



Angelique Garay
Cyclist, 2011, 2013 and 2014 Closer to Free Ride

In the spring of 2011 Angelique Garay looked at the advertisement for the first Closer to Free Ride. In her youth, she was an avid rider and she had been deeply affected by cancer so on that day her team was born: Macs and Millers.

Fast forward to Ride Day, September 10, 2011 and the entire team woke very early with different goals ahead of them. Angelique rode in memory of her Uncle Billy (Reverend William Kennedy SJC) who was treated at Smilow Cancer Hospital, and who lost his fight 2 years prior, and in honor of her parents, both survivors. The team has grown since and in 2013 the Macs and Millers were 14 strong. The team is made up of colleagues, friends and cancer survivor Heather Kastendieck, many of whom travel a long distance to get to New Haven.

“We all ride between 25 and 100 miles regardless of our personal efforts in honor of our family members, the patients we care for, the medical teams who treat them, their families who support and help them heal, and in memory of those whom our supporters have asked us to remember”, says Angelique.

“This year we experienced firsthand how cancer hits home,” says Angelique. “Our friend and colleague Gail Kerwin was diagnosed with lung and thyroid cancers. She underwent her surgeries in two stages and will be returning to work in the beginning of May. This year I dedicate my Metric Century ride to Gail, her courage and her grace.”

Through it all, Angelique and her co-captain Jennifer Lacoske most appreciate the extraordinary sense of community and support throughout Ride Day. “I am pleased to ride,” she says, “and as one of my teammates Dan Blevins says, we have an obligation because we are the fortunate ones who can.”

