



I was three months pregnant with my daughter when I began experiencing left-sided numbness in my lower extremity. I played it off as something wrong with my back, but as the days passed, the numbness traveled. I awoke one night and the reality hit me. This was getting serious! Four years prior I had a brief spell of vision loss and was treated for optic neuritis, which I learned is a very common problem with multiple sclerosis.

I saw a neurologist and underwent an MRI.

At age 30, and pregnant with my second child, I joined the 2.3 million people worldwide who live with MS. The fear set in and I remember thinking, "life as I've known it is about to change." Well, it did change, but not in the way I first envisioned. Really, life has gotten better. My outlook is different. My pace is more peaceful -most of the time.

I spent the first few years after my diagnosis often wondering how I could make a difference for others with MS, or get more involved in the National MS Society. Then, during the summer of 2010 Bike MS Wyoming riders passed by our place. I noticed a woman riding in a bulky, black vest and pulling a small trailer behind her bike. I later learned that this was a cooling vest, attached to a cooler full of water. She had MS, but that did NOT stop her. She completed the ride!

The next weekend I couldn't wait to share this with my friend and co-worker, Jill. She said, "Sandi, get a new bike. We can do this." We thought it would be a one-time thing for us, but after the inspiration from the first year our team "Chicken Legs" continues to grow. It humbles me to participate with the 250+ other people who have sacrificed their time and sore hinny's to try and bring an end to the disease that affects my family and me personally. I just pray that a cure can be found to prevent any possibility of MS striking my children, brother, friends or anyone else.

When you think about it, it's only not about the money or the number of people who ride for MS. It's not just about finding a cure for MS. For me, and many of us who ride and volunteer, it's about **making a difference in the world**, in whatever way you can!