



The Mother Road
Ride

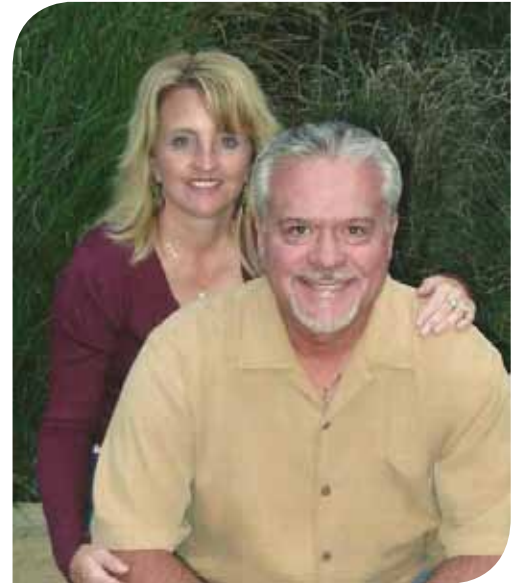
presented by



David | my MS story

I first began experiencing MS symptoms in 1998 while travelling as the vice president of a sales company. While watching television in my hotel room, I started having trouble with my vision -- I saw three television screens instead of just the one. Hoping I was just tired or having a problem with my contacts, I went to bed. However, I couldn't shake the feeling that something more serious was going on.

The next morning I was still experiencing the vision issues so I returned home. After visiting a neurologist, I was told I might have multiple sclerosis. The doctor prescribed a steroid medication and a week later, my vision went back to normal. For two years, there were no more symptoms. Then on a trip to the lake, I realized I couldn't feel my torso. From the middle of my hips to my chest was just dead. After several weeks of tests, the doctor delivered the news I was worried about years earlier. I was diagnosed with MS. I remember asking the doctor how much longer I had to live. He assured me this diagnosis wasn't a death sentence, and there are medications to help manage symptoms. Fortunately, the drugs worked well and allowed me to be mobile, active and continue to work for seven more years. Eventually, the physical pain and fatigue made it impossible for me to continue to work.



While the illness took a defining physical and emotional toll, I am grateful because it changed my life. As a salesman who was previously very competitive, ruthless and selfish in business, my heart began to change and I became more empathetic. I started feeling the need to be there for other people. I attribute that change in heart to the compassion and kindness displayed by my mother and my wife. I've been blessed by Team Lawn Chair, which participates in Bike MS: The Mother Road Ride in Oklahoma. I've formed special friendships with these folks. Many of the people may not have a connection with someone who has MS, but they just want to help. The money they raise is the key to the future of MS, and why the team members are involved. But the support and friendship I've received from them is priceless. I've been truly blessed.



bike to
create a world
free of MS