

### **3T Imaging, MS Society Team Up to Provide MRI's**

Thanks to a new partnership between the National MS Society, Greater Illinois Chapter and Morton Grove-based 3T Imaging, people living with MS, who can demonstrate financial need, will have access to the MRI services that have proved to be the most effective tool in diagnosing and tracking the progress of MS.

Experts agree that magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans are the most sensitive non-invasive way of imaging the brain, spinal cord, or other areas of the body. Demyelination, or the destruction of myelin—the fatty sheath that surrounds and protects nerve fibers—causes nerve impulses to be slowed or halted and produces the symptoms of MS. MRI is particularly useful in detecting central nervous system demyelination, which makes it especially beneficial in establishing a diagnosis of MS.

Subsequent scans, following a positive MS diagnosis, may prove useful in tracking the progress of the disease, or possibly helping to establish a prognosis—a prediction of the course of a disease. However, MRIs are expensive and, particularly for the uninsured or underinsured, the technology is not easily accessible.

“There’s no doubt that accessing MRI is critical to helping people living with MS most effectively manage their disease,” said Lynda Chott, President of the National MS Society, Greater Illinois Chapter. “We are committed to making sure that this technology is available to all who need it.”

3T Imaging, a physician-owned and operated medical diagnostic outpatient facility, provides Ultra High Field 3 Tesla MRI, the only such magnet available in an outpatient setting in the Chicago area. Ten times more powerful than the typical Open MRI and twice the strength of the 1.5 Tesla MRI available in most hospitals, their product offers faster scan times and more detailed imaging.

“In the spirit of fighting MS, by directly affecting the lives of people with the disease, the physicians at 3T are proud to partner with the Greater Illinois Chapter,” said Dr. Steven Goldin, Director of 3T Imaging. “We offer a unique combination of patient care and commitment to technology and we are proud to make this available to clients of the National MS Society.”

The company donated \$5,000 to the 2007 MS Walk and has generously donated \$15,000 in services to offset the cost of MRI at its facility. The free MRI services will be a part of the Chapter’s Direct Assistance Program and will only be available for those clients who meet the criteria for Direct Assistance and who have also received a referral from their physician. Clients who do not qualify for the Direct Assistance may still call or visit the center with a standard prescription for imaging from their physician.

If you believe that you could benefit from MRI services, to either confirm a diagnosis or monitor the progression of your MS, be sure to tell your physician about this exciting new program.

For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit [msillinois.org](http://msillinois.org).

For more information about 3T Imaging visit [www.3TImaging.com](http://www.3TImaging.com)