

LOUISIANA

MDA PROGRAMS and services

In 2008, MDA provided \$160 million in research, family services and helpful information to adults and children with muscular dystrophy. MDA is the first nonprofit recognized by the American Medical Association with a Lifetime Achievement Award “for significant and lasting contributions to the health and welfare of humanity.” Following is an at-a-glance look at key activities in Louisiana and the services provided to some 2,370 people registered with MDA in the state.

Research Grants

- MDA annually funds 350 research teams worldwide, spending more than \$43 million a year, pursuing treatments and cures for muscle-wasting diseases.
- **The Association is the country's largest private-sector sponsor of muscular dystrophy research; in the last five years, MDA has provided more than \$4 million in research funding in Louisiana.**
- MDA investigators have placed the Association on the threshold of delivering treatments and cures for several muscle-wasting disorders, and they have pioneered breakthroughs that may lead to therapies for heart disease, cancer, AIDS, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's and cystic fibrosis.

Services

- MDA offers unparalleled medical and health services through its national network of 220 hospital-affiliated clinics and 36 MDA/ALS Centers. Services include diagnosis and follow-up care, summer camps, support groups, assistance with the purchase and repair of wheelchairs, leg braces and communication devices, and more.
- **In the last five years, MDA has provided more than \$300,000 in services to individuals living in Louisiana.**

Summer Camps

- Some 4,300 children with muscular dystrophy annually enjoy a free camp adventure at MDA's more than 80 weeklong summer camp sessions. Each camper is accompanied by a volunteer counselor who provides the care, supervision and attention children with muscle-wasting diseases need.
- **Some 135 youngsters attend MDA summer camps in Bethany and Bunkie each year.**

Clinics

- Tens of thousands of visits are made each year to MDA's 220 hospital-affiliated clinics and 36 ALS Research & Clinical Care Centers for diagnostic and follow-up health services.
- **There are eight MDA clinic locations in Louisiana, including Rapides Medical Center in Alexandria, NeuroMedical Center in Baton Rouge, Our Lady of Lourdes in Lafayette, St. Francis Community Health Center in Monroe, Louisiana State University & Children's Hospital in New Orleans and Louisiana State Univ. Health Science Center in Shreveport.**

Support Groups

- More than 300 MDA-facilitated support groups meet year-round, helping thousands of individuals and families. Louisiana residents also can participate in informal “Phone Friends” networks and take advantage of MDA's online ecommunity “MyMDA” at www.mda.org/mymda.
- **There are currently seven MDA-facilitated support groups in Louisiana: four general, two ALS and one teen support group.**