

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bicyclists begin 3,300-mile ride across America

Healthcare activists ride to promote domestic and global health awareness

COLUMBUS, Ohio – One-third of the world’s population is infected with tuberculosis. An estimated 2.5 billion people, half the population of the developing world, lack access to adequate sanitation. Twenty-five bicyclists from across the United States are on a mission to change these and other health problems affecting billions of people around the world. On March 30, 2010, these bicyclists, as part of the non-profit organization Ride for World Health (R4WH), will embark on a 3,300-mile bicycle journey through 47 cities from San Diego, California to Washington, D.C., concluding on May 25. Their goal is to promote domestic and global health awareness as well as to raise funds for aid organizations working to improve access to healthcare in the poorest communities of the world. Among the bicyclists are medical students, public health professionals, researchers, a Peace Corps alumna, and a Teach for America alumna.

Along the route, national “Global Health Days” are scheduled for major medical centers in Tucson, Arizona; El Paso, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio and Washington, D.C. to facilitate and ignite conversation as part of Ride for World Health’s “Coast-to-Coast Lecture Series.” These lectures will address topics such as healthcare, poverty and illness, HIV/AIDS and women and children’s health issues. They will also feature keynote speakers who are renowned figures in global health and who will share their expertise and experiences providing health care services to the underprivileged. Lectures from the “Coast-to-Coast Lecture Series” are also scheduled in medical clinics, schools, churches and community centers along the route.

“Ride for World Health 2010 is making some big changes this year – changes which we know will ensure the success of Ride for World Health for many years into the future,” said R4WH CEO Libby Huffman. “[We] stand together in our passion for one thing – improving access to quality and necessary health care for all citizens of the world.”

Solidarity Rides and fundraising events are also planned to promote community support and to raise funds for the organization’s 2010 beneficiaries, HEAL Africa and World Bicycle Relief. The 2009 ride was highlighted by the donation of \$80,000 to two incredible beneficiaries – Village Health Works and Esperança

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Health care activists gear-up for cross-county bike ride

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Ride for World Health 2010 is sponsored by local and national organizations including The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Roll: bike shop, the Pediatric Academic Association, RoadID, PowerBar, Einstein Bros Bagels, Nationwide Children's Hospital and numerous private donors.

About Ride for World Health

Ride for World Health, a national non-profit organization, was founded in 2004 by a small group of Ohio State University medical students as a reaction to the state of domestic and global healthcare. Those students decided to take a proactive role in addressing the problem, so they each placed \$200 of their own money into a jar and Ride for World Health was born. This April and May will be the fifth annual cross-country ride. The goal is to raise awareness of global health issues and promote change within society through education, advocacy, fundraising and dialogue. For more information please visit <http://www.rideforworldhealth.org>.

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