



The Mother Road
Ride

presented by



Juana | my MS story

diagnosed 1983

My journey with multiple sclerosis began in February 1983. Getting ready for my new job one morning, I noticed numbness in my left fingers. As the days progressed, so did my symptoms. Numbness now included my left arm and toes. Hypersensitivity to touch, yet not being able to feel, was strange to me. Then that tight band around my chest told me something was really wrong, more than just being stressed and depressed as one doctor put it. Eventually my body looked and handled like a left-side stroke victim. Cognitive and speech now added to the list of confusing symptoms. By changing doctors, tests were done to rule out diseases. At the time, MRI's and doctor knowledge was limited and they didn't want to say you had MS due to the coverage of the insurance and the disease.



Thankfully, this doctor had a neurologist who came into the picture and had experience with MS. More tests were done over the next few months and I began physical therapy to retrain my left side. I still don't like those peg-hole games and lacing cards; I still laugh as I think about them today. I did get better and returned to work, retiring in 2005 on disability. Gradually the symptoms came knocking again but to the right side. New drugs were on the market now and it took me several months to agree to try one. Today I'm still on Copaxone and I can't imagine life without Ampyra. I feel so very fortunate to have made new friends in the MS community to help me deal with this complicated disease.

By being involved in Walk MS and Bike MS, the local National MS Society office and the PACE support group, knowledge to learn and raise awareness is just a phone call or click away. The strength and support of my husband and family has been a strong foundation in my life. Thank you for helping us and so many more to find a cure for MS through your fundraising and support.



bike to
create a world
free of MS