



Dear Friends,

As a child, I grew up hearing about my uncle Randy, who lost his battle to leukemia when he was 19 years old. My grandparents planted a tree in their yard on the anniversary of his passing each year. I look at this row of trees each time I visit and recall all of the wonderful stories that were told, as his life was taken before we could meet. It was always my passion in life to become a pediatric Physical Therapist. After earning my degree, I had the privilege of working as an outpatient Physical Therapist at St. Vincent's Pediatric Rehabilitation Center followed by spending 10 years as an inpatient Physical Therapist at Riley Hospital for Children.

My primary focus was working with patients on the oncology and stem cell transplant units, and I quickly saw my dreams turn into a reality. This reality involved celebrating with patients and their families as I watched my patients get stronger and often go into remission later to become cancer free. This reality also involved embracing and mourning with families as they lost their loved ones to cancer. I am forever grateful for my years working with hematology and oncology patients. The unbelievable drive and fight that I saw from my patients inspires me to live life to its fullest. I remember my patients, both those who have survived and those who have passed, daily. Every one of my patients holds a special place in my heart.

One patient in particular, Michael Treinen, serves as a source of daily motivation for me. Michael was 18 years old and an amazing three sport athlete when he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. His primary Oncologist sought out Physical Therapy services, as he knew it would be imperative both mentally and physically for Michael to stay strong during treatment. I brought Michael one of only a few stationary bikes our department had at the time. Even on his worst days, Michael would ride this stationary bike for a minimum of 30 minutes. He would only stop if he got sick from the side effects of chemotherapy, and then would quickly return to complete his ride. Michael found it important that every patient on the oncology unit have access to a stationary bike, as he appreciated the mental and physical benefits. Michael's mom, Kelly Treinen, decided to use her resources as principal of a local school to fundraise on Fridays. Each Friday, staff and students could wear jeans to school if they donated a dollar. These dollars and dollars led to enough bikes to outfit the needs of patients on the oncology unit and additional floors, complete with a license plate reading "Moving Through Treatment", after Michael Thomas Treinen's initials.

Michael fought so hard but lost his battle on May 25<sup>th</sup> of 2008, at the age of 19 years. Every day I issued a stationary bike to a patient at Riley Hospital, Michael's spunk and drive lived through me, and I was truly a better therapist because of him. Kelly Treinen and her family have decided to continue to fulfill Michael's desire to make a difference in this world. Kelly's motivation, drive, and edginess lead to her receiving the 2015 LLS Woman of the Year recognition, and I was able to rejoice with her and her family, and I know Michael was too. A year later, I am extremely humbled and honored to accept the nomination for the **2016 Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Woman of the Year** from Kelly Treinen.

Each Man & Woman of the Year candidate runs in honor of the Boy & Girl of the Year, patient survivors. The 2016 Boy of the Year is Luke Canterbury, a past patient of mine at Riley Hospital. Luke, now six years old, was diagnosed with stage four Burkitt's Lymphoma on June 27, 2014. Ironically, Luke was one of many patients who benefitted from donated bikes from Michael's Moving Through Treatment campaign. Luke is featured with me in the picture at the beginning of this letter riding an adaptive bike around the oncology unit. Luke is now healthy, active, and strong and enjoys running around with his 3 brothers.

**Please join me in supporting LLS by making a donation to my fundraising campaign for Woman of the Year!** I accepted this nomination with intention to contribute to breakthrough therapies and treatments that are saving the lives of people around the world, while keeping in mind all of the patients and families whose paths I have been so fortunate to cross. I am driven by the stories I grew up hearing about my uncle and by the vivid memories I have from watching my patients' daily fight for life. As of last year, I started another rewarding job of staying at home and being a mom to my two young children. I want to teach them to live out their dreams and find their passion for life. This opportunity allows me to live out my passion. It's time for me to fight for a cause that I have always believed in...now come join me!

**Please donate** on my personal Web site at <http://www.mwoy.org/pages/in/indy16/amoody> and spread the word to friends who may also be interested in donating. Over the years, support from people like you has been responsible for the blood cancer advancements that have doubled, tripled, and in some cases quadrupled the survival rates for blood cancers. Many LLS supported therapies not only help blood cancer patients, but are also now used to treat patients with rare forms of stomach and skin cancers and are in clinical trials for patients with lung, brain, breast, pancreatic, and prostate cancers.

Your donations will not only support LLS research, but patient services, advocacy, public and professional education, and community services as well. All donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible. **On behalf of blood cancer patients everywhere, thank you for your support!** I could not do this without each and every one of you.

With much love,

*Alissa Moody*

Alissa Moody  
2016 LLS Woman of the Year Candidate

