



bike ~~MS~~ champions

Name: Marilyn Geary

Diagnosed: 1992

Age: 64

Hobbies: Oil painting, cooking, and volunteering

I was diagnosed in 1992, but have traced symptoms back to 1973. Most of my symptoms have come and gone away with time such as my loss of vision. I have problems with the heat and can not be outside and functional when the temperature is over 90 degrees. I used to walk in the mornings about 4 miles a day. Now if I get up early while it is still cool, I might be able to walk 1/2 mile if it is a good day. There are days when I experience dizziness and can't do much as changing the position of my head starts the room spinning. I have taken shots of Copaxone everyday for the last 8 or 9 years and my symptoms have been pretty stable.

My hobbies include oil painting; I donate one painting every Christmas, which is used in a raffle for the PACE support group. I wrote my own cookbook two years ago and enjoy cooking most of the time. I am chairman of the Program and Service Committee for the State of Oklahoma, and am the creator and chairman of the Buddy System in the chapter. I am also a Peer Counselor and do follow up calls to those newly diagnosed and are new to the Chapter. Last year I made 500 thank you calls to all the riders in the MS 150.

I enjoy volunteering for the chapter because it makes me happy to help others. It really brings a smile to my face and heart when someone I've called thanks me for brightening their day.

The one thing I would like someone who is riding for me to know is that although I do have MS, there are many of us who are far more debilitated and finding a cure for this disease is very important to us all!!