**Letter to Local Newspaper Editor**

**MS Kills Connection and Connection Kills MS during MS Awareness Week, March 12-18, 2012**

**This is my story**

To [insert editor’s name or address it “To the editor”]

I live in [town/neighborhood/community] and I am one of millions of people who have joined the movement to end multiple sclerosis by answering the question: What does MS=to you? I’m writing to ask for your help in changing the lives of people living with MS in this community and across the country by publishing this letter.

Every hour, someone is diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis; a chronic autoimmune disease of the central nervous system for which there is no cure.  MS interrupts the flow of information between the brain and the body and stops people from moving.  Many have trouble imagining what their lives would be without the ability to move, but I know the effects of MS; *[I have MS, or my friend or family member has MS, or I volunteer at the XX chapter],* and this is what MS= to me. *[Tell your story here]*

Here in Illinois over 20,000 people live with MS every day.  For some, this means living with unpredictable symptoms like numbness, blurred vision and fatigue, which can come and go without warning. For others, it means more permanent damage, like paralysis. For friends and family members, it means not knowing what each day will bring for their loved one and always being prepared for the unexpected.

MS Awareness Week takes place in Chicago March 12-18, 2012, and there are activities planned throughout the entire month.  We are encouraging people to **Join the Movement** **to end MS and help people with MS move their lives forward.**

It’s easy to get involved, and it only takes a few minutes to make a difference in the lives of the millions of people, worldwide, who live with this disease. *(Insert a brief statement about the difference that being involved with the XX Chapter makes in your life personally or in your community)*

Thank you,

Signed, XX

[town/neighborhood/community]