

## Why I Ride: Shelagh Anson

---

I try not to think about it, but sometimes when I look at my two beautiful children, the truth hits me like a ton of bricks.

Every day that goes by, they get closer and closer to permanent blindness.

Rowan and Caroline were born with Usher syndrome, a disease that affects hearing and sight. They've both had hearing problems from day one, but cochlear implants have helped with that. They also have difficulties with balance, but we've worked hard at helping them develop this ability.

The one thing we can't stop is the gradual loss of their sight.

They are now entering their teenage years. Some of my mom friends talk about the challenges of raising teenage children. But I know our family's challenges will be completely different.



Unless there is a research breakthrough very soon, my children will lose their vision in their teens.

This has been a hard journey for all of us. But we try to live in the moment, because we know blindness is coming ... unless you and I do something to stop it.

Thanks to Cycle for Sight supporters, Fighting Blindness Canada has been there for my children and me every step of the way. Above all, your support has given me hope — a hope I cling to when I feel afraid and overwhelmed.

**Every dollar you raise through Cycle for Sight brings us closer to a cure for eye diseases like Usher syndrome.**



**FIGHTING  
BLINDNESS  
CANADA**



**We've signed up for Cycle for Sight Virtual 2020 – this will be our 7<sup>th</sup> time participating – and are excited to once again join this incredible community on June 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The funds you raise through Cycle for Sight will support talented researchers who are doing incredible work in gene therapy, stem cell research and the new CRISPR technology. And I believe they will eventually find a treatment or cure for Usher syndrome and other eye diseases.

Someday very soon, I hope I can tell Rowan and Caroline they don't have to be afraid of going blind in a few years.

I'm not giving up, and I hope you won't either.