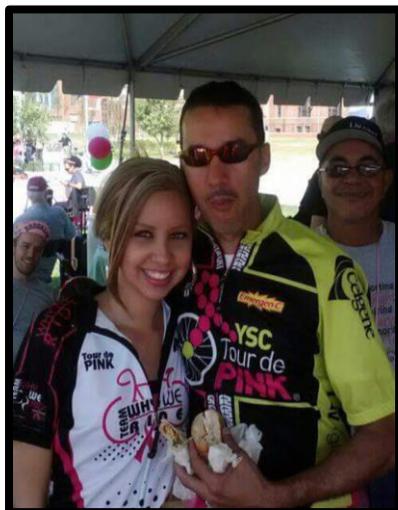




## Jose Falcon

### Father, Co-Survivor and Veteran Tour de Pink Rider



My name is Jose Falcon and I am the proud father and caregiver to my only daughter, Kayla Falcon. She was diagnosed with Stage 4 Metastatic breast cancer at the age of 22 in March of 2011 as we were living in Orlando. I first heard of the Young Survival Coalition through donating to my cousin, Evelyn Hernandez's, Tour de Pink fundraising page. However, I never thought I would be involved with YSC for my own daughter.

Once Kayla was diagnosed, my cousin Evelyn had me contact a YSC staff member who immediately responded to my questions over email, on a Saturday afternoon! The moment we were in contact with YSC, we were given the best medical information but more importantly, made us feel as if we were not alone. Those early moments were magical to me and my family because it gave us hope, strength and love. As treatments were discussed, I decided to make the move to Boston while Kayla traveled back and forth from Orlando. As I was in Boston, I decided to meet with Evelyn and her TdP family in New

Jersey to join her on her second TdP.

I had no idea what I would be stepping into, but that day changed my life forever. I met the Team Captain of Team Why We Ride, Tony Dean, and realized how truly amazing the YSC community is and the huge impact YSC has. That day, I gained an incredible network of friends and family. I called Kayla the same day and had her fly from Florida to meet this new TdP family of mine. When Kayla arrived, she quickly came to understand that she was not alone in her fight. One woman in particular, Jamie Pleva, had a huge positive influence on Kayla. As she was speaking with Jamie, Jamie handed Kayla a handkerchief to symbolize their friendship, their pact to fight this battle together and the promise to see Kayla the following year at TdP.

That weekend and Jamie brought us the greatest gifts in life, love hope and peace. I will forever be grateful for the YSC family for bringing people together for a common cause through a common sense of purpose. I dislike cancer for what it has done to my life, yet I love what it has brought to my life. It gave me a bigger family. Becoming part of Team Why We Ride has been one of the most gratifying experiences in my life. This team has taught me the true value of having love for others. My brothers, sisters, cousins, nephews nieces and friends have joined me a long this journey. We all came together as a family to support, inspire and encourage others that they too, are not alone in this fight.

**Tour de Pink is a journey of three days, touching peoples' lives in so many ways.**

Share your story with us, [here](#).



3 DAYS.

200 MILES.

1 PURPOSE.

[ysctourdepink.org](http://ysctourdepink.org)

 /TdPSouth

 /TdPEastCoast

 /TdPWestCoast

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 #TdP200