Empowering Change, One Gift at a Time

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Advocates,

Inspired by the strength of our families and the power of our mission, I am thrilled to chair the 2025 Annual Fund of the National MPS Society, while also continuing my work as Director of Development. I do so with a deep sense of responsibility and pride in serving this remarkable organization as we support families affected by MPS and ML.

Reflecting on my time with the National MPS Society, I carry with me a deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to witness firsthand the life-changing work the Society does, whether it's hearing a parent's first call outside my office or meeting some of you in person at our events. The moments that have stayed with me since I was first introduced to the Society in October of 2023 are seeing families enter our office, often just days before a loved one underwent treatment. Their courage, strength, and hope were palpable. That same spirit surrounded me at the 38th Annual Family & Scientific Conference in Orlando, at the Raleigh Run for Rare, and the Napa Race for a Cure for MPS, where I had the honor of meeting some of you and hearing your stories face to face.

To be at the National MPS Society is to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the bravest souls imaginable—families whose lives have been forever changed by a diagnosis, yet who continue to show unimaginable strength and grace. It's walking into a room full of people who understand, without needing to explain, the weight of uncertainty, the fragility of time, and the fierce love that fuels every fight. It's watching parents become advocates, children become heroes, and communities become lifelines. Being here means your heart will break a hundred times—but it will also be put back together by the resilience in a child's smile, the unwavering hope in a parent's voice, and the knowledge that even in grief, no one walks alone.

In the presence of these families, I have come to understand the true meaning of COURAGE—not the absence of fear, but the decision to keep loving, keep hoping, and keep showing up, day after day. You feel it in the stories whispered between conversations, in the embraces held a little too long, and in quiet moments of remembrance. The National MPS Society becomes more than an organization; it becomes a second family—one bound not by blood, but by shared pain, relentless advocacy, and a love so deep it defies the limits of what words can hold. Being with these families means that I have been forever changed—I carry their stories, their children, and their dreams in my heart, forever and always.

Throughout my career, I've had the honor of working with organizations that strive to make a real and tangible impact in the lives of others. But the National MPS Society is special and holds a unique and tender place in my mind because of its dedication and commitment to improving the lives of so many that need so much. As I continue to grow with this extraordinary organization, I promise to fight for every individual and family impacted by these rare diseases with sincere passion and an unwavering commitment to make a more meaningful difference. It's incredible, and for me, I have a true sense of belonging, and it's alongside all of you at the National MPS Society.

My upbringing in challenging circumstances taught me early on the value of compassion, the strength of community, and the importance of helping those in need. Guided by the belief that no one should face adversity alone, I am inspired by you to dedicate myself, both personally and professionally, to the Society.

As Chair of the 2025 Annual Fund, I will work diligently to secure the funds needed to help us execute our mission. In addition, I will advocate for research funding in our local, state, and national arenas and assist in expanding our Family Support programs, touching as many lives as we possibly can. The work we all do is critical, and the road ahead requires not only passion and dedication but also concrete action. That's why I, with the support of the National MPS Society team, am deeply committed to requesting more funding dollars that will collectively make all of these endeavors a success…. And this is why we need you.

Together, we can and **WILL** make a difference in the months, years, and decades ahead. We have the *courage* to provide hope and the possibility of a brighter future for everyone whose lives are touched by MPS and ML. With your support, we will continue to search for cures, serve those affected, advocate that your voices are heard, and ensure that no one has to face these challenges alone. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of you as we continue to carry out our mission. Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for helping create lasting change in the lives of those we serve.

With heartfelt gratitude and dedication,

Wendy Spaulding

Wendy Spaulding, CNPM, MBA
Director of Development
Chair of the 2025 Annual Fund

Empowering Change, One Gift at a Time