



Tanya Coleman
Volunteer 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011

Tanya Coleman has been a dedicated Closer to Free volunteer since the very first Ride. She began because her husband was diagnosed in March of 2010 with throat cancer and after 8 weeks of radiation went into remission, where he remains to this day. Although her husband is a survivor, Tanya has lost other members of her family to the disease, which deepens her connection to the event even further.

“Yes, I have a very personal connection to Smilow,” she says, “because in addition to my husband, my aunt at 67 years old died from lung cancer, another aunt died from rectal cancer at 55 years old and being at the hospital with all the wonderful people that made them comfortable in the last days was great for my family. So my connection runs very deep.”

What she loves the most about volunteering is the people she meets and the stories of survival that people are willing to share every year. Tanya, the veteran, encourages anyone who has a passion for helping people to consider volunteering. “The feeling you will receive for participating in a great cause is indescribable,” she says. “Although there are plenty of reasons I volunteer for the Closer to Free Ride, I do it mostly because of the joy I am able to provide to others.” On September 10, Tanya will be back to provide more joy to more people and she hopes you’ll join the team.

