



The Mother Road
Ride

presented by



Amanda | my MS story

diagnosed 2008

Most people do not realize that MS can affect children as well as adults. I began having MS symptoms at the age of 13, and it took more than three years for me to receive the correct diagnosis. After experiencing several symptoms and exacerbations, I was misdiagnosed with another disease. At one point, a doctor even told me that he believed I was faking my symptoms to get attention. Finally, I saw a neurologist who ordered an MRI. It was then that I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Because MS affects everyone differently, it can be difficult to find a treatment that works. My MS was very active, and therefore I was prescribed chemotherapy. My body had an allergic reaction to the chemotherapy that included stroke-like symptoms. I was in a coma for a week, and it took me a month to fully recover. Although the chemo slowed my disease progression, I had to discontinue it.

I have learned to adapt. Every day presents its own challenges. Migraines and joint and nerve pain are part of my life. One day I am able to walk without any challenges, and then the next day I can't walk at all and have to use a wheelchair. In spite of this I try to stay positive. If what I go through helps even one person, and gives them hope for another day, I would go through it all again in a heartbeat.

Research is critical; there is still so much we need to learn. Having a neurologist who really knows the disease is also critical. We need doctors who know how to diagnose MS and understand the progression of it.

On behalf of all Oklahomans living with MS and facing the medical and financial challenges that accompany this disease, I thank you for raising funds and awareness that enables us to live our best lives today. MS is unpredictable. Access to care and therapy shouldn't be.



bike to
create a world
free of MS