



Sue Dangle, Volunteer, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015

Gary Dangle, Cyclist, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015

Usually our Rider and Volunteer spotlights are separate, but this month we introduce you to a dynamic husband and wife duo who are also a rider and volunteer duo. Sue and Gary Dangle have been involved since the very first Closer to Free Ride and as continues as a volunteer, Gary continues as a rider and cancer survivor. Read their stories in their own words here.

Sue Dangle – Volunteer

My husband, Gary, and I have been involved with the Closer to Free Ride since the inaugural year. After starting as a volunteer, Gary tried riding in year two and I'm still volunteering at the Registration/Information Tent from 9AM to 2PM on Ride Day. There are so many highlights that day, but the Opening Ceremony is my favorite. It is so inspirational to hear the stories of the many survivors and active patients who are part of the Ride. I encourage family members of each rider to attend the Opening Ceremony and cheer their rider on as they leave the Yale Bowl. Or be there at the end of the Ride to welcome the riders back after a long day of pedaling!

My husband was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2008. We watched the girders rising to build Smilow Cancer Hospital from his hospital room at Yale. We are blessed that he is cancer free today and we visit Smilow for his follow up visits. He entered Smilow Medical ICU in Dec 2014 for a life threatening; non-cancer liver infection and we then experienced firsthand the wonder that is the care of the Smilow professionals. I share the fundraising for the event with my husband. Because of his history and the support of our family and friends, fundraising is not a problem. Who can say no to a cancer survivor and his wife?

Gary Dangle – Rider

I am a cancer survivor, diagnosed in the spring of 2008 with Stage 4 throat cancer. Because of the people of Smilow, I'm healthy today.

At the first Ride, my wife and I volunteered for set-up at the Yale Bowl and stayed for the Opening Ceremony, which continues to be my favorite part of the event. I was so inspired by the speakers that day that I pledged to ride the following year and have ridden every year since. This year I have upped my game to ride the 62.5 miles. My first stop after arriving back at the Yale Bowl will be the massage tent – my second favorite part of the day!

