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## **Annual Charity Luncheon to Feature Oklahoma Women with MS**

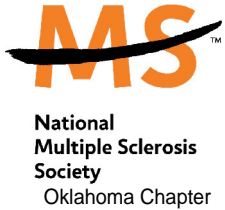
April 1, 2008 – Oklahoma City – The seventh annual Women Against MS (WAMS) luncheon will feature Oklahoma women who live with multiple sclerosis. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 16 at the National Cowboy Museum, the luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. Kirk Hammons serves as Honorary Chair of the event.

“This year’s event will focus on Oklahoma women and the state of MS research and care right here in our city,” explained co-chair Theresa Bozalis. “Multiple Sclerosis (MS) can strike anyone at any age – but it affects two to three times more women than men,” Bozalis continued.

A video produced by Allison Naifeh will spotlight Edmond resident Lori Evans, a wife and mother who lives with MS. Tulsa native Channing Barker, who many will remember from the 2007 luncheon, will update the audience on her life with MS as she spends her first year away at college. Dr. Gabriel Pardo, Director of the MS Center of Oklahoma will act as master of ceremonies.

Co-chair Angela Payne Reynolds explained that sponsors underwrite the cost of the luncheon, so that every dollar raised goes directly to the fight against MS through research and support programs. A minimum donation of \$75 is suggested. Anyone interested in attending may call the local office of the National MS Society at 488-1300 for more information. Last year more than 630 women attended the event and in its history, the WAMS event has raised \$500,000.

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This year a raffle will be held to raise additional funds and will feature items donated from local Oklahoma artist Suzanne Peck, a ring from Valerie Naifeh Fine Jewelry and a jeweled Edidi handbag, as seen at Ooley's. Raffle tickets will be sold at the event for \$20.

The Women Against MS Luncheon is a project of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to raise awareness about Multiple Sclerosis (MS), to support programs for those affected by the disease and to help fund research to find the cure.

The Oklahoma Chapter of the National MS Society provides programming and services for more than 21,000 people affected by MS across the state, including those who have been diagnosed, their families and friends. The Chapter currently has 30 programs in place, which range from information and education to adaptive equipment loans and financial assistance. The mission of the National MS Society is to end the devastating effects of MS. For more information, visit [www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org) or call 1-800-FIGHT MS.

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## **About Multiple Sclerosis**

Multiple sclerosis interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body and stops people from moving. Every hour in the United States, someone is newly diagnosed with MS, an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. The progress, severity and specific symptoms of MS in any one person cannot yet be predicted, but advances in research and treatment are moving us closer to a world free of MS. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50, with more than twice as many women as men being diagnosed with the disease. MS affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S., and 2.5 million worldwide.

## **About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

MS stops people from moving. The National MS Society exists to make sure it doesn't. We help each person address the challenges of living with MS through our 50 state network of chapters. We fund more MS research, provide more services to people with MS, offer more professional education and further more advocacy efforts than any other MS organization in the world. The Society is dedicated to achieving a world free of MS. We are people who want to do something about MS now. Join the movement at [jointhemovement.org](http://jointhemovement.org).

Studies show that early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can reduce future disease activity and improve quality of life for many people with multiple sclerosis. Talk to your health care professional and contact the National MS Society at [jointhemovement.org](http://jointhemovement.org) or 1-800-FIGHT-MS to learn about ways to help manage multiple sclerosis and about current research that may one day reveal a cure.

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