



Heather has lived a life of servitude, running a home preschool/daycare, school bus driver for special needs children, volunteer, and 2 time surrogate for two families. After already having cancer twice, thyroid and melanoma, Heather was once again diagnosed with cancer, this time of the lung. Along with the cancer diagnosis, she was also given a diagnosis of Systemic Scleroderma and Raynaud's. Scleroderma hardens your organs and body. Unfortunately, there is no cure and Heather has the worst kind. This disease causes Heather a lot of pain and makes day to day living and small tasks such as eating, very difficult. The progression of the disease has left Heather unable to have a fulltime job like she used to, due to the pain and the numerous appointments. Her husband works 6 days a week, countless hours of overtime as well as them renting out rooms in their home to supplement the loss of dual income and the overwhelming amount of medical expenses. With being a recipient of the Mike Nosco Memorial Ride, Heather and her husband hope to be able to spend more of the precious time she has together, focusing on their 3 grown children and awaiting the blessing of their first grandchild, along with focusing on continuing her fight.

HEATHER MARTINEZ