



October 16, 2009

## **Cycling for Childhood Cancer...Mission Accomplished!**

Over 250 miles of cycling, memories that will last a lifetime, and smiles on the faces of the children fighting cancer and their families.

On Thursday October 8, 2009, the eve prior to our cross state bike event, Cycling for Childhood Cancer, t-shirts matching the rider's jerseys, which were specially made for the children fighting cancer, were delivered to Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. As the eve of the event was coming to a close, the riders and support drivers were tuned into their weather stations to find out what the forecast was going to be for the 259 mile trek across the state of Ohio. Friday, October 9, 2009, the longest mileage day of the ride at 110 miles, called for a forecast of rain and cold temperatures. Even though the weather forecast did not look good, each of the riders were excited to get on their bikes and ride with the mission to bring relief to the families and joy to their sick children as they do battle with cancer.

Friday morning, October 9, 2009, around 8:00 a.m. our team of riders and support drivers met at the starting location, Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland. While at Rainbow Babies and Children's, our team received one of the warmest welcomes from some the staff at the hospital and a very special 'Thank You' from the Children fighting cancer (see below).



After enjoying our warm welcome, it was time for the riders to get on their bikes and drivers in their vehicles and head off into the rain to start the first leg of the journey. Our

excitement and spirits were high as we started to make our way through the streets of downtown Cleveland. About 6 miles into the ride, we had our first incident, a flat tire. After about 3 new tubes and still no success, we decided to take the rim off our spare bike and worry about the flat later (it was later found out that the tire had a piece of glass stuck inside it that kept cutting the tubes). With the new rim and tire in place and the flat now on the spare bike, we were back on the road. About 6 miles later we had our second incident when one of our riders was actually involved in an accident where he was hit by a car. The rider who was unfortunately unable to continue, told us we have a mission to do, to go and finish the ride and help the children. The rider is doing fine and will be biking again soon. At this point we were about 12 miles into our first day's ride of 110 miles and it was already past noon. The riders huddled and decided that in order to make it to our destination of Bucyrus before dark; we would really have to move quickly. From that point, we were back on our bikes, in a pace line formation and making our way south west at about 20mph. We made a stop at about the 30 mile point to have a quick snack and make a Blog entry, however, due to the rain we cooled down so fast that we decided kept the remainder of the rest stops to a minimum. About 105 miles into our 110 mile day we had our third incident, a rider fell while crossing wet railroad tracks. He was fine and continued to ride. Finally, around 6:45 Friday evening, we arrived at the lodging location for first evening, the Hide Away Country Inn located in the city of Bucyrus. We all were grateful to have a roof over our head and somewhere DRY to stay.

Day 2, Saturday October 10, 2009, started off much better with the clouds disappearing and blue skies and sunshine over our heads. We left the Hide Away Country Inn around 9:00 a.m. and rode without incident until the same rider who fell on the railroad tracks the previous day did it again but on a different set of tracks. Again he was fine just a little shocked that he fell two days in a row. Overall Saturday's ride of 97 miles was amazing. We held a very quick pace, and with the sun out, we were warm, able to stop to eat, refill water bottles and make Blog entries. We arrived at Victoria's Bed and Breakfast in Xenia Ohio, our lodging for our second evening, around 4:45 in the afternoon. The owners of Victoria's Bed and Breakfast had a wonderful home cooked meal waiting for us consisting of chili, potato soup, lasagna, salad, and homemade oatmeal cookies for dessert. Our team of riders and drivers, the owners and family of Victoria's Bed and Breakfast, and their neighbors all sat at their large dinner table and shared stories and enjoyed dinner together. After dinner, our team headed up to one of the rooms in the house where there was a pool table and enjoyed each others company and played pool. Their house, the dinner and the company was absolutely wonderful.

Day 3, Sunday October 11, 2009, was much cooler but the sun was out and our goal of arriving in Cincinnati was only 52 miles away so there was a feeling of excitement. After breakfast and prepping our bikes, we were ready to ride again. We thanked the owners of Victoria's Bed and Breakfast, took some final pictures at their house and then we were off. Our pace was slightly slower than Saturday though we still maintained a decent average. The area from Xenia to Cincinnati was by far the hilliest leg of the journey. For about the first 40 miles the hills were rolling, followed by a section where it seemed like we were heading down hill more than up hill. The last 3 miles prior to finishing our ride and arriving at Cincinnati Children's Hospital made each of the riders appreciate all the

hard work that was put in training for this event. The final 3 miles had hills that were both long and steep though we climbed them with strength and determination. Upon arriving at Cincinnati Children's Hospital, our group of riders was greeted with applause by some of the hospital staff. Our team of riders and drivers met with the group from the hospital where we shared stories from our ride. The group from the hospital was grateful for our help and appreciated our efforts in crossing the state of Ohio by bike to help the children fighting cancer and their families. Finally, our team of riders and drivers presented the specially printed jersey matching t-shirts for the children before packing up our bikes and heading home.

Cycling for Childhood Cancer was an amazing event that created memories that will last a lifetime. Thank you to all those who graciously donated to this cause and helped our foundation's mission to bring relief to families and joy to their sick children as they do battle with cancer.

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