

# United in Health

## *Did You Know?*

Nearly 3,000 Nebraskans are living with multiple sclerosis. It is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system.



There were no warning signs that life was about to drastically change for Jessica, a 29-year-old mother, in early 2012. However, everything changed in one day that February when she suddenly began having vision problems. Within days she would lose a quarter of her vision and soon after half of her vision was gone. She also began experiencing sensory and gross motor deficit on the left side of her body. She was diagnosed with tumefactive multiple sclerosis (MS) – a progressive form of MS.

Despite the fact that MS has damaged the frontal lobe of Jessica's brain that affects memory and processing, she has made it a goal to get back to the job she loves as the Assistant Vice President of Project Everlast at the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF). However, since she can't work at the job she is passionate about right now, she has thrown that passion into getting better. Jessica is one of those people that when something is wrong, she needs to be involved in the solution. So, she is working with the National MS Society to learn as much about the disease as she can, participating in a local support group, and using her experience with MS to somehow help others.

Jessica explained, "The hardest thing is to accept that MS is permanent. I know I can't change that I have MS right now, but I can change my life to make it okay." Jessica said that she has the most amazing friends who have carried her through it all and make sure that both she and her little girl, Electa, are doing okay and being taken care of. She is so thankful for them all and said they've stepped up in a way she could've never imagined.