# Who My Heroes Are

by Jeffrey Davidson Schrager

People who get the job done daily.  People who serve others and lead by example.  People that make it happen. People that go beyond themselves and people who dare to dream.

How many times during the last two memorial days were police and firefighters honored for their sacrifice on duty on Sept 11th.  All heroes, period.  How many times were the airline crews that were on duty and serving that day mentioned in the same way?  They too are heroes to me.  They go to work everyday and do their job so that millions of people get safely to where they are going and usually without a second thought given about what a Herculean task ensuring that loved ones get home to one another is on a daily basis.

A few years ago, I had the good fortune of being introduced to Mr. Tony Curtis. A few years later, I waited outside a theater to get his autograph on a book he was in and while waiting to see him, a street person dressed in fatigues waited patiently with us while muttering to himself and making us in the crowd a bit nervous.  When Mr. Curtis came outside to greet this crowd, this disheveled person immediately started to try to push to the front saying " Mr. Curtis, I am one of your biggest fans! Mr. Curtis, I am a veteran!"  Instead of shunning him, Mr. Curtis absolutely stopped what he was doing and moved through the crowd to this man.  He put both hands on his shoulders, looked him straight in the eye and said "God bless you for what you have done for us" and proceeded to ask him for more detail about his service and experiences.

These men are both heroes.  The veteran for his service and pride in it and Mr. Curtis, not because he is a celebrity, but rather despite the fact that he is.  He, in front of his own adoring fans, showed the most interest in someone who others shunned simply for his looks and mannerisms.  Mr. Curtis saw the real person behind the shabby appearance and even respectfully acknowledged the man's military service.  In so doing, he provided a shining example of how to be for us all to learn from.

Finally, in my involvement with MDA, I have had the honor of being introduced to children who have neuromuscular disease. In particular, one little girl stands out.  Her name is Lexi and she is in a wheelchair like many with her ailment.  At a recent MDA Summer Camp, I saw her get up in front of a large crowd (which always terrified me) and she sang for us about what it would be like to walk.  There wasn't a dry eye anywhere. You can't believe what an impact that can have on you until you experience it first hand.  Later she told me that she has put together a CD and is selling them in order to raise money for MDA and help find a cure. She hopes to sell $5000 worth and will donate all the proceeds towards research.

I was so impressed with her that I asked her if she would consider being our MDA Ambassador for the Legacy Ride and she agreed and pledged her help to us.  In return for this honor, we hope to help Lexi sell her CDs through our website at www.LEGACYRIDE.org.  You can e-mail her today directly at: lexi@legacyride.org.

Lexi was there when we took delivery of the gold key to the Legacy Ride Motorcycle with which we hope to involve people and show what Making a Difference is all about and thereby raise money for MDA.  At the ceremony she remarked "I will walk when I'm 13!"  I stopped what I was doing and asked her if I heard her right and she said "Not only am I going to walk when I am 13, but when I grow up, I want to be a Doctor."

Lexi is *my* hero.  She not only makes it happen with her CD and believes in herself so much at her tender age that she *knows not only that she will walk but when*!.  She dares to dream despite any odds otherwise. If I were to wager on the odds, I would put my money on Lexi, my hero.

Be a hero too! Please *Make A Difference* and help Lexi and The Legacy Ride raise money for MDA so that the dreams of all the Lexis out there can come true today!

"If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves."--- Thomas Edison