

Cycle of Hope Cyclists Celebrate 15th Anniversary and Over \$ 2 Million Raised

The Cycle of Hope is one of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg's (HFHW) largest fundraisers. In 1993 Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg hosted the Jimmy Carter Work Project where a group of 60 individuals cycled from Minneapolis to Winnipeg raising money for our affiliate. They tithed a portion of their fundraising to the Winnipeg work project and inspired us to create a similar event. Since that time annually, a group of 12 to 60 riders makes a trek to somewhere in North America and raises funds to construct a HFHW home in our area.

This year Cycle of Hope celebrates its 15th Anniversary ride with the selected route for this anniversary being The Great Lakes Tour. Departing Winnipeg early on July 5, the ride will start in St. Croix, Minnesota cycling through beautiful Wisconsin and Michigan and arriving back in Winnipeg on Saturday, July 19.

It is expected that the cycle will cover over 1000 miles. Three of the days our cycling mileage will exceed 100 miles per day. This year our group consists of 45 riders and 10 support volunteers.

In order for a cyclist to qualify for participation in the Cycle of Hope, he/she must raise a pre-set amount of funds. This year the total goal is to raise \$175,000. In addition to the funds that they raise, each cyclist must cover their own expenses. All funds raised during this year's ride will go entirely towards the construction of the Cycle of Hope sponsored Habitat home which will be located on Minto Street.

The Cycle of Hope volunteers have cycled to or from Winnipeg from such delightful places such as Eagle Butte (South Dakota), Los Angeles, Denver, Kansas City, Nashville, Chicago, the Canadian Rockies, to list but a few destinations.

Our ambitious event would not be possible or achievable without the help of the communities through which we ride. We invite communities to provide us comfortable gymnasium and church floors to sleep on and in which to store our biking gear overnight. The hot showers, an evening meal, and breakfast the following morning, round out the assistance provided by these generous host communities.

On their return to Winnipeg on July 19, it is expected that at approximately noon, the riders will cycle down St. Mary's Road to Portage and Main and then proceed to west on Portage Avenue to Minto Street.

The Cycle of Hope has provided Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg with over \$2 million in funds over its 15 year of existence and we are eternally grateful for the dedication and inspiration that these extraordinary volunteers have done to improve the lives of our Habitat families.

For further information visit our website at www.habitat.mb.ca or contact Elaine Smith, Manager, Special Events at esmith@habitat.mb.ca or (204) 233-5160, Ext. 202.