



THANK YOU TO OUR
PLATINUM SPONSOR



AMY JANN

DIAGNOSED IN 2009 // MY MS STORY

When I was in my mid-20s, I just didn't feel good. Doctor after doctor told me it was just fatigue, anxiety, or depression, and started a few different medications. Once I hit my 30s, the symptoms seemed to have faded, and between 35 and 40, I had a mix of more than 100 marathons, half marathons, and mini triathlons under my belt. I was in great shape, happy...life was good. Few little symptoms now and then, but added it up to the stress of work, relationships, cold or flu, or Epstein-Barr. Then, just before my 40th birthday, I was running on a treadmill when my legs felt strange, and I had this tingling and numb feeling throughout my entire body. I collapsed, was sent to an emergency room, and over the next few weeks of tests, scans, taps, and needles, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Surprisingly, I was not upset. In fact, I was relieved that there was an answer to what was wrong with me. I was scared that this was not something that there was a cure. After the episode and the diagnosis, I didn't slow down. I moved to Texas, continued running, and after a few years of riding Bike MS®: Ride to the River solo, I joined Team Broadway. Fred Gibbons was a great captain, and made sure of his riders were well taken care of, especially his ones with MS.

If it wasn't for Fred, I would not have met Audrey Blank, captain of Audrey's Heroes; a great Family and Friend team that has raised a significant amount of money for this cause. On that team, I also met many MS riders and supporters that I have bonded with over the years. However, a huge thank you goes to Fred for introducing me to my greatest supporter, not just of the ride but everything I seek to accomplish, Steve Lopez. He has truly helped me in so many ways. He is my personal sidekick to help me on the road during the ride, helped me fundraise, but most of all, given me the encouragement to keep going and never giving up. To hold my hand when I hurt, help me with little things when I am fatigued, and most of all, teaching me that just because I have MS doesn't mean that I can't be loved.

In the last few years, symptoms are more often and last longer, the numbness is constant, and I could sleep all day if I could. I start to feel down, but knowing the ride coming up and seeing everyone, I am overwhelmed with happiness to be able to still do the ride, even if it isn't the complete 160+ miles.

Ever since my first ride, the MS Society, volunteers, donors, and other riders, I have appreciated the support along the route, and this year, I will be riding my 17th MS ride. Thank you to all that make this possible.



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Don't just ride, Bike MS