

# Support the MS Walk!!!



Toledo, Ohio  
April 10, 2005

## I come to you again...

This is the fourth year I will be participating in the National MS Society's MS Walk. Each year, with your help, we've been able to raise more money for this wonderful organization than the year before. Last year, Maryellen and I were both in the top 10 money earners in NW Ohio, combining for over \$3000!!



It's that time of year again everyone! April 10, I will be participating in the National MS Society's MS Walk in Toledo.

I want to thank all of you who helped out in the past from the bottom of my heart. Maryellen and I were touched by the outpouring of support; not just monetarily, but also all the notes and cards we received. You guys are all like family!

The National MS Society is a great charity, raising money for research and patient education and support. They're a national charity, but the money you donate stays here in NWOHio to help some of the 3000+ MS patients right here.

Those of you who have supported me in the past, again, thanks! You know my story and can just get right to writing that check (Payable to the National MS Society) and dropping it in the mail!!

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You can also send a pledge via **PayPal!!** Just send it to [webmaster@ay-ziggy-zoomba.com](mailto:webmaster@ay-ziggy-zoomba.com) and put a comment in that this is for the MS Walk. If you can't give monetarily, please keep us in your thoughts and prayers!!

Those of you who may be new to the site, or if you just like to read... here's why I do this every year...

## A chance for Falcon fans to help!!



This year is a little different because now, you know not only about my Maryellen as an MS patient, but almost all Falcon fans know about Jordan Sigalet's battles with the disease as well. Here's another chance to help in the quest to find a cure for Multiple Sclerosis!!

The same summer my dad was diagnosed with colon cancer (1999), my beautiful wife, Maryellen, was diagnosed with MS. MS is a terrible, scary, unknown that not only robs its victims of their motor skills, vision, strength, sleep, coordination and more, but also of their innocence and often all of their hope. MS isn't a well known disease, people remember reading books to raise money back in school, or maybe recognize the Bike-To-The-Bay each year, but they don't really know what MS is. It's NOT "Jerry's Kids."

My wife, Maryellen, woke up one morning and couldn't see out of her right eye. After a trip to the emergency room and several doctor visits later, she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Neither of us really knew what that was. MRI's showed scars in her brain where the electrical impulses "jumped the circuit" and caused damage. Since then she's lost feeling in her legs, experienced numbness, dizziness, fatigue and depression. Maybe more devastating, she never knows what tomorrow will hold...it's very probable that one day she'll wake up and not be able to stand up.

I give her a shot of a drug called Avonex once a week to help slow the progression of the disease. Thankfully, she's recovered from each of her exacerbations (although there's always some residual damage that holds on...her vision returned, but isn't normal, etc.), and she's only had to miss a few weeks of work. I can't stand wondering what tomorrow may hold for her and can only imagine what it's like from her perspective.

So now that I've given you the story...here comes the action item. April 18, I'm going to be walking in the MS Walk to help raise awareness and money for the National MS Society. I'm looking for sponsors. The MS Society helps fund research and education. Please consider giving. Send a check made out to the "National MS Society" to me directly:

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It's not easy for me to be public about this very private part of our lives...I hope you all don't mind my openness. If you can't help, that's fine, but if you can, please do! If not for Maryellen, then for someone you may or may not know. It seems like almost everyone knows of someone with MS. Now would be a great time to help do something about it! Thanks for reading.

2005 update... In the past year, Maryellen has been blessed with good fortune and hasn't had too much trouble in the way of debilitating MS symptoms. In August of 2004 we went to Portland, Oregon where we ran in the Nike Run Hit Wonder 10K. Maryellen is fighting MS with medication and wellness. Her running is part of this therapy. This year, her goal is a half-marathon!!