



\$2.1 Million for 'Jerry's Kids'

Over the Labor Day weekend, a dozen NALC members representing the top fund-raising branches for the Muscular Dystrophy Association traveled to Las Vegas to deliver pledges and contributions worth nearly \$2.1 million to Jerry Lewis, national MDA chair and host of the charity's annual telethon.

NALC National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams joined his union brothers and sisters three separate times over the course of the 21-hour-plus variety show to present NALC's contributions to Lewis.

Carrier contributions over the past year helped push the 43rd annual telecast to a record \$65,031,393, about \$1.2 million more than was collected last year.

"Our members have served on the front lines in the battle against muscular dystrophy for more than 50 years—going back to before there was such a thing as a Labor Day telethon," said NALC President William H. Young, who serves as an MDA vice president. "I am deeply grateful to all the men and women of this union for all they do to help us find a cure and help the families affected by these terrible diseases."

Young also credited Williams with injecting new energy into NALC's fund-raising efforts over the past two years.

On stage at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa, Williams and Lewis spoke of the long association between the NALC and MDA. Lewis thanked letter carriers for their nearly six decades as an MDA mainstay, and Williams assured the long-time telethon host that the NALC "will continue to be a supporter until a cure is found."

Appearing on-stage with Williams were letter carriers from the leading branches during the 2007 campaign, based on membership size:

+ **David DeFrancesco**, New Jersey Merged Branch 38, top fund-raising branch, \$266,517

+ **Wally Rutherford**, St. Louis, Missouri Branch 343, Category I, 2,000+ members, \$47,422

+ **Mary Helmer**, Central Florida Branch 1091, Category II, 1,500-1,999 members, \$20,008

+ **Bob Bracy**, Louisville, Kentucky Branch 14, Category III, 1,000-1,499 members, \$41,359

+ **Frank Maresca**, Northeastern New York Branch 358, Category IV, 700-999 members, \$27,037

+ **Frank Bove**, Maine Merged Branch 92, Category V, 500-699 members, \$14,162

+ **Kevin Gorman**, Paterson, New Jersey Branch 120, Category VI, 350-499 members, \$11,728

+ **Fran Timm**, Green Bay, Wisconsin Branch 619, Category VII, 200-349 members, \$16,624

+ **Dale Holman**, Fargo-West Fargo, North Dakota Branch 205, Category VIII, 100-199 members, \$13,390

+ **Jeffrey Harness**, Freehold, New Jersey Branch 924, Category IX, 50-99 members, \$8,640

+ **Michael Bagarozzi**, New City, New York Branch 5229, Category X, 10-49 members, \$13,000

Money contributed to MDA helps finance research into treatments and possible cures, supports the association's medical clinics and summer camps, and subsidizes mobility aids such as wheelchairs and leg braces. ☒

Carriers boost MDA telethon to \$65 million

Top: NALC's National MDA Coordinator Jim Williams presents pledges and contributions worth \$2.1 million to National MDA Chairman Jerry Lewis.



Above and left: Eleven NALC members were chosen from the branches with the highest contributions in their categories to represent the entire union on air during the telethon.