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# BRADY DODSON

## DIAGNOSED IN 2011 // MY MS STORY

In June 2011, my wife Winnie celebrated as our daughter Madeleine turned one. I had started a new and challenging job at a great company just months before. My diagnosis, with what would turn out to be progressive MS, felt surreal and like a ridiculous piece of bad luck in life. In the following months and years I was so busy and stressed, as I watched my body change. No matter what I or my doctors did, I continued to lose function in my left leg and arm. Within a year I was walking with a cane and within five years I was in a power wheelchair full-time. None of the disease-modifying drugs were working on me.

Despite my efforts to maintain a positive attitude, I was fearful of where MS was taking me. Increasingly it was a struggle for my wife and I to get through a daily routine of life. My faith, family, and friends have propped me up though and I began choosing to focus on my abilities rather than my disabilities. I can drive, work, travel, be with my family, and use my mind, heart, and soul for things that I am passionate about. And fortunately, my MS has been relatively stable for the last five years.

Since the early days of my diagnosis my church, my friends, my wife's coworkers, and more recently my coworkers have ridden in the Bike MS®: Texas MS 150 to show their support for me and others living with MS. To watch so many people do this monumental ride is so incredibly encouraging to me every year. I strongly believe in raising funds for the National MS Society to research and progress treatments, eventually stopping MS in its tracks. I raise money so that, in the future, other people affected by MS and their families won't go through what I and my family have.



**In only its third full year, 2022, my company's Bike MS: Texas MS 150 team came in second place raising nearly \$411,000! In 2023, the team will surpass a cumulative \$1 million raised and I will be there at the finish line standing in my new wheelchair. Also, I have to say how proud I am of my 12-year-old daughter and her tandem partner Marty Coleman who completed the Bike MS: Ride to the River on October 1-2, 2022.**

#BIKEMS  
#TEXASMS150

*Don't just **ride**, Bike MS*