



The Mother Road
Ride

presented by



Amy | my MS story

diagnosed 2008

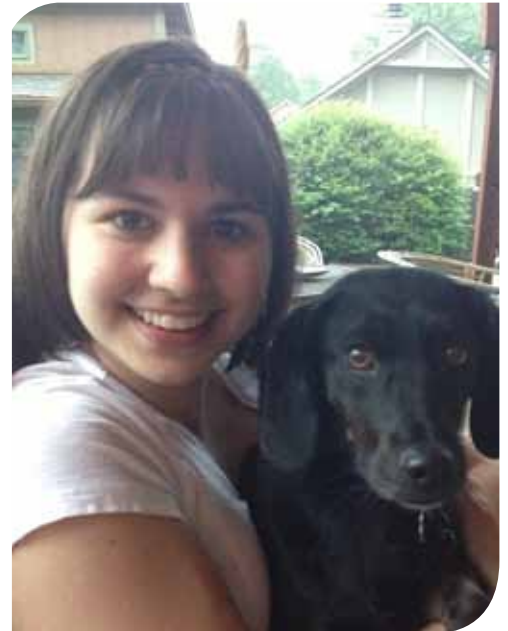
I began showing symptoms of MS when I was 16 years old, but it took about four months to get diagnosed. The doctors initially thought that I had brain cancer, and therefore underwent brain surgery in August 2008. After surgery, I spent a week at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota where the doctors agreed upon a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

I have been blessed with a fantastic support system that includes my family, friends and the National MS Society. The medication that I have been on since diagnosis, Copaxone, has been working to fight against future relapses, and has been doing a great job.

Almost two years ago, I had the opportunity to travel to California to take part in a new procedure that addressed *chronic cerebrospinal venous insufficiency (CCSVI)*. This procedure is not for everyone living with MS, and it is most definitely NOT a cure for MS. The procedure did, however, help relieve five of my symptoms: headaches, difficulty sleeping, temperature regulation, brain fog and fatigue. The procedure, along with a change in my diet, regular exercise, and continuation of my prescribed medication has made a positive difference on my daily life with MS.

Currently, I am in my second year of graduate school for speech-language pathology. My hope is to work with veterans who have been wounded in battle, as well as adults suffering from neurological disorders such as MS, Parkinson's, ALS and Dementia. I am also training my dog, Scout, to be a therapy dog to assist me when I interact with my future clients. She will help encourage speech and boost the confidence of those with whom she will visit.

Even though some days have been and will be harder than others, my faith in God, my support system and my will to live successfully with MS drives me each day to encourage not only myself but others living with MS to embrace each moment and each day whether it be good or bad. I want those living with MS to realize that a life full of joy and love is obtainable for each and every one of us! My biggest hope is that doctors will become more aware of MS and its symptoms so diagnoses and treatments options are more readily available (without unnecessary brain surgeries like mine).



bike to
create a world
free of MS