

Ride for World Health 2010 Information

Ride for World Health

Ride for World Health (R4WH) is a non-profit organization that was founded by medical students in November 2004. Today, the organization consists of many members of the medical community, including physicians, medical and nursing students, and other professionals who participate in an annual 3,300-mile coast-to-coast bike ride and lecture series. From San Diego, California to Washington, D.C., R4WH initiates meaningful dialogue about global health with communities along the way. This year, the ride begins March 30 and runs through May 25. The mission is to address global health disparities by focusing on education, advocacy and fundraising. The goal of R4WH is to raise significant funds for non-profit organizations that provide health care for developing communities across the globe. The 2010 beneficiaries are HEAL Africa and World Bicycle Relief. R4WH also strives to raise awareness about global health issues and empower individuals to become informed, active global citizens.

Solidarity Rides

Ride for World Health will be holding three “Solidarity Rides” during the 2010 Ride. Solidarity Rides are single-day public bike riding events with the dual purpose of promoting community interest in global health issues and involving the community in raising funds to benefit global health organizations. The three 2010 Solidarity Rides will take place in Tucson, Arizona on April 10, in Fort Worth, Texas on April 26, and in Columbus, Ohio on May 16. Community cyclists will join the R4WH National Team riders on pre-planned routes varying in length from 20-40 miles. Each ride has a small minimum fundraising contribution to participate. Rounding out each Solidarity Ride event will be an opening ceremony with introductory comments by the R4WH bikers, refreshments following the ride and awards to top fundraisers.

Coast-to-Coast Lecture Series

Ride for World Health has prided itself on its innovative Coast-to-Coast Lecture Series since its initial cross-country journey in 2006. The updated 2010 Coast-to-Coast Lecture Series features several new lectures that provide an overview of the basic concerns in global health. Each lecture is targeted to a specific level of education and contains interactive components. It is R4WH’s goal that this approach will enable the riders to deliver an age appropriate, effective, and interesting lecture to every audience they visit. In addition to its classic lecture series, R4WH 2010 will continue its education curriculum with its journal club series, interactive learning sessions and online education modules. Topics discussed in R4WH’s educational curriculum include poverty and health, HIV/AIDS prevention, women’s health and access to childhood immunizations.

Event Days

Ride for World Health speaks at a variety of locations along the route, hosting both major and minor event days. Minor events are held most days of the ride and consist of talks at venues such as schools, community centers and churches. Talks are given by the R4WH National Team Riders and feature R4WH’s Coast-to-Coast Lecture Series. Major event days, also referred to as Global Health Days, are held at major medical centers along the route. Typical schedule of

events during Global Health Days include a “Ride In” of the riders with a welcome ceremony, an education curriculum with specific lectures geared for the particular site and keynote speakers from R4WH’s beneficiaries who will share their expertise and experiences in global health. Ride for World Health 2010 will be hosting Major events in San Diego, California; Tucson, Arizona; El Paso, Texas; Memphis, Tennessee; Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; and Washington, D.C.

HEAL Africa

HEAL Africa is based in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, a devastated region of central Africa, where war has claimed over six million lives in the past fifteen years. Formed in 1996, HEAL Africa is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide holistic care for the Congolese people through developing medical, social and economic initiatives, such as training health professionals, strengthening social activists and providing physical, spiritual and social healing.

HEAL Africa began as a hospital with the goal of training Congolese medical professionals in orthopedics and fistula repair, but they recognized that many health problems were products of larger societal causes. They have since increased their reach to local communities to develop HIV/AIDS programs, training programs for rural healthcare professionals, public education about the law and human rights and numerous other programs to benefit the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Through these mechanisms, HEAL Africa strives to provide holistic care for a greater community.

World Bicycle Relief

Founded in 2005 in response to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, World Bicycle Relief is a non-profit organization specializing in large-scale bicycle programs dedicated to providing access to independence and livelihood through “The Power of Bicycles.” Compared to walking, bicycling represents an enormous increase in productivity and access to healthcare, education and economic development opportunities.

Since its inception, World Bicycle Relief has worked with many different projects, providing more than 50,000 bicycles to help empower and increase the livelihood of global citizens. Their projects have ranged from Project Tsunami, through which they aided recovery after the devastating tsunami in 2004, to Project CHAI and Project Zambia through which they provided bicycles to healthcare workers, mentors working with vulnerable children and educators of disease prevention in six African countries. World Bicycle Relief is also working to increase access to school for children in rural Zambia who are at risk for extreme poverty and high HIV/AIDS infection rates. Their overall mission is to provide simple, sustainable transportation to provide disaster assistance and poverty relief.