



Rita | my MS story

diagnosed 2009

Seven years ago when I received the news that I had multiple sclerosis, all I could process was “there is no cure.” I harbored so many unanswered questions and wondered how my family would be affected. After conducting my own research, I found that MS manifests differently for everyone. Although I had most of the symptoms, no one could tell from first glance that I had MS. However, what frightened me the most was that doctors could not ascertain whether or not my symptoms would worsen. To be completely honest, I had little hope.

I first heard of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society through a friend of mine who rode in the BP MS 150 Houston to Austin Bike Ride the year I was diagnosed in my honor. After that, my husband decided to participate in the ride, and soon after I did as well! For me, these rides gradually restored the faith and hope that I had lost. They were integral in my healing process because we were all making a difference and raising awareness. On a visit to Lebanon, I was shocked at the lack of programs and education regarding MS there. I realized I was so fortunate to have easy access to the National MS Society and I knew without a doubt that I wanted to pay forward what was so generously given to me. I reached out to the Society, and together we are collaborating with the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation and have created the International Capacity Building Program, which works to bring MS awareness and services to nations all over the world.

I cannot even begin to express my gratitude for my family, the MS community and all the donors. Donors are helping fund MS ground-breaking research to stop MS progress, restore lost function and end this disease forever. For the six years my husband and I have been involved with the Society, we have benefited firsthand from their programs and services. My children and their cousins have made a music video called “We’re Gonna Beat MS” that was featured on CNN’s HLN network and many local television stations. MS has taught me that no matter our backgrounds, we are all strong and compassionate individually and collectively. **Every year I think to myself, “I can’t wait to see what this year’s ride is going to make possible!”**



bike
MS | champions

Don't just ride, Bike MS