

When I was 17 years old, I had an experience with vertigo and numbness on the left side of my body. I went to a chiropractor who said I had a pinched nerve and treated me. The symptoms went away and I never thought about it again ... until five years ago.



By then I was married and working as a dental assistant. One day I suddenly went blind in my right eye. My husband works in the optical field and asked if I'd hit my head, but I hadn't done anything I could link to my vision loss. After a visit to the doctor I was referred to a specialist, who ran additional tests. He came into the room, told me I either had a brain tumor or MS, and then left. I didn't know what to think and was thankful my husband was with me to discuss next steps, which included having an MRI.

I kept to routine as much as possible and was looking forward to celebrating our first child's first birthday in January 2009. However, the happy day we had planned didn't turn out as expected. It would also be the day when I received the call confirming that I had MS. My husband and I cried and then quickly decided my diagnosis was not going to ruin the day. We focused our daughter's special day, which distracted us from dwelling on my news.

The next day my husband began researching MS resources and found the local chapter of the National MS Society. We wanted to get involved and signed up for our first Walk MS. My husband also signed up for his first Bike MS ride. I joined him for Bike MS in 2011 and we have ridden tandem each year since. It's a wonderful experience; I take it easy most of the way, but help when we take on hills. Last year we did the century course and rode for 11 hours. That actually illustrates my attitude toward MS: I don't let much stop me - I keep going.