



### **My story:**

- Hometown: Greenville, OH
- Current Residence: Jamestown, OH
- 2 Fun facts- Married to my wife Melissa. We have 2 kids, Hannah (19) and Isaac (16) and I went to school at the University of Dayton
- Where you work - International Paper
- JDRF Connection - My daughter Hannah and all of the T1Ds and their families that I have met over the years
- JDRF Rides you have done. - LaCrosse - 6 times, Burlington - 2 times, Amelia Island 1 time, Grand Rapids 1 time, My Ride - twice including doing the Ohio to Erie Trail

### **Ride to Cure Journey:**

I began riding with JDRF in 2012 when my daughter Hannah was diagnosed with T1D. I was a cyclist prior to her diagnosis and had done several rides fundraising for the MS, but now I wanted to find a group who understood what our family was going through and to make a difference in Hannah's life, which is what brought me to JDRF. I found the support that I was looking for between all of the great coaches and experienced riders. My first year I chose to do the Young's Dairy Ride as I could not imagine how I could raise \$2,000 to do a national ride while learning how to take care of Hannah. As it turned out that year I was the top fundraiser for the ride raising over \$1300. At that point I knew it was possible to raise the money to do a national ride. I chose to do LaCrosse as my first national ride as it was one of 2 rides that were during the summer when my family could join me. That first ride, not only did Melissa, Hannah and Isaac join me, but both mine and Melissa's parents and my friend Josh who lives near LaCross came and all of them volunteered at one of the rest stops. Ever since the ride has been a family affair for us. There is one quick story I would like to highlight about my very first national ride. I had a mechanical issue with my bike, where even though I was pedaling, it was not driving the rear wheel. I was afraid that my first ride may have just ended 4 miles in. I bring this up, because it highlights the tremendous support of Mike Clark and the bike room staff that is provided not just on the ride, but the entire ride weekend. The bike mechanics supporting the ride were able to change out my rear wheel and get me back on the road within about 15 to 20 minutes and I completed the century. Since that first ride, I have had the pleasure of riding both with my wife and with my daughter on several national rides. Probably one of the coolest ride experiences I had was 2021 when Hannah and I chose to do the Ohio to Erie Trail for our ride since there were no national rides due to

Covid. Hannah and I did 326 miles from Cincinnati to Cleveland over 2 weekends with Melissa and Isaac providing ride support the entire way with snacks and drinks and encouragement. In 2022, I had the opportunity to become a JDRF coach. I had certainly learned from some of the best and was an opportunity to give back so much that I have learned over the years from watching those coaches lead rides, provide encouragement and putting everyone else before themselves to make sure that our JDRF rides had a great time and were able to reach their goals on ride day. As the 2024 ride season begins, I will begin my 3rd year of coaching and I am looking forward to seeing each of you out on the road. Favorite Ride – LaCrosse

