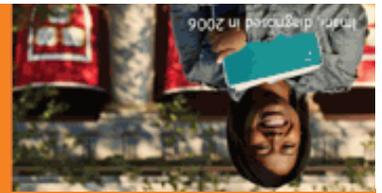


MS = fighting for my future



Central & Southeast Ohio  
651G Lakeview Plaza Blvd.  
Worthington, OH 43085  
800.344.4867

Northeast Ohio  
6155 Rockside Rd., Suite 202  
Independence, OH 44131  
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Established in 1953, the Chapter is an important part of a nationwide network that advances the Society's mission to achieve a world free of multiple sclerosis. We provide quality programs and services to over 10,000 Ohioans living with MS and their families in a 38-county area. Areas served include the Akron, Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown metropolitan areas as well as all Central and Eastern Ohio counties. Our two offices are located in Independence and Worthington.

## National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Ohio Buckeye Chapter



National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society  
Ohio Buckeye  
Chapter



Katie Herman

Diagnosed with MS in 1998  
Living with MS for 13 years

This is my story...

What is your connection to multiple sclerosis?

I have multiple sclerosis.

How has MS impacted your life?

I was diagnosed when I was 22 and got married to keep insurance. That marriage ended in divorce. I am remarried now and have one daughter. After my daughter was born and I had a miscarriage my MS was really bad so I decided that I would not have any more kids. That is hard to accept and sad. I also get chronic bladder infections and I have to take lots of medications. But I have a supportive husband, daughter, and workplace! I have met the most incredible people through Mothers Assisting Mothers with MS and other MS sites!

Are you receiving or have received assistance from any services or programs?

I have not received assistance.

Have you experienced issues with any services or programs? If so, which ones?

I have experienced issues with home care services as well as medications and prescriptions.

Please tell us about the issue.

Home health care comes to do IV steroids and they are awesome! I take so many medications and it is expensive!

What else should we know about your unique story?

I was diagnosed with MS when I was 22 years old. I was in college and engaged to my first husband. I am 35 years old now and married for the second time and have a six year old daughter, Kendall. I graduated from college and got my job at Summit County Juvenile Court. I have been working there 11 years! I was diagnosed 13 years ago! I cannot believe it.

I have had my ups and my downs. Unfortunately I think the MS progressed after I had my daughter and definitely after my miscarriage three years later. So having more kids is out of the picture unless they find a cure! It is just super hard on my body. It is hard financially because instead of money going towards vacations and stuff it goes towards medications and doctor visits. Sometimes it is hard on my husband because he doesn't know exactly what will happen to me. My daughter knows I have MS but I don't think she grasps what it is yet. I know family, friends and even strangers have a hard time because if you look at me I look fine. But I struggle with fatigue, balance, etc. everyday. It is frustrating because you know people whisper or judge you because you have a handicap sign and they don't see any visual handicap. I have tried to joke about it with family and friends to make it easier to talk about it.

I feel that people feel comfortable coming to me about the MS. I think I have raised a lot of awareness with family, friends and co-workers. We have done the MS Walk ever since. This is the 13th year The Fighting Irish will be walking! However we are doing both the Cleveland and Akron walks!

I help co-chair Mothers Assisting Mothers with MS which is associated with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society but is its own non-profit organization. I like it a lot because other support groups were never really open or supportive of having kids there. As a matter of fact there was one meeting I had to take Kendall with me when she was about three and I got the nastiest looks and needless to say I never went back and was so excited to meet and work with Bridgette Hopson who is the founder of MAM.

Thank you for listening to my story!

Katie Herman - Sagamore Hills, Ohio

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