

Sal's Place

What Motivated You to Launch MCS America?

MCS America was born... out of my outrage at the lack of information, social support, and viable alternatives for people with multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), coupled with outrage over the corruption, lies, deceit, and blatant denial that MCS exists in the name of industry profits, while more and more people find their lives stolen, their candle snuffed out, their world forever changed.

On my own journey I found tidbits of information here and there, but no real answers. Information was scattered all over the place, much of it conflicting. People with MCS struggle to find safe housing, alternative products that are safe to use, medical care, dental care, work/school accommodations, referrals, and the understanding of family and friends.

I saw a need to bring awareness to the public, to assemble and provide as much information in one centralized place, to envision an MCS safe community shelter which provides assistance and resources, and to begin to work on lobbying congress for laws to protect others from the chemicals that cause MCS.

I was frustrated with the ineffectual pace at which other organizations proceeded, commonly fighting among themselves to the extent that it appeared some of the members were actually industry plants designed to stop progress. While I can't confirm that, to this day I cannot understand any other reason why these groups were unable to engage in polite and professional discourse to work towards forward momentum. Instead of becoming engaged in this infighting, I removed myself and allowed MCS America to be born.

I'll be the first to admit that I had no idea how well MCS America would be received. Within two days of formation the organization took off leaving the initial founders running behind to catch up. The initial growth was phenomenal and I admit I was stunned. As I look back as we head into our third year, I cannot believe how much we've done in such a short time!

Like any new organization, we experienced a few bumps in the road, including changing of officers, scrambling to write and later revise the bylaws, and defining and redefining our mission and membership. With many sick days out, as those with MCS have volunteered their time to achieve everything that MCS America has accomplished, we've still managed to come out ahead. What does not kill us makes us stronger.

It's been fun, educational, and, at times, even amusing! May is fast upon us and we look forward to a successful MCS Awareness month campaign. We've reserved a booth at a health fair and a talk at the library and hope others will do the same.

Most of all I want to thank everyone who's given of their time to make everything that MCS America has accomplished possible, especially those who recently jumped in when lots of changes occurred. It was so reassuring to receive so many supportive mails and calls. On behalf of all of us in front of and behind the scenes, thank you!

We look forward to a successful future as a result of your caring and support!



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