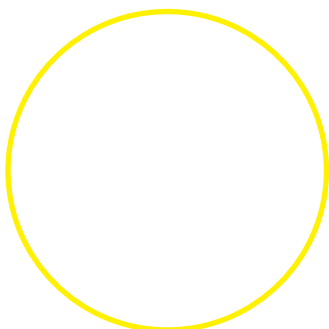
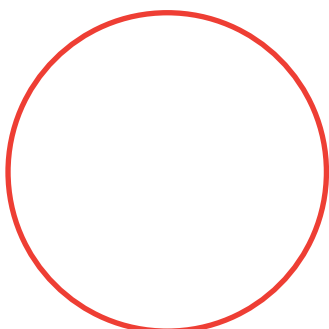
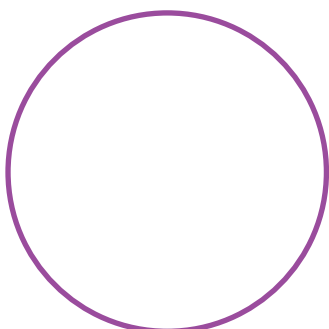
MS Ireland
80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 678 1600
Fax: 01 678 1601
Web: www.ms-society.ie
Email: info@ms-society.ie
Helpline: 1850 233 233

MS Shop

56 Main St., Bray, Co. Wicklow
Tel: 01 286 1913
Email: deirdreo@ms-society.ie

MS Care Centre

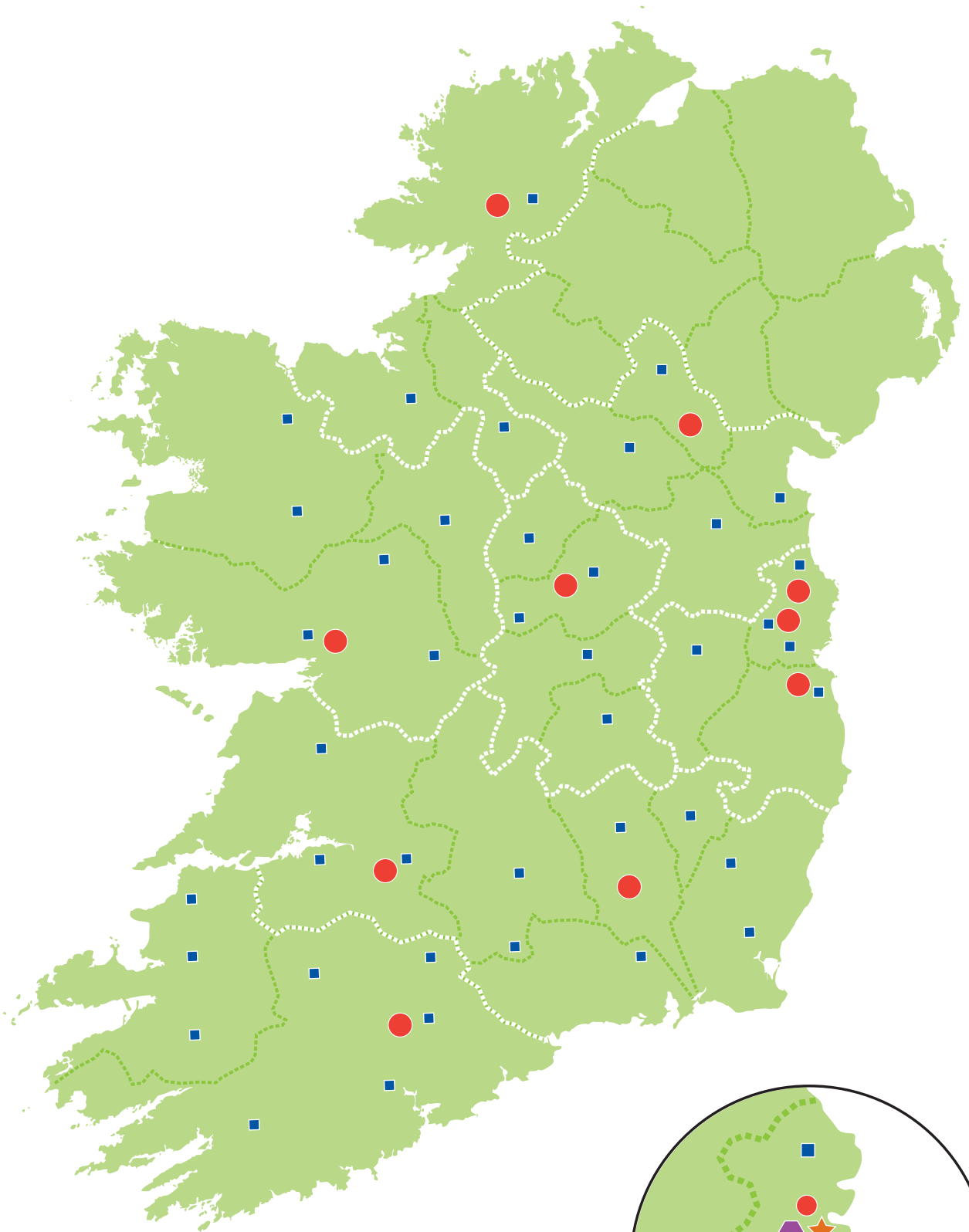
65 Bushy Park Road,
Rathgar, Dublin 6
Tel: 01 4906234
Fax: 01 490 6724
Email: m scare@ms-society.ie



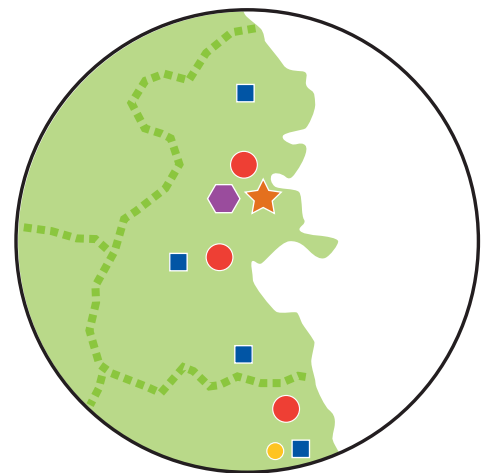
Region	Counties and Areas Covered	Contact Details
Kildare and South West Dublin	Kildare and areas of South West Dublin such as Terenure, Tallaght, Clondalkin, Chapelizod, Lucan, Rathcoole, etc.	01 490 5933 swa@ms-society.ie
Wicklow and East Coast Dublin	Wicklow and areas of East Coast Dublin such as Ballinteer, Kilternan, Monkstown, Killiney, Shankhill, etc.	01 286 6800 eca@ms-society.ie
North County Dublin and City	Areas such as Fairview, Cabra, Coolock, Malahide, Finglas, Lusk, Balbriggan, Naul, etc.	01 490 5933 na@ms-society.ie
South East Region	Wexford, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary	056 7777361 southeast@ms-society.ie
Southern Region	Cork and Kerry	021 4300001 southern@ms-society.ie
Mid-West Region	Limerick, Clare and North Tipperary	061 303802 midwest@ms-society.ie
Midlands Region	Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath	090 6471137 midlands@ms-society.ie
North East Region	Cavan, Monaghan, Meath, Louth	042 9664410 northeast@ms-society.ie
Western	Galway, Roscommon and Mayo	091 862478 western@ms-society.ie
North West	Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim	074 9125017 northwest@ms-society.ie

Legal and Administrative Information

Charity Number: 5365
Company Registration Number: 296 573
Company's registered Office: 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4
Company Secretary: Paul Flood
Company Auditors: Deloitte and Touche
Company Bankers: Bank of Ireland
Company Insurers: Mullarkey, Hooper and Dolan



- MS Regional Office
- ★ MS National Office
- MS Voluntary Branches
- ⬡ MS Care Centre
- MS Shop



Multiple Sclerosis Ireland

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