

MS = dreams lost, dreams rebuilt.



Central & Southeast Ohio
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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



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Ricci Washburn

Diagnosed with MS in 2001
Living with MS for 10 years

This is my story...

What is your connection to multiple sclerosis?

I have multiple sclerosis.

How has MS impacted your life?

It has made our family change the way we had always thought our lives would be. It has changed my life directly because I will never give up the battle and it's one that was never planned for. It has taken actions away from my children for which I will always regret. We all just hope somewhere somehow we can find a way now or in the near future to cure this evil aspect of life!

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 social security and insurance.

Please tell us about the issue.

There is the issue to fight every day with all you have.

What else should we know about your unique story?

I will never quit, but I will always speak my mind to those who are in the medical field, people who think they know but don't, especially those not directly in the war with MS. Politicians seem to know what to say but do nothing.

The original feelings of where your life is going can be quite dramatic and overwhelming, especially for those who have not accepted MS as a livable option. The thought of having younger children who would have to experience life with a dad in ways they were not ready for. The thought of a wife who would have to take time away from her job to help me.

I was wondering after a small period of internal thought what I needed to do—give up and let those pity me or do what I have always done and never stop attempting everything that I wanted to do like climbing mountains and rappelling down them in Mexico, spending time under the Atlantic Ocean, weight lifting at the Ohio State Fair and winning my group, riding a bike everywhere possible even taking my dog through places most don't go, making sure I never miss an adventure with my kids regardless of what my have to be changed a bit, and volunteering for whoever will take me.

Thank you for listening to my story!

Ricci Washburn - Westerville, Ohio

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