



Monica Lucas
Volunteer, 2011, 2012 and 2014 Closer to Free Ride

Monica's passion for volunteering started back in high school when she joined Key Club International, the high school level of Kiwanis International, a service organization that focuses on building leadership skills and community service. Since then she's volunteered her time for food and toy drives, fundraisers and officiated soccer with the Special Olympics. When the first CTF Ride was announced she couldn't wait to get involved.

Remembering that first Ride, Monica says that she lucked out with what she thought was the greatest job, riding the transport box truck. "It's great! I follow the 100 mile route in a big truck making stops at all the stations, cheering on the riders, and helping out at each stop," she says. "When the last rider goes through, I help clean up the station, jump back in the truck and move on to the next stop. If there are any disabled bikes I transport them back to the Yale Bowl. It's such a great, rewarding, fun time. I've driven the truck the first two years and am looking forward to doing it again for years to come."

Monica has worked at Yale-New Haven Hospital for 10 years for the Department of Protective Services. In that time she has grown close to many people that struggle with cancer. "The first time I heard the word cancer was when I was 10," she says. "My great grandpa passed away from lung cancer." Monica remembers feeling so sad but also remembers her mom telling her "they will find a cure one day to help people that get cancer."

When construction on Smilow began, Monica recalls many patients and staff using one common word...Hope. Hope for ways to treat cancer, hope for a cure. Monica exclaims, "To all the riders, volunteers and those involved with CTF I say, have HOPE! "

