

The Mother Road Ride

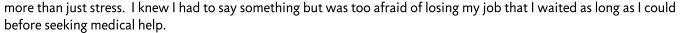


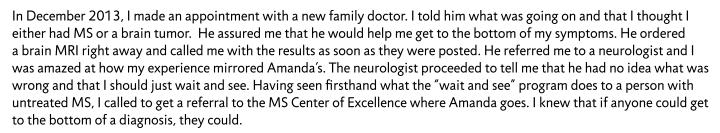
Charlotte my MS story diagnosed 2014

Having a child diagnosed with MS would be a journey that no parent would dream of choosing. Having a child diagnosed with MS and having an aggressive disease load then to get diagnosed myself is a whole different ball game.

My daughter, Amanda, was misdiagnosed at the age of 13. It was 3 years without treatment that caused a snowball effect ramping up an angry immune system before she received her correct diagnosis of MS. Being her primary care giver for the following 5 years was a joy I never thought possible. It was a time filled with laughter and tears, highs and lows, mobility and complete paralysis. While she was hospitalized at the beginning of 2013 for a relapse that sent her to inpatient therapy to learn how to live without the use of the left side of her body, I began to have strange symptoms myself. I tried to dismiss what I knew in my heart to be MS related, saying it was only stress and focused instead on Amanda.

Amanda was sent home and eventually regained use of what was paralyzed, graduated college, and moved to Texas for a 3 month internship. It was while she was gone that I continued to have different symptoms and realized it was





In June 2014, I received my diagnosis of MS and a treatment plan. I know firsthand the good, the bad, and the ugly of MS being a parent and care giver for a child with MS. However, I count it as an amazing blessing that I have the opportunity to have been trained and prepared in advance for such a journey. I have been left with very big shoes to try to fill and a built in support system. It is a beautiful thing to look back and see how everything worked out, from knowing not to trust the first wrong answer, to knowing how to give injections, to knowing the medicines and treatments, to have MS friends and the Society, to knowing that I can do this. I've watched the strongest person I know walk the path with such grace and strength and I knew I couldn't do any less.





bike to create a world free of MS