

## terri my MS story

I had always considered myself a healthy person until February 2002. I felt a severe, unfamiliar pain on the right side of my face. The sharp pain didn't last long but my face felt very weird afterward. I convinced myself that it was nothing and tried to ignore the strange feeling. After a trip to the hospital and having a CAT scan, I was sent home with no answers.

The numbness and pain continued along with blurred vision and lack of energy. While sitting in the waiting room of yet another doctor's office, I picked up a pamphlet on MS. After reading it, I knew that I had MS. I had almost every symptom listed in the pamphlet so I wasn't surprised when a spinal tap confirmed my suspicions. I left the hospital with the aid of a walker and low spirits. The thought of having MS was overwhelming but my devoted



family and friends, and my deep faith helped me persevere. Over a period of time, my vision cleared up and I could walk without using the walker.

I had always enjoyed riding my bike and didn't think I would ever ride again. One day my husband convinced me to get on my bike. I was terrified! My balance has never been the same since my diagnosis, and I get dizzy if I have to move my eyes around too quickly. We started out with baby steps and within a year I was back to my regular biking routine. Ironically, my husband had been riding in Bike MS events for 10 years before I was diagnosed. In 2012, after some convincing, I participated in my first Bike MS. It was the hardest thing I've ever done but I was overjoyed that I actually succeeded!

I ride because I want to show my thanks and my gratitude to the many individuals out there who ride to raise money for MS research. A cure for MS is getting closer and closer—and I thank all those who do whatever they can to help find it!



bike to create a world free of MS