



SMILOW CANCER HOSPITAL
AT YALE-NEW HAVEN

Chris Blumenstetter
Cyclist, 2013 Closer to Free Ride

When Chris Blumenstetter's 6'4' 230lb college roommate of four years told him that he had testicular cancer with one game left in the season, it shook him to his core. He thought that he and his teammates were indestructible.

Luckily, his friend Bryan Karp made it through treatment and is in remission. Watching this big strong guy be ravaged by the treatment was scary for Chris and his friends, but not to Bryan, who stayed positive, never complained, and battled his way through it. Ten years later, Bryan is an extremely successful realtor on Long Island with a beautiful wife and two perfect little boys. But his battle with cancer still lives strongly in Chris' mind.

After losing his last living grandparent to lung cancer, Chris struggled with how to explain the loss to his two-year-old son. Now, thanks to the CTF Ride, Chris has the opportunity to remind him of his great grandmother's legacy every year.

Since these experiences, Chris has taken every opportunity possible to raise money and awareness for cancer causes. "The CTF Ride was by far the best such experience I have ever had," he says. "I drove up to CT from Long Island expecting a challenging bike ride and to meet a few new friends; and arrived to find an amazing event and met people I will be friends with for life. The scenery of the ride was incredibly beautiful, the rest stop stations were more like mini parties and the post ride celebration was fun for my entire family." Chris was especially moved by the Smilow Salute during the first mile: "Riding past Smilow at the start of the Ride was one of the most empowering experiences of my entire life. I can't wait for next year and look forward to going for the century mark!"

Chris would like to personally thank his friends and trainers Jim Schepp, Ryan, John and Mike at Athletic & Fitness Trainers of Long Island for the help and support to take on this challenge. Chris says " I couldn't have done it without them."