



Stacey Hubbard
Cyclist 2015, 2014 and 2013

A crusade is a concerted effort or a vigorous movement for a cause. The 88 members of Carl's Crusaders are certainly behind a concerted effort to deliver on Stacey Hubbard's quest to honor the love of her life, Carl, after he passed away in 2013. That was the year that Carl's Crusaders joined the Closer to Free Ride and they continue to be inspired by Stacey's leadership and passion.

Stacey has endured an abundance of hardship and has come through it all with an indomitable will and unending grace. She formed the team with her co-captains to not only honor Carl, but to support the organization that helped her family get through the most difficult time of their lives: Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Stacey's perseverance and drive created a team of 67 members in 2013 and 88 members in 2014 raising over \$140,000 over two years. Her love of the cause was always present; she helped every team member do something that we might not otherwise have done or push ourselves further than we have ever gone before. Every year, every ride, Stacey was present at the finish line for each member of the team. She helps each team member gain belief in themselves, confidence in their capabilities, and an inner joy that is priceless.

What drove Stacey to loosen the chains of despair in this terrible time, how and why did she believe in light after darkness and go after it? It was love for her husband and love for her son. She realized that this wonderful hospital, Smilow, makes the darkest days as bright as they could be. What better gift could she give to her husband than to honor this special place and the special people in it as well as create a beautiful legacy for Carl? She has done that and this has opened her son's eyes to the good in the world – that change can happen if the cause is strong and the unity of wonderful people is present. What a lesson she has taught her son.

Carl's Crusaders will be back in 2015, bigger and stronger than ever, to further their mission and to inspire all of us to push further, work harder and believe in the power of a crusade.

