

February 21, 2007

Hi Trudy:

As you know I have been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. This is a very debilitating disease for which there is no cure yet. I have had a very difficult few years going from Doctor to Doctor and hospital to hospital. Finally in August of 2006 I suffered an eye hemorrhage in my left eye and a few days later I lost complete vision from that eye. At that point some Doctors began honing in on my symptoms and I was finally diagnosed with MS.

Unfortunately my disease has progressed faster than I had hoped for. I have lost a lot of strength on my left side, which has forced me to use a wheelchair. As you know I have 2 small children, ages 6 and 4. As you know raising children is challenging all within itself, not to mention that I have to do it mostly from a wheelchair is even harder. I have days when I can barely get out of bed, but when I see those two faces in the morning, my life stops and I force myself to get out of bed and take care of them the best that I can. They are my daily inspiration and comfort.

I will be participating in my local MS Walk this year in April along side my husband and children. I have a goal of raising \$3,000.00. If anyone is interested in helping my cause you can read the attached letter and send me donations to my address which is on the attached letter.

Well my dear friend, I hope you know that I love you and that Baldwin is still very close to my heart. Please tell everyone that I say hello and I hope to be able to come home to PR sometime this year.

With all the love and appreciation, your friend,

Marlene Rodriguez-Wise
Class of '88