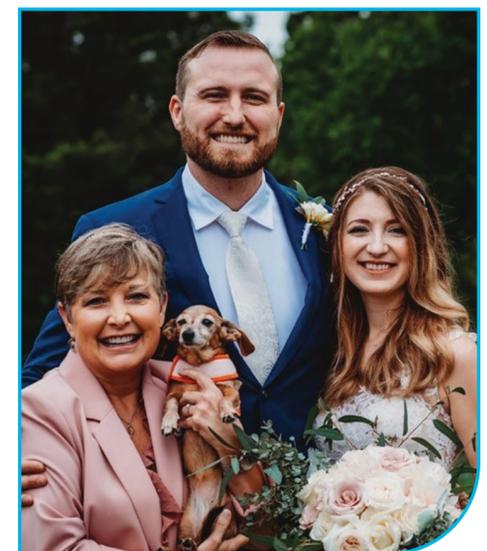


# TRENT PARKS

DIAGNOSED IN 2015 // MY MS STORY

I count myself as one of the lucky ones. I have worked in the medical field my entire career, so in December 2014 when I found myself getting oppressively dizzy every time I stood up, I immediately made appointments with all the right people— cardiology, neurology, endocrinology. My heart was great, thyroid a little low, so my doctors thought a brain MRI would be good to rule out a pituitary tumor. My pituitary looked great too, but there were some abnormal “spots” on my brain that warranted another more detailed MRI. I had the second MRI and it showed demyelination. So, I was sent for a spinal tap.

I found out my definitive diagnosis of MS alone in the hospital lobby on May 15, 2015 while reading my radiology report that I begged the tech to release early. My doctor wouldn't call me back because he was shocked and sad that I had it. I immediately began medication and continue to take it daily.



Thankfully, I had my mom as my number one advocate. She was diagnosed in 2001 with MS, and braved many drugs and clinical trials to mostly stabilize her condition. She has drop foot and has pain pretty constantly, but she's a warrior. She and my stepdad (a doctor) constantly keep me in the loop for new medications and MS research.

I did my first Walk MS® event in April 2016. I was tired of feeling sorry for myself and ashamed for something I couldn't control and wanted to be an advocate for those who suffer more than I. In October 2017, my girlfriend of just two weeks joined me for Muckfest® MS. I knew then that I had found someone truly special, and we were married 18 months later. Right after our wedding she got me into cycling, and I did my first Bike MS® ride in October 2019 (day 2 of the Valero Ride to the River). In these events, my team and I have raised over \$5,000!

Overall, I'm doing great. I'm one of the lucky ones. God has richly blessed me with a loving wife and family and a platform for advocacy. Other than terrible daily “skin flushing” medication side effects and people constantly asking if I've been to the beach lately, I feel great. And, as of January 13, 2020, I have no evidence of disease activity!

I was asked to be a Bike MS Champion for the Bike MS: Texas MS 150, and I feel blessed to be a part of the program. I'm so excited to be an ambassador for those with MS because I know my positivity and joy for life is contagious. We truly appreciate every donation and pedal stroke and we can't wait to meet you.

**Thank you, friends, family, and especially mom, Doc, and Rose for your love and support. I couldn't do it without you.**

#BIKEMS  
#TEXASMS150

*Don't just ride, Bike MS*