Ultimate Hiker Profile – Amy McKelvey

Amy McKelvey’s daughter, Emily, was diagnosed with a form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) during the summer of 2008. Five months later, in December 2008, she was gone. In 2012, Amy first decided to lace up her boots and fight back against the disease that took so much from her family.

Amy had never really hiked before, but through the Ultimate Hike training program, and motivated by the memory of her sweet girl, she completed her first Foothills Trail Ultimate Hike. “While this hike is challenging, and at times a bit difficult, it pales in comparison to the thoughts of all that Emily endured during her five-month battle,” said Amy.

Today, hundreds of training miles and a trip to West Virginia to complete a new trail later, Amy is training for her seventh Ultimate Hike. She also serves on CureSearch’s Ultimate Hike National Task Force and helps recruit Hikers in the greater Charlotte area. She has reached the Ultimate Hike Summit Club (raising $5,000 or more) many times over, and her team - Team MLE - gets bigger each year.

Amy cherishes the relationships she’s made through Ultimate Hike, and knows that the work she’s doing in Emily’s memory will make a big difference. “We hike today to find a cure, so one day we won’t have to hike for research. We’ll just hike because we like each other.”

Amy McKelvey (upper right) is pictured on a training hike for the 2017 Foothills Ultimate Hike.