



August 26, 2012

Multiple Sclerosis can attack anyone at any time...but it won't attack itself.

Many adults peak athletically in their mid-20s; for Louisiana native Lauren Rolston Jacobs, this was no different. By the age of 23, Lauren was already a half-ironwoman and had run three marathons. However, unlike most adults, Lauren's feet began to go numb as she biked and ran, and fatigue required her to take six hour 'naps' after her long runs. Each month, more than 800 Americans are diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). In January 2009 at 24 years old, Lauren became one of the 800.

With the diagnosis, Lauren was welcomed into a new family: the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Society contributes to MS research, advocacy, education and helping those suffering with MS. One major source of funding for the society is Bike MS - there are more than 100 rides nationwide. A key component of the rides is that riders must raise a certain amount to participate.

Through generous donations in 2009, I was able to ride 75 miles in the Louisiana Bike MS event. With a cause and friend so dear to me, I wanted to take Lauren's story across the nation. In June 2012, I rode 150 miles from Williamsburg to Richmond and back with Bike MS Ride Virginia. Now that I am back in Louisiana, I want to partake in the Louisiana Ride this October. For that, I need your help!



2012 Ride Virginia

To make a tax-deductible donation online, visit <http://bikelam.nationalmssociety.org/> and click donate on the left-hand side of the page. Make sure to put my name in! You can also send a check made out to the National MS Society with my name in the memo line. Mail to: 2012 Bike MS: Louisiana Ride, NMSS, P.O. Box 4125, Houston, TX 77210-4125.

Lauren completed the 2009 and 2011 Louisiana Ride, and she plans to do the 2012 ride, too. I have had the pleasure to go on many training rides with Lauren, and her positivity and fun-loving spirit never cease to make me realize just how strong she is. I'll never forget one ride I was on with her and her family. When I mentioned my feet were losing sensation from riding so long, Lauren laughed, "Mine have been numb the whole time!"



Lauren's mom, Lauren and I at the 2009 Bike LA.

Thank you so much for your time, consideration and donation.

Sincerely
Christine Derbins

Christine Derbins
985.807.4387
christinederbins@gmail.com

P.S. No donation is too small! And if you're unable to give financially, I just ask that you help spread the awareness!