

## Companies Donate to the Foundation



Freshflowercard collage.

**FreshFlowercard.com**, the maker of unique mini-bouquet/greeting cards, will donate \$1 to The Montel Williams MS Foundation for every purchase you make. A fresh Flowercard is a delightful floral gift when neither a card, bouquet or large floral arrangement suits the occasion. The stylish 3-dimensional card stands 8 inches tall, and is 5.75 inches wide. The fresh Flowercard is placed within an elegant black and gold gift box. A small detachable card is provided to carry your personal message, and will include that your cause of choice is multiple sclerosis research.

Arrangements start at \$21, so log on to [www.freshflowercard.com](http://www.freshflowercard.com), or call the Orderline at 1-877-443-7374 and make your selection—and your contribution—today. And don't forget to choose multiple sclerosis research!

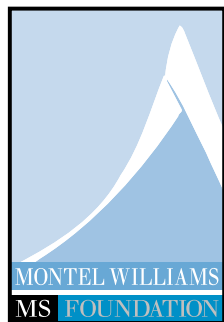
**Pitch Your Project NYC** is a seminar for aspiring TV writer-producers to interact with the key decision makers, studio executives and producers who can help you sell your project. Host and two-time Emmy nominated TV producer and media consultant Jacquie Jordan, and panelists Darren Campo, Senior VP, Programming Strategy and Research for Court TV,

and Kathleen Finch, VP for Programming & Special Projects, Food Network and Adam Leibner, Agent, N.S. Bienstock, will share their search for new and innovative TV ideas. **All attendees will have a chance to meet, greet, and pitch each panelist and receive feedback so space is limited.** When: Monday, November 10, 2003, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at Montel Williams TV

Studio, 433 West 53rd Street in NYC. The cost is \$50.00 pre-paid by November 1; \$75.00 after. To register, log onto [www.PitchYourProject.com](http://www.PitchYourProject.com). All proceeds benefit The Foundation in loving memory of Jacquie Jordan's uncle, Roger DiGerlando, who died in January 2003 after suffering from MS.

All contributions support The Montel Williams MS Foundation. The Montel Williams MS Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Please consult your tax professional for details about the deductibility of your donation.

A copy of the latest Financial Report and Registration filed by this organization may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The Montel Williams MS Foundation, 331 West 57th Street, PMB #420, New York, NY 10019, or by contacting the New York Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply an endorsement.



The Montel Williams MS Foundation  
331 West 57th Street, PMB #420  
New York, NY 10019

# Friends and Family

## The Montel Williams MS Foundation Newsletter

volume 1 edition 3

### Why I Do What I Do



Dear Friends,

Each week I receive numerous letters and e-mails asking why we fund research instead of the many immediate needs precipitated by MS—needs that distract from our real fight, which is to remain healthy for as long as we can. Needs that are so basic that when neglected they humiliate us and cause chaos in our already fragile lives. "I have been discriminated against because of my illness, and fired from my job after 20 years," a woman writes me. "I am paralyzed and need a geriatric bed, which Medicare will not pay for because

I am not morbidly obese," writes a young man. In the face of these and so many other painful letters, how do I make the decision to fund research for a cure? How do I choose hard, cold science over human suffering? The reality is that I haven't and I don't. There are just as many, if not more, letters that come to me still raw with loss—loss of health, loss of vitality, loss of mobility, and most devastating of all, loss of loved ones taken away much too soon by the ravages of MS.

I would like to share with you the stories of Deborah Stockwell of California, and Joanne Gorman of New Jersey, who are featured on the following pages. While they lived on different coasts, had different families and hobbies, likes and dislikes, these special women are bound by the reality that MS altered, and ultimately shortened, their lives. They are also bound by the fact that their friends and family members, just days short of their burials, had the courage to do something positive

with their pain. Deborah's mother, Mrs. Peggy House, and Joanne's husband, Mr. Joseph Gorman, asked their friends and loved ones to donate funds to The Montel Williams MS Foundation in lieu of flowers for their funerals.

Both families expressed the desire for a cure for MS. They are adamant that others not have to endure their suffering. In this issue I also introduce you to our Scientific Advisory Board. These top physician-scientists from all over the country will help the Foundation identify the cutting-edge research toward a cure, and guide our grant-making efforts. It is for all of us with MS, especially those who are no longer with us, that I do what I do. Please join me in my efforts so that their lives will not be in vain.

Debbie and Joanne, I celebrate your lives, and may you both rest in peace.

  
Montel.

## A Song in Her Heart

As pastor Rev. Peter St. Don of the Harbour Community Church in Huntington Beach, CA, said at Debbie's funeral, "In the midst of her great sorrow she still had a song in her heart. She was so appreciative of every visit and every small kind act. A single rose from a grocery store would make her day. She learned that no matter what the sorrow she didn't have to lose her song in life."

According to Debbie's mom, Mrs. Peggy House, Debbie had one daughter, Leslie, who she was able to see graduate from college, begin her career, marry and have her own home before she left us. "Debbie always said she felt confident that one day, there would be a cure for MS, and while she didn't expect it would ever be in time to help her, it was her fondest hope for others. We continue to encourage and support your research."



Debbie Stockwell

## A Precious Angel



Joanne's son Keith, daughter-in-law Shannon, husband, Joe, Joanne, son Sean and daughter Rachel

Joanne Gorman was a popular first grade teacher at Cold Springs Elementary School in Gloucester City, NJ. For 25 years Joanne was happily married to Joe Gorman, a guidance counselor at Gloucester City High School, where her 23-year-old twin sons Keith and Sean are teachers, and her 17-year-old daughter, Rachel, is a high school senior. Joanne was a PTA president and an accomplished athlete. She was diagnosed with MS in October, 2000, and passed away at age 46 this past summer.

As Mr. Joe Gorman wrote us, "My precious angel of a wife, Joanne Gorman, passed on due to complications of multiple sclerosis on July 1, 2003. Thank you for all you are doing to help find a cure for this horrible disease."



Joanne and Rachel

## Inspiration from Down Under

On a rainy day in June, three Australian artists, Mark Waller, Jody Daley and Graeme Stevenson, boldly announced in the studios of *The Montel Williams Show* that they would give \$2 million to American charities. The Aussies are founders of The Ripple Effect Project, whose motto is "One act of kindness can have repercussions beyond anything anyone can imagine." The Aussies, determined to give back to a country still healing from the tragic events of September 11, have embarked on an ambitious campaign to sell their largely angel-themed art. Buyers make

contributions to charities of their choice in exchange for the artworks. Ripple Effect supporters bought two paintings worth \$6,000, and contributed that amount to the Foundation. As Graeme writes, "Where the Ripple Effect goes from here we don't know, but we are comforted in the notion that in years to come we were strong enough as individuals to try to make a difference in this world." According to the trio, the Ripple Effect Project has inspired \$100,000 in gifts for charities and numerous small acts of kindness nationwide. Thanks to Mark, Jody and Graeme for the



Graeme Stevenson, Jodi Daley and Mark Waller.

inspiration from Down Under. To learn more about or to become a part of the Ripple Effect Project, please log on to [www.rippleeffectproject.com](http://www.rippleeffectproject.com).

## Taking Action

The Montel Williams MS Foundation fully supports H.R. 1956, originally sponsored by Jim Greenwood (R-PA) as part of the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill. H.R. 1956 amends Part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of certain self-administered intramuscular and subcutaneous drugs under the Medicare Program. In plain speak, it would allow drugs that are injected

under the skin to be covered by Medicare. As it stands now, only Avonex is covered by Medicare. In section 450 E of the Senate bill, which passed in July, the costs of injectible biologicals for illnesses that range from MS to rheumatoid arthritis to deep vein thrombosis scored, or cost-out at, \$1.7 billion. The MS portion alone of that would only be \$200 million. It is critical that we keep the

language in the bill for MS patients. H.R. 1956 is expected to be up for vote by late October. Write or call your Congressperson to support the Senate language in section 450 E regarding self-injectible drugs for MS. (For a list of your congressperson and his or her contact information, log on to [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org).)

## Welcome to New Scientific Advisory Board Members



Dr. Keith L. Black



Dr. Walter R. Frontera



Dr. Hugo Moser

### Dr. Keith L. Black

Keith L. Black, M.D., serves as Director of Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute and Director of Neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. An internationally renowned neurosurgeon and scientist, he is on the National Institutes of Health's Board of Scientific Counselors for Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Dr. Black was recently appointed to the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Black received the Jacob Javits award from the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council of the National Institutes of Health in June of 2000 for his pioneering research on ways to open the blood-brain barrier, enabling chemotherapeutic drugs to be delivered directly into the tumor. Dr. Black's other groundbreaking research has focused on developing different methods to fight brain tumors.

### Dr. Walter R. Frontera

Walter R. Frontera, M.D., Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) and Chairman of the Harvard Medical School Department of PM&R, and the Director of the Muscle Cell Physiology Laboratory at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston. He is a grant reviewer for the National Institutes of Health. His research interests include the effects of aging and exercise on skeletal muscle function and structure. Muscle weakness is a primary and secondary symptom of many diseases, including MS. Studies done by Dr. Frontera have been extended to include conditions such as inactivity and bed rest, and diseases affecting the central nervous system.

### Dr. Hugo Moser

Hugo W. Moser, M.D., is a research scientist and Director of the Neurogenetics Research Center at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. Dr. Moser is also University Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Moser achieved international recognition for his research on genetic disorders that affect the nervous system function in children, particularly those that involve a part of the cell referred to as the peroxisome.

*The Scientific Advisory Board is chaired by Dr. S. Allen COUNTER, a Harvard-based neurophysiologist who was featured in our last issue.*

## Special Thanks

**Dave Pelzer**, author of several bestsellers, including *A Child Called It* and *The Lost Boy*, has generously donated \$10,000 to The Montel Williams MS Foundation. Dave is a tireless humanitarian who has dedicated his life to helping people help themselves.

An anonymous donor from the **Longmont Community Foundation of Colorado** has made a \$2,000 grant to The Montel Williams MS Foundation. The Longmont Community Foundation manages and distributes funds entrusted by the donors with a long-term commitment to keeping the spirit of hope alive for generations to come.

Special thanks to **Kevin Reid** of the Dale Carnegie Institute in New York for donating the courses, Leadership Training for Managers and Developing a Leader in You to The Montel Williams MS Foundation this year. Kevin lost a very dear friend to MS.

## Did you know?

According to a report in the July issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Austrian scientists have developed a blood test that appears to be the first reliable way to predict whether patients with neurological problems will soon develop MS. The scientists found that those with two types of antibodies in their blood early on were 76 times more likely to develop MS than those with neither antibody. The test could help doctors decide whether to offer a patient early treatment with drugs known to reduce flare-ups, and to slow the course of the disease.

Scientists have initiated a research project to discover the genes that increase the risk of developing multiple sclerosis in African Americans. If you have been diagnosed with MS or a family member has been diagnosed with MS, we invite you to join the study. Please contact:

**MSGG-Clinical Coordinator**  
**UCSF Department of Neurology**  
**San Francisco, CA 94143-0435**  
**Toll-free 1-800-634-5122**

Or visit their website  
[www.ucsf.edu/msdbpr/participate.html](http://www.ucsf.edu/msdbpr/participate.html).

Records or other information you share with the investigators will be handled in a strictly confidential manner.

## Spotlight Health



For more MS information, the latest news, bulletin boards, support groups, and live chat, check out [www.SpotlightHealth.com](http://www.SpotlightHealth.com).

## Fight MS With Your Gift

**Your gift could double if your company has a matching gift program. Please ask your human resources office for the appropriate forms and guidelines.**

**Please consider continuing the fight against MS for as long as it takes to find a cure. Consider including a bequest to The Montel Williams MS Foundation in your will.**