



## Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fast Facts

**WHO IS MDA?** MDA is a voluntary health agency – a dedicated partnership between scientists and concerned citizens aimed at conquering neuromuscular diseases that affect more than 550 Ark-La-Tex families.

**WHAT IS MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY?** This is a term describing a group of diseases characterized by progressive degeneration of voluntary muscles. MDA covers over 40 diseases including ALS whose conditions vary in age and onset, rate of progression and muscles affected.

**HOW DOES MDA HELP IN OUR COMMUNITY?** MDA has the most comprehensive program of patient services unparalleled by any voluntary health agency in the country. From the local Shreveport district office MDA provides at no cost:

- **CLINIC** – Located at LSUHSC in Shreveport, LA
  1. Initial diagnosis
  2. Follow-up medical care
  3. Physical, occupational and respiratory therapy evaluations
  4. Genetic counseling
  5. Influenza vaccinations
  
- **SUMMER CAMP** – Over 70 area youngsters with neuromuscular diseases from ages 6-17, attend a week long session of fun and friendship including fishing, swimming, dancing and arts & crafts in Bethany, LA.
  
- **SUPPORT GROUPS** – Emotional and practical support for individuals affected by neuromuscular disease and their families.

**HOW EFFICIENT IS MDA?** MDA expends more than 76% of its income on program services. Money Magazine ranks MDA as one of the Top 10 Best Managed Charities.

### **HOW MUCH DO THESE SERVICES COST?**

- \$ 32 – Provides an annual flu shot
- \$ 85 – Funds one minute of research
- \$150 – One MDA-sponsored support session
- \$200 – Covers a follow-up clinic visit
- \$500 – Assistance with cost of repairs (annually) on wheelchairs
- \$750 – Pays for a muscle biopsy and interpretation
- \$800 – Sends one child to MDA camp
- \$2000 – Goes toward the purchase of a wheelchair, leg braces or communication device

## **THANKS FOR HELPING THE ARK-LA-TEX**

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