

MDA BOOT CAMP 2011

Here I am back again at the MDA Boot Camp, I always look forward to this event seeing your enthusiasm and passion for the MDA and helping those of us affected by any of the more than 40 neuromuscular diseases is truly heartwarming and so greatly appreciated.

For those of you that don't know me my name is Michael Chambers I am 24 years old and I've been battling MD all of life. Yes MD confines me to a wheelchair but I won't let it slow me down finding and overcoming new challenges fuels my life and this past year was no exception I purchased my own home ironically with a fire hydrant right in front and I successfully harvested my first Whitetail Buck completely independently and it was a monster 19 point.

I am frequently asked about living with a progressive condition but is difficult to explain but I think I've come up with a good analogy that's very fitting. Living with MD is like a very slow burning house fire, the siding melts away like the muscle from my body, you put out one hot spot and another pops up but no matter what the structural damage the foundation will never be destroyed. MD is burning my body slowly away but the MDA is there by my side giving me the water to help extinguish the flames and supplying me with an arsenal of tools to keep up the fight.

Remember each and every day researchers around the world are busy in there labs hard at work looking for the break through that extinguishes the flames of neuromuscular disease once and for all but without the funds you raise none of this would be possible. When you are out in the streets filling the boot, keep in mind the next could be the dollar that snuffs out the flames.

To say I don't get scared or frustrated would be a lie but my disability is a fact of life and I refuse to let it keep me down, it's never I can't do something but instead it's how can I do that. With a positive attitude and faith that tomorrow will be a better day anything is possible.

Thank you all, good luck and stay safe!

Michael Chambers