



The Helping Hand

Fall/Winter 2011
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Families put the “kids” in Ride for Kids®

If you've never attended a Ride for Kids® event, you might be surprised to learn that, while there are lots of huge-hearted motorcyclists and other fantastic volunteers at every ride, there are also some other very special people who look forward to attending every year: young brain tumor patients and survivors—the “stars” of the event—and their families.

From New York to Washington state, Florida to California, and all points in between, the common thread that runs through Ride for Kids® events is the tremendous outpouring of love shared by everyone present.

Imagine a huge, warm and fuzzy feeling, the kind that quickly evaporates the worries of the world.

“It’s not a sad event, which is how most people view it unless they attend. It’s a celebration of life,” declares Patricia, whose daughter Molly is a brain tumor survivor.

“The Ride for Kids event is exhilarating,” says Alina, mother of survivor Reiana. “The moments leading up to takeoff are priceless—hearing the motorcycle engines, seeing smiling faces, the blaring of horns all lead up to an emotional wave to the crowd. I get goose bumps from the love I feel from everyone towards my daughter and family.”

Nor are these parents alone in their feelings.

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for both me and my family to engage in this event,” says Ride for Kids® star Dorene, who has attended the Kansas City event for the past two years. “It means something to me when I am able to represent the PBTF, as a participant and speaker,” she explains.

When a child develops a brain tumor, it can also significantly impact the life of his or her siblings. The Ride for Kids® provides a fun and meaningful experience for those children as well, embracing them as integral part of the family equation.

“Molly’s brother is 13 and just finds it all a wonderful experience,” says Patricia.



Participating in a Ride for Kids® event is a meaningful experience for the whole family, including grandparents, parents, brain tumor patients and siblings. The Carviou family not only attends the Wisconsin ride, they have become involved in planning it as well.

(Continued on page 18)

Caring Hand, Helping Hand merge

We appreciate the positive feedback we received about the Summer 2011 combined edition of the *Caring Hand* and *Helping Hand* newsletters. Starting with this issue, we’re merging the publications under the *Helping Hand* name. Inside you’ll find a mix of content about our research activity, family support programs, Ride for Kids® events, and fundraising opportunities. Whether you’re related to a child with a brain tumor or you’re a motorcycle enthusiast, medical professional or dedicated volunteer, we hope you enjoy reading our news. Please send your comments and story ideas to us at info@pbtfus.org.

About Us

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation® is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to find the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors. We fund medical research, increase public awareness of the disease, promote early detection and treatment, and offer family support programs.

Federal employees may make donations to the PBTF using CFC #10190. We have also earned Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK Moving our mission forward

At the writing of this update to all of our supporters, the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation® is preparing for our annual Ride for Kids® Task Force Leaders Meeting in Asheville. Volunteers from across the United States will be joining us to report on their 2011 Ride for Kids® events and to plan for the 2012 season.



This meeting will celebrate our work on behalf of survivors and their families, and will be a time of training and preparation for a new year. Pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. Gerry Grant from the PBTF Institute at Duke will report on the research progress being made through Ride for Kids® funding support. We will also hear from a patient family member who volunteers on the Wisconsin task force and from a college scholarship recipient who attends our Knoxville ride.

Also in this quarter we will again support the Society for Neuro-Oncology's annual meeting, where researchers will share their latest findings and talk about quality of life issues for brain tumor survivors. As always, our schedule here at the PBTF is always full of opportunities to keep our mission moving forward.

As you read this newsletter you will learn about the most recent efforts of our volunteers and staff to achieve our goal of saving the lives of children with brain tumors and giving them a better quality of life. We hope you will be inspired to join us.

Dianne S. Traynor
President and Chairman of the Board

The Helping Hand

Would you like to receive our email press releases and updates? Have an address change?

info@pbtfus.org

800-253-6530

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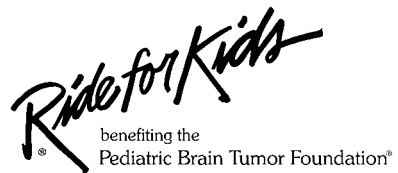
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Kids treated to international soccer match

This past July, 18 young brain tumor patients and their siblings suited up and took the field at the Carter Finley Stadium in Raleigh, N.C., just prior to the start of the World Football Challenge exhibition soccer match between Italy's Juventus FC and Mexico's CD Guadalajara. The exciting match was broadcast by ESPN2 and Univision, with Juventus taking the win. The treat was made possible by the staff of Bob and The Showgram, a popular Raleigh-based morning radio show that also hosts the annual Bob's Buddies Radiothon benefiting the PBTF (see page 7). The participants' presence was announced twice over the stadium public address system, and the crowd was invited to join Bob's Buddies in November.



Ride for Kids® coming to 40 cities in 2012



Ride for Kids® events are fun for families and motorcyclists alike. At our rides, volunteers, fundraisers and ride participants get a chance to meet the children we help. And those kids and their families get to enjoy a day off from the constant worry and stress caused by illness.

In 2012 we'll hold events in 40 cities across the United States. The Asheville and Cleveland rides have new start points, and the Louisiana ride is changing both its date and its location. Several other rides will take place on new weekends, so check the calendar carefully. More details are available on rideforkids.org.

2012 Ride for Kids® Schedule

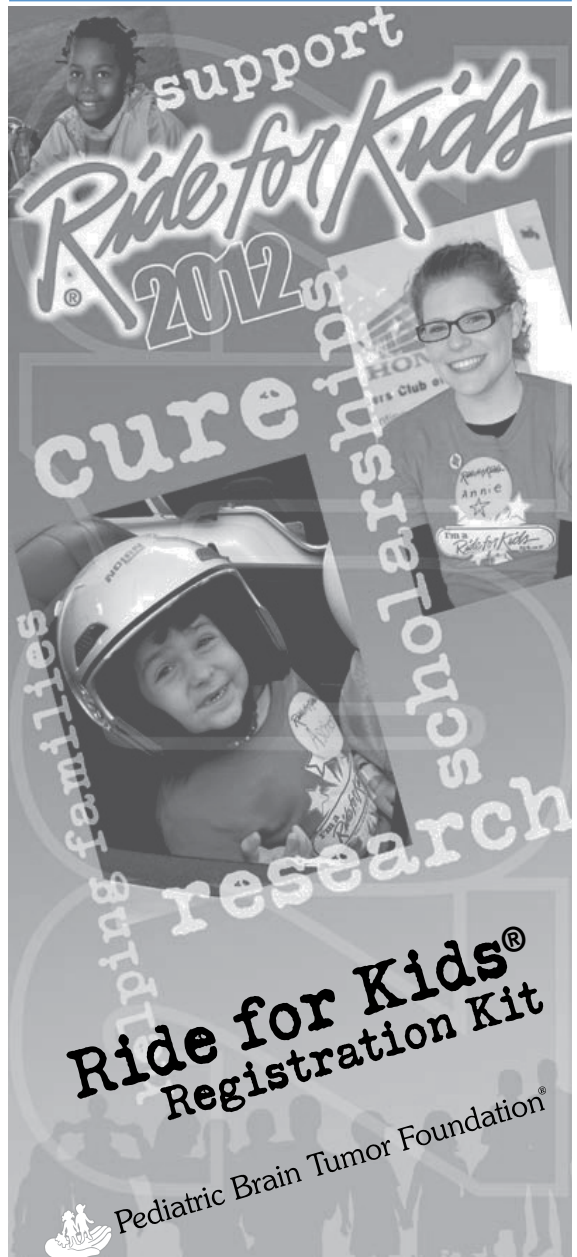
- April 15 South Florida
- April 22 Northeast Florida
Southern California*
- April 29 Houston
- May 6 Los Angeles
Triangle Area
- May 20 Louisiana
Middle Tennessee
- June 3 Albuquerque
Atlanta
Richmond
- June 10 Cleveland
Colorado
- July 8 Northern Indiana
- July 15 Chicagoland
Minnesota
Utica
- July 22 Marysville
- July 29 Kansas City
Knoxville
- Aug. 5 Hudson Valley
Pittsburgh
Wisconsin
- Aug. 11 Utah**
- Aug. 19 New England
St. Louis
- Aug. 26 Asheville
Michigan***
- Sept. 9 Birmingham
Indianapolis
Puget Sound
- Sept. 16 Oklahoma
Philadelphia
- Sept. 23 Baltimore/Washington
- Sept. 30 Las Vegas
- Oct. 7 Dallas/Fort Worth
Northern California
- Oct. 21 Phoenix
San Diego
- Nov. 4 Tampa Bay Area

* Dual sport event

** Saturday event

*** Dual sport and road ride

2012 Ride for Kids® registration kits are now available. Call 800-253-6530 or email rideforkids@rideforkids.org to order yours today!



Scholarship recipients study

When we started our scholarship program in 2002, there was just one recipient. Now, almost 10 years later, we've awarded 941 scholarships to young people affected by brain tumors.

This year scholarships went to the 153 childhood brain tumor survivors listed below.

Students use the \$1,000 scholarships to help pay for education-related expenses such as tuition, fees and books at any accredited post-secondary institution, including technical schools, vocational schools, junior colleges, and four-year colleges or universities in the U.S.

The scholarship program is funded in part by the *Cycle World* Joseph C. Parkhurst Education Fund and the Tim and Tom Gullikson Family Support Fund at the PBTF, and from donors like you.

Join us in making the dream of education a reality for these deserving students. Consider donating to our college scholarship program today. Donate online at pbtfus.org/survivors/education/scholarships.

Meredith A. / Indiana University
Nicholas A. / Florida Gulf Coast University
Rebecca A. / New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Vincent A. / St. Mary's University
Alex B. / University of Florida
Allison B. / Eastern Michigan University
Benjamin B. / Butler University
Caitlyn B. / Chaffey College
Christopher B. / Georgia Institute of Technology
David B. / University of Wisconsin - Superior
Emily B. / University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Ethan B. / Washington State University
Hannah B. / University of Arizona
Kaitlin B. / University of Northern Iowa
Kayla B. / Polk State College
Kelsey B. / Northern Illinois University
Kendra B. / Bethany College
Kylie B. / College of Lake County
Lauren B. / Point Loma Nazarene University
Patricia B. / Colorado State University
Rebecca B. / University of Wisconsin - Stout
Tanner B. / Brigham Young University
Tyler B. / University of Wisconsin - Washington County
Alexander C. / Benedictine University at Springfield
Alissa C. / SUNY Fredonia
Caitlin C. / Regis University

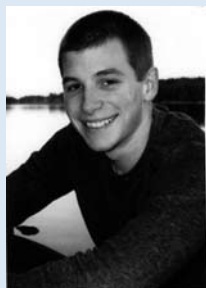
Holli C. / Utah State University
Kaitlyn C. / Michigan State University
Nicholaus C. / Longwood University
Scott C. / University of Texas at San Antonio
Victoria C. / University of California, Irvine
Ashley D. / University of Louisville
Cayce D. / University of Tennessee
Dorene D. / Washburn University
Joanna D. / Wright State University
John D. / Creighton University
Kristina D. / University of Florida
Samuel D. / North Greenville University
Zachary D. / Minot State University
Amanda E. / SUNY Orange
Mathew E. / University of New Mexico
Thad E. / Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Joseph F. / Penn State University
Kathryn F. / Indiana University - Purdue University
Seth F. / Bob Jones University
Vincente F. / Richard Stockton College of New Jersey
Adina G. / University of Arizona
Andrew G. / Duquesne University
Annie G. / Muhlenberg College
Dayna G. / Wartburg College
Gina G. / Rockhurst University
Jade G. / Olivet Nazarene University
Jenna G. / University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
Libbie G. / Saint Mary's College
Miles G. / El Camino College

Olivia G. / Reinhardt University
Shoshanna G. / Wake Forest University
Stephanie G. / University of Toledo
Victoria G. / Georgia Southwestern State University
Abigail H. / St. Louis Community College - Meramec
Alice H. / Pacific University



"I am honored by your scholarship award. It will help me pursue my short-term goal of attending college and my long-term goal of a career in business. I greatly appreciate the generosity of the foundation and your efforts to support brain tumor research as well as survivorship education programs. Someday I hope to give back to the foundation and assist other cancer survivors. Thank you for your investment in my future."

—David



"I want to express how honored I feel to have received this scholarship, and to thank all of the donors that make this scholarship possible."

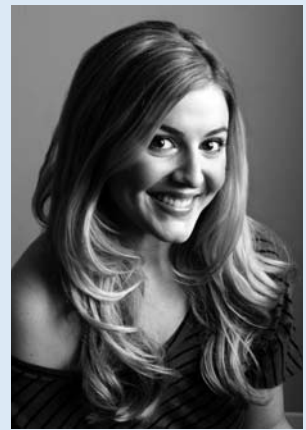
—Ethan

at schools across country



“College is helping me achieve my goal of being an occupational therapist and helping other survivors like me. This is my senior year and it’s going to be a good one, thanks to the scholarship.”

—Annie



“Your generous support will help me pay for some of my college costs this year, specifically the expensive nursing program textbooks. I am returning to school with a lighter schedule as I continue to recover from recent radiation treatment, and then look forward to starting the nursing program in January 2012.”

—Casey

- Allison H. / Ball State University
 Anthony H. / University of Washington Bothell
 Cassadi H. / The University of Akron
 Evelyn H. / University of Oregon
 Katie H. / Baylor University
 Keith H. / University of Notre Dame
 Kyra H. / The Ohio State University
 LeighAnna H. / Baylor University
 Morgan H. / Linfield College
 Abigail J. / Brigham Young University
 Corey J. / College of DuPage
 Katelynn J. / Mesa State College
 Kinnon J. / Neumann University
 Megan J. / Upper Iowa University
 William J. / Saint Francis University
 Alicia K. / University of Northern Iowa
 Gabriella K. / Arizona State University
 Hillary K. / University of Michigan
 Jennifer K. / Community College of Baltimore County
 John K. / University of North Florida
 Andrew L. / Rowan University
 Audrey L. / Baton Rouge Community College
 Caitlin L. / Bridgewater State University
 David L. / Stonehill College
 Kevin L. / John Brown University
 Kimberly L. / Utah State University
 Lindsay L. / East Carolina University
 Matthew L. / Taylor University
 Patrick L. / Bellarmine University
 Tia L. / Mount San Antonio College
 Zachary L. / University of Maryland
 Christopher M. / Mitchell College
 Emily M. / Gonzaga University
 Jana M. / Becker College
 Katelyn M. / The College of Saint Rose
 Katherine M. / Palomar College
 Kayla M. / Orange Coast College
 Mary M. / Saint Francis College
 Michael M. / Pennsylvania State University
 Morgan M. / University of Dayton
 Scott M. / Rochester Institute of Technology
 Victor M. / Texas A&M University
 Cassie N. / Riverside Community College
- Devin O. / University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 Emily O. / The Ohio State University at Marion
 Melody O. / Folsom Lake College
 Samuel O. / Grand Valley State University
 Stanton O. / Pellissippi State Community College
 Yi O. / University of Houston - Victoria
 Andrew P. / Ivy-Tech Community College
 Casey P. / Illinois State University
 Kiandra P. / Troy University
 Kimberly P. / Carteret Community College
 Laura P. / Cabrini College
 Nikki P. / St. Charles Community College
 Jessica Q. / University of Tennessee, Knoxville
 Caitlin R. / Hope College
 John R. / Towson University
 Scott R. / University of Wisconsin-Platteville
 Sean R. / Jefferson Community & Technical College
 Alexander S. / Stanford University
 Allison S. / Christopher Newport University
 Alyssa S. / Edinboro University of PA
 Brittany S. / Waynesburg University
 Daniel S. / Community College of Baltimore County
 Glenn S. / Howard Community College
 Juliana S. / MSU at Paducah Regional Campus
 Lindsey S. / Texas State University - San Marcos
 Matthew S. / Ohio Northern University
 Nicholas S. / Rhodes State College
 Rebecca S. / West Virginia University
 Chelsey T. / University of Missouri
 Denise T. / University of Mary Washington
 Eleanor T. / Loyola University Chicago
 Rebecca T. / Colorado Mesa University
 Rhea T. / Columbus State Community College
 Samuel T. / University of Washington
 Scott T. / Boston College
 Terissa T. / Brigham Young University
 Jerilyn V. / Biola University
 Alyssa W. / Butte Community College
 Amanda W. / University of New Hampshire

- Andrew W. / Biola University
 Danielle W. / Michigan State University
 Diana W. / Spring Hill College
 Hannah W. / North Greenville University
 James W. / University of South Carolina - Upstate
 Karis W. / Hardin Simmons University
 Lynn W. / Western CT State University
 Brandi Y. / Eastern Arizona College
 Brittany Y. / Rutgers University
 Chantel Y. / University of Wisconsin-La Crosse



CYCLE WORLD
 PRINT | ONLINE | LIVE

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Firsthand knowledge of cancer inspires survivor to study medicine

When Vincent was first diagnosed with a medulloblastoma at age 9, he couldn't have imagined how profoundly it would alter his life—and in the most positive of ways.

"I've had a very unique experience," the college student now explains. "While those around me were learning about cancer from textbooks, I learned about it from experience."

It seems that Vincent is not only fascinated by the inner workings of the human body, he plans to devote his life to it.

"My experience with cancer has put me on an entirely different level of understanding and perspective," he says. "I realized that there is nothing that I would rather do than pass on my understanding and perspective to other young cancer patients."

As the door swung open on a new chapter in his life, Vincent excelled in subject matter that would challenge even the brightest minds, such as "Mechanisms of Disease" and "Molecular Genetics."

"The processes of the body are incredible when they proceed normally, and it's even more fascinating when something goes wrong, like uncontrolled cell division," he says.

Perhaps what is most inspiring about Vincent's academic triumphs are the obstacles he has overcome to achieve them. "The high-dose radiation that I received on my brain has given me short-term memory loss and other problems like persistent nausea that make test-taking difficult," he explains. "Despite those setbacks, I have learned to compensate for this over the years in all areas of my life."

Vincent, who will soon be conducting undergraduate research at a local hospital research center, has his eyes squarely focused on the future. His ultimate goal is to become a pediatric oncologist.

"I'll be able to treat children with cancer with more than just medicine. I'll be helping them with the knowledge and experience that I've used to excel as a cancer patient and survivor myself," he says.



Vincent's scholarship is helping him achieve his goal of becoming a pediatric oncologist.

Research offers new insights into tumor development

Scientists at Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center recently completed a comprehensive map of genetic mutations that occur in an oligodendroglioma, the second most common form of brain tumor in adults. Most significantly, they may have discovered the "missing link" to a biological cause of tumors. The findings were reported in the Aug. 4, 2011 issue of *Science*.

The researchers focused on the recurring mutations on CIC and FUBP1—two genes not previously associated with oligodendroglioma tumors—in seven tissue samples. When additional tissue samples were studied, it was revealed that two thirds of all the samples contained mutations on CIC and FUBP1.

Scientists have long espoused a "two-hit" theory in relation to the development of brain tumors. The theory is based on the fact that every human cell has two copies of the 23 chromosomes that contain thousands of protein-producing genes. If a gene on a chromosome is damaged or deleted—the "first hit"—the other copy can supply the missing protein. But when the second

copy also fails, the cell cannot make the proper protein. The result is often the development of cancer cells.

Scientists previously discovered that in an oligodendroglioma, the "first hit" occurs in regions of chromosomes 1 and 19, which fuse together, resulting in a loss of many genes on each chromosome. But for the first time, this study revealed that there were mutations on the remaining copies of the CIC and FUBP1 genes on chromosomes 1 and 19—suggesting the presence of the "second hit" needed to develop cancer.

"We can focus now on when these mutations develop during tumor formation, whether they can guide prognosis, and how they might form targets for therapy," says Chetan Bettgowda, M.D., Ph.D., chief resident in the Department of Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins.

Among those conducting the study was Dr. Bert Vogelstein, whose lab has a \$100,000 research grant from the PBTF.

PBTF radiothons give survivors a voice

The PBTF is winding down another successful year of radiothons. For the past several years, the foundation has held events in Florida, Arizona and North Carolina. The November event in Raleigh, N.C., rounded out another successful campaign to raise funds for the PBTF's family support and medical research programs.

This year's first radiothon—Sunny for Kids—took place Feb. 17-18 in the studios of South Florida's Sunny 104.3 WEAT-FM. Members of the station's on-air and management teams were joined by Heath Evans of the New Orleans Saints, and Emily Pantelides and Juan Carlos Fanjul from CBS 12's Good Morning South Florida. Volunteers from a local Walgreen's store staffed the phone lines, securing \$15,500 in donations and pledges.

The following week, it was off to Phoenix for the fourth KSLX for Kids Feb. 24-25, hosted by classic rock station 100.7 KSLX-FM. Native New Yorker Restaurants was back again as the premier sponsor. The event also included an online auction that featured items such a guitar autographed by Alice Cooper, a football signed by Arizona Cardinal Chris "Beanie" Wells, and an autographed ZZ Top DVD. The event raised \$48,000 for the PBTF.



Brain tumor survivor Rosalena (right) and KSLX's Pete Cummings support KSLX for Kids in Phoenix. Next spring the station will accept donations to the PBTF in exchange for song requests and dedications.

The fourth Bob's Buddies Radiothon, the last PBTF radiothon of the year, took place in Raleigh as this newsletter went to press. Hosted by brain tumor survivor Bob Dumas and his popular morning show team from Bob and the Showgram, the event was broadcast from the WDCG-FM (G105) studios.

During the event, listeners were encouraged to call in or log onto the station's website to make a donation to the PBTF. On-air personalities presented information about pediatric brain tumors and interviewed brain tumor researchers, caregivers, patients and their families throughout the day.



The event also included an online auction of awesome experiences and autographed items such as Katy Perry memorabilia, a basketball from the 2011-12 UNC Tarheels, and an American Idol Tour guitar. Final results are available on pbtfus.org.

Bob's Buddies has become so popular with G105 listeners that many have contacted the PBTF about holding fundraisers throughout the year.

Dates for the 2012 radio events will be set in the near future, so stay tuned for more information!

Choose your weapon in the war on childhood brain tumors

The Progressive International Motorcycle Shows series is set to launch its 2011-12 nationwide tour, and once again the PBTF will be displaying a motorcycle for the Ride for Kids®/Cycle World project bike drawing.

Wait, make that two bikes!

“Our theme this year is, ‘Choose your weapon in the fight against childhood brain tumors,’ and we’ll feature two very different Honda bikes,” says Ride for Kids® National Director Kyle Clack. “We’re really excited to have two creative powerhouses—Gregg DesJardins and Troy Lee—preparing our ‘weapons’ in the war on this devastating childhood disease.”



One of this year’s drawing bikes is a Honda Ruckus, seen here in the garage at Troy Lee Designs.

Gregg DesJardins from Gregg’s Customs will again work his magic on a Honda sport bike, this time a 2011 CBR250R. The second bike is a Honda Ruckus which Troy Lee, from Troy Lee Designs, is giving the utilitarian treatment.

“They will both build something very special, which will give everyone a choice,” says Clack. “And both choices help fund the medical research and family support programs of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.”

The last Ride for Kids®/Cycle World drawing, for a Honda CBR1000RR that DesJardins transformed into a retro racer called the “Catalyst,” raised more than \$53,000. The drawing has brought in over \$618,000 in donations to date.

The customized CBR250R and Ruckus will be unveiled at the International Motorcycle Show in Long Beach, Calif., on Dec. 9. Thereafter, the bikes will be on display at all remaining shows through March 2012. Show tickets are available at motorcycleshows.com.

Drawing tickets can be purchased at the shows, or online at rideforkids.org. The winners will be selected in a drawing at PBTF headquarters in Asheville, N.C., in May 2012.

2011-12 International Motorcycle Shows Schedule

Nov. 18-20, 2011	San Mateo, CA	San Mateo County Event Center
Dec. 2-4, 2011	Dallas, TX	Dallas Convention Center
Dec. 9-11, 2011	Long Beach, CA	Long Beach Convention Center
Dec. 16-18, 2011	Seattle, WA	New Location: Washington State Convention Center
Jan. 6-8, 2012	Novi, MI	Suburban Collection Showplace
Jan. 13-15, 2012	Washington, DC	Washington Convention Center
Jan. 20-22, 2012	New York, NY	Jacob K. Javits Center
Jan. 27-29, 2012	Cleveland, OH	IX Center
Feb. 3-5, 2012	Minneapolis, MN	Minneapolis Convention Center
Feb. 10-12, 2012	Chicago, IL	Donald J. Stephens Convention Center
Feb. 24-26, 2012	New city: Charlotte, NC	Charlotte Convention Center
March 14-17, 2012	Daytona Beach, FL	Ocean Center

2011 Ride For Kids® events raise awareness, funds

South Bend riders shine

July 10 was a beautiful day in northern Indiana, as 350 motorcyclists gathered at South Bend's Pinhook Park to raise \$69,555 at the Northern Indiana Ride for Kids® for the PBTF.



Lucas is one of South Bend's stars.

Several brain tumor survivors were on hand for the event, and many joined in as the ride wound through rural farmland under sunny skies. These "stars" later shared their stories during the Celebration of Life program. Katrina, mother of a 6-year-old brain tumor patient Carrie, also spoke.

"Carrie wasn't supposed to make it this long, but because of all of your support, she is a fighter and she is hanging in there. When I told her I was coming here today, she smiled," she said. (Sadly, Carrie passed away earlier this year.)

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** E.J. & Georgia Ford, \$15,186
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** ABATE Region #2, \$20,352
- **Motorcycle business:** B&E Honda, \$15,996

Kansas City revs up for the cause

Kansas City motorcyclists brought \$50,097 in contributions to the eighth annual Kansas City Ride for Kids® on July 10.

Departing on a warm morning from Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, 235 motorcyclists followed the "stars" of the day: brain tumor survivors Collins, Ben, J.T., Carter, Noah, Elizabeth, Jake, Dorene, Isabella, and Santos.



Santos (left) gets a helping hand in Kansas City.

The ride wound through Heritage Park, past graceful horse farms, historic homes and lush cornfields before skirting along Lake Olathe.

Immediately following the ride, the crowd heard moving words from several of the survivors, as well as from local radio personality "Slacker," who hosts the No. 1 morning show at 101 The Fox KCFX-FM. "Let's ride until we find the cure and don't have to ride for this cause anymore," he said.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Gary & Mary Droege, \$6,907
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Motorcycle Touring Assn. MO-1, \$6,304
- **Motorcycle business:** Engle Motors, \$10,677

Minnesota stays cool in the heat

Despite some rather hot and humid summertime weather, motorcyclists in White Bear Lake rallied for the cause on July 17, raising \$50,112 at the 19th Minnesota Ride for Kids®.



Jewell (left) is a longtime Minnesota star.

The event, which began at East Century College, took riders on a 50-mile tour of the area's scenic lakes. Participants then returned to the college for a Celebration of Life that paid honors to seven very special guests: local brain tumor survivors Domenick, Jewell, Josh, Chris, Catrina, Spenser, and Rachelle. Also present was the family of Allana Creager, who rode in her memory.

Josh's father inspired the crowd with his heartfelt words. "Because of this foundation, kids today have a much better chance for a cure," Rick said. "The children we diagnose today have treatments we only dreamed of."

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Bruce, Sandy & Justin Schafer, \$5,860
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** CMA Crosswinds #671, \$5,960
- **Motorcycle business:** Tousley Motorsports, \$8,395

Thumbs way up for Chicagoland

Chicagoland celebrated its 23rd Ride for Kids® in style on July 17 by raising \$222,595 for the PBTF.

Over 1,400 motorcyclists and supporters gathered on the hot, sunny day at Elgin Community College for an early morning ride that traversed the Fox River twice.

After the ride, everyone returned to the college to hear moving words from Stephanie, Melanie, Kaitlyn, Corey, Nikki, Carra, Teagan, Joshua, Kylie, Rachel, Lilly, Katrina, and Casey. Dr. Jason Fangusaro of Children's Memorial Hospital was also on hand to praise the riders' generosity.

“Without your fundraising we would not be making the progress we are making today,” he said. “In the research field, we are developing medicine that targets these children’s tumors, enabling them to lead better lives.”



Chicagoland’s brain tumor survivors shine.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Stacia & Steve Skinner, \$40,093
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Wings Over the Prairie, \$38,236
- **Motorcycle business:** Nielsen Enterprises, \$79,332

Support unwavering in Utica

July 17 was a banner day in Utica, when motorcyclists raised \$98,866 at the 14th local Ride for Kids®.



Thomas enjoys his first ride in Utica.

More than 480 participants enjoyed a morning ride that departed from the volunteer fire department in Deerfield and then wound through the Adirondack foothills before reaching the Old Forge Pavilion in the Town of Webb.

Riders then heard from brain tumor survivors Thomas, Vincent, Hunter, Joshua, Vinny, Cassandra, Mackenzie, Cassie, Kevin, and C.J. Thomas’ mother, Cindy, described her 10-year-old’s struggles and thanked everyone for being there.

“This was our first year, and we cannot believe the overwhelming support from these riders,” Cindy said. “[Thomas] is now cancer free ... academically, his last report card was the best he has ever received.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Peter Weidman & Judy Laforest, \$10,553
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA NY-N, \$18,674
- **Motorcycle business:** Sportline Power Products, \$24,875

Happy 20th, Marysville!

Saturday, July 23 marked the 20th Marysville, Ohio Ride for Kids®, and nearly 200 local motorcyclists celebrated by raising \$60,049 for the PBTF.

Departing from the headquarters of Scotts Miracle-Gro, riders followed a pastoral route that featured seven of the area’s historic covered bridges.

Later they gathered to honor brain tumor survivors Caitlin, Seth, Naomi, Jared and Brian. Jason, who passed away earlier this year, was also remembered.

“Thanks to everyone that raises money,” said Caitlin. “[You have] made it possible for me to get my college degree in psychology.”

Utica star raises funds by making music

Josh Pernell knows a thing or two about music—and about brain tumors. That’s why the 20-year-old New York drummer recently recorded “Caring Hands,” a CD that will help fund research that will find a cure for pediatric brain tumors.

Pernell combined his talents with those of several musician friends to write, record and produce the new CD. He sings the lead vocals on the track “Walking Miracle,” which relates the story of his life after being diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 14.

“I don’t want people to go through what I went through,” explains the Utica Ride for Kids® star.

“Josh is a ‘doer,’” says his mom, Cindy. “He’s got a big heart. After his surgery, he was collecting money for the foundation while he was still in a wheelchair.”

The wheelchair may be a thing of the past, but Pernell’s determination and drive are stronger than ever. With copies of the first CD—a labor of love of 10 musicians and others who donated their time and talents to put the project together—selling quickly, the group is now beginning work on their next one, which may be available as soon as next spring.

“Caring Hands” costs \$10. To inquire about its availability, contact Josh through his Facebook page at facebook.com/joshpernell. All proceeds benefit the PBTF.



Drummer and brain tumor survivor Josh Pernell has released a CD of original compositions to benefit the PBTF.

Dr. Corey Raffel of the Center for Childhood Cancer and the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, also inspired the crowd. "You're not here today because it's your job, you're here because you care," he said.



PBTf scholarship recipient Caitlin gets ready to roll.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Ken & Carol Denman, \$10,840
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA OH-D3, \$18,278
- **Motorcycle business:** Honda Marysville Motorsports, \$26,977

Knoxville steps up at 11th annual ride

Generosity riders contributed \$56,442 at 11th Knoxville Ride for Kids®.

Heat and humidity did not deter the crowd of 200, who gathered at Pellissippi State Community College for the early morning event. "Stars" Jimmy, Jessica M., Jessica S., Haley, Stanton, Dawn, and Hannah received enthusiastic cheers from the crowd. Many of them had joined the ride through the countryside before sharing their stories at the Celebration of Life.



Ride manager Mark Muhlenfeld talks with Knoxville star Haley.

"I'm in my second year of pre-med and am looking forward to giving back," said 19-year-old Stanton.

Ray Pais and Susan Spiller, pediatric oncologists from East Tennessee Children's Hospital, reiterated the importance of the motorcycling community's involvement. "The children benefit so much from the research that is funded by the money you all raise," Pais said.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Tom & Kathy Peck \$5,528
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA TN-B, \$8,242
- **Motorcycle business:** Honda of Knoxville, \$8,617

Hudson Valley has strong showing

Aug. 7 was a banner day in New York's Hudson Valley, when hundreds of motorcyclists brought \$101,070 to the area's 19th Ride for Kids®.



Hudson Valley's stars are all smiles after the ride.

Money raised by the ride funds research to help young brain tumor survivors like Amanda, James, Molly, Katelyn, Ashley, and Carlo. Several rode as passengers through the Catskills before taking the stage at the Celebration of Life.

Dr. James Garvin of New York Presbyterian, the University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell, brought the importance of the fundraisers' participation full-circle when he told them, "When a child is diagnosed, a huge black cloud appears. Then breakthroughs in a diagnosis are like a ray of sunshine and you recognize that a cure is on the horizon."

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Jon & Valerie Ford, \$31,356
- **Family team or organization:** Ride for Liam, \$8,137
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** New Roc HOG, \$7,938
- **Motorcycle business:** Bergen Co. Harley-Davidson, \$16,994

Pittsburgh riders rally in the rain

300 participants were not deterred by the rain on Aug. 7, when Pittsburgh-area motorcyclists raised \$49,490 for the PBTf.

The area's 11th ride departed from the Home Depot in Cranberry Township, traveling along scenic country roads to Slippery Rock University.



Christina approves of the Pittsburgh ride.

The day's special guests included brain tumor survivors Zachary, Allyson, Julie, Nicole, Macy, Christina, Lindy, and Patrick, many of whom spoke after the ride.

Ten-year-old Julie, directing her comments to her mother, said, “You never gave up. Our family never gave up.” Turning to the crowd, she then said, “So you never give up.”

Added Lindy, “I like to come and meet parents at these events, since I’ve survived 21 years. I think they like to meet me because it gives them hope.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Larry Coffield & Kay Mooney, \$5,390
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA PA-D, \$10,023
- **Motorcycle business:** Zanotti Motor Co., \$8,300

Wisconsin shines despite rain clouds

Even a downpour could not dampen the spirits of 300 motorcyclists in attendance at the eighth annual Wisconsin Ride for Kids® on Aug. 7, where supporters raised \$101,398 for the PBTF.

The weather cleared just before the bikes left, eventually warming to a hot 88 degrees. Twelve young brain tumor survivors—Anthony, Bailey, Jacob, Fischer, Sarah, Kelly, McKenna, Paul, Kaitlin, Tyler, Lauren, and Jenna—led the ride.

These “stars” would later take the stage at the post-ride Celebration of Life program. Tyler’s mother, Lori, told the crowd “We are so grateful for all you do to help us.”



Jacob and his mom, Kathy, register for the Wisconsin ride.

Lauren’s father, Richard, added, “The work that the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation does allows us to hope for the future.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Randy & Pam Gulseth, \$10,208
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA WI-J, \$12,408
- **Motorcycle business:** Nielsen Enterprises, \$11,822

Utah raises over \$35,000

Aug. 13 was a lucky day for Utah’s young brain tumor survivors, when 175 motorcyclists joined forces to raise \$35,247 for the PBTF at the area’s seventh Ride for Kids®.

Departing from This Is the Place Heritage Park in Salt Lake City, eight local survivors — Sada, Jimmy, Lynzi,

Brayden, Brian, Zoe, and PBTF college scholarship recipients Holli and Kimberly—led the way as riders rode to the top of Emigration Canyon on their way to the Celebration of Life at Riverside Park in Morgan City.



After welcome remarks by Mayor Jim Egbert and Councilwoman Shelley Betts, everyone listened intently as the young survivors spoke about their lives.

Jim (left) and his VIP escort relax with their bike in Utah.

“I cannot thank you enough, your volunteering means more than you will ever know,” said Holli. Added 11-year-old Sada, “Thanks for bringing the motorcycles, they are really fun. I like the wind in my face.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Max Maxedon, \$9,059
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA NV-H, \$9,103
- **Motorcycle business:** Tri City Performance, \$11,064

14th New England ride tops \$40,000

The rolling hills of Massachusetts were an idyllic setting for the 14th New England Ride for Kids® on Aug. 21. The event raised a total of \$40,027 for the PBTF.

Over 120 participants gathered at Tantasqua Regional High School in Fiskdale in the early morning hours before departing on a countryside ride in support of “stars” like Caitlyn, Ryen, Amanda and Gary.



New England’s stars are (from left) Ryen, Caitlin, Gary and Amanda.

“Thanks for donating money for kids like me with brain tumors,” said 11-year-old Ryen before taking a few steps. Amanda’s mother, Joanne, said, “The common thread through all the events we have attended is the way strangers can be made to feel special. You do this for my child and it means the world to me.”

The riders also heard from neuro-oncologist Nicole Ullrich of Children’s Hospital in Boston.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Dave Odess & Perry Robertson, \$6,321
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA MA-F, \$8,813
- **Motorcycle business:** Venco Wings, \$10,078

Michigan riders help kids

Dual-sport and road riders joined forces on Aug. 28 in Ann Arbor at the 20th Michigan Ride for Kids®. Together, they raised \$66,866 for the PBTF.

About 275 motorcyclists were in attendance to show their support for brain tumor survivors and event “stars” Andrew, Claire, John, Zachary, Katie, Lee Ann and Ruth. Some of the kids led the Sunday morning road ride through central Michigan before returning to the starting point for the Celebration of Life program.



Claire (left) and her mom buckle up for their sidecar ride in Michigan.

There, Michelle, mother of 6-year-old Andrew, thanked the crowd. “Help came to us with support from the PBTF, the Ride for Kids and folks like you,” she said. “We are blessed to have you as our support.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Rob & Denni Proctor, \$10,000
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA MI-W2, \$17,622
- **Motorcycle business:** Fred’s Bikes & Trikes, \$24,856

Smiles all around in Asheville

There were many smiling faces at the 18th annual Asheville Ride for Kids® on Aug. 28, but the biggest grins belonged to brain tumor survivors Aaron, Sarah, Elijah, Hannah, Brady, Julia, Seth, Matthew, and Travis.

The event, which raised \$113,815 for the PBTF, began with a leisurely ride along the Blue Ridge Parkway to the bucolic mountain town of Lake Lure.

There, the crowd of 550 gathered for a post-ride Celebration of Life that featured some moving words from the survivors, a parent, and Gerald Grant, a pediatric neurosurgeon and researcher at Duke University Children’s Hospital.

“This foundation has just been tremendous,” Grant said. “And it’s not only in research, it’s all the work in quality of life and everything we can do to get these kids happy and enjoying day-to-day life.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Ferguson Family Foundation, \$30,000
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA NC-M2, \$41,691
- **Motorcycle business:** MR Motorcycle, \$20,001



Asheville star Brady tries out a sidecar.

Birmingham takes a stand for kids

Birmingham-area motorcyclists turned out at Barber Motorsports Park in Leeds, Ala., on Sept. 11 to raise \$73,231 at the area’s 10th Ride for Kids®.

Barber provides the perfect venue for the motorcycling event because it’s home to both a world-class motorcycle museum and road racing course.

Brain tumor survivors and event “stars” Matt, Kaitlin, Karissa, Zachary, Michael, and Bayleigh led the way for the 450 riders on the sunny, breezy morning, returning to Barber for a finish lap on the track. Afterward, the kids took the stage, delighting the crowd with their personal stories.



These Ride for Kids® stars fell on Alabama in September.

“Kids like us feel like all we can do is fight the disease, so we depend on you to raise the money to fund the research to find a cure,” Bayleigh told them.

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Phil Phillips, \$10,686
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA AL-B, \$9,655
- **Motorcycle business:** Cycle World of Gadsden, \$10,736

Indianapolis riders take to the track

Motorcyclists “crossed the bricks” at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sept. 11 as part of the Indianapolis Ride for Kids®, raising \$23,765 for the PBTF.

The overcast skies and light rain did not deter the 160 riders, who rode through scenic Eagle Creek before ending with a lap around the legendary track.

Brain tumor survivors and event “stars” Brianna, Lindy, Sara, Jon, Grace, and Juliana inspired the crowd during the Celebration of Life program which followed the ride.

Juliana, a PBTf college scholarship recipient, said, “It means a lot as a 13-year survivor that you are supporting us.”



Grace (front) has the heart of a champion at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The stars were joined by Larry Bates, an oncologist at St. Francis Hospital, and neuro-oncology nurse Cindy White from Riley Hospital.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Rex & Kathy Harrold, \$10,691
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA IN-A2, \$7,147
- **Motorcycle business:** Dreyer Honda, \$10,741

Puget Sound rises to the occasion

An enthusiastic crowd of 335 was on hand on Sept. 11 for the 19th Puget Sound Ride for Kids®, which raised \$85,797.

Early morning fog gave way to sunny skies as the riders traveled from Remlinger Farms through the Cascade foothills and back.



Puget Sound’s stars pose with a canine friend.

Several honored guests—Nick, Andrew, Claire, Xander, Allison, Judah, Anthony, Skyler, and Eric—were also there. After the ride, everyone gathered to hear from the young stars and their families.

“I feel lucky. I’ve been coming for seven years and my child is still alive,” said Judah’s father, Frank. “When we found out Judah had a brain tumor, we contacted the PBTf and they overnighted us the information. You really find out who your friends are. Here we have people supporting us and we don’t even know you.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Mick & Mary Rairdin, \$11,490
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWTA WA-C, \$19,411
- **Motorcycle business:** Everett Powersports, \$24,617

Philadelphians ride for the cause

Over 300 riders and supporters were on hand on Sept. 18 for the seventh Philadelphia Ride for Kids®, which raised \$83,814. This year’s event marked the first at its new location, Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville.

The day’s special guests were seven local brain tumor survivors: Althea, Giselle, Angelina, John, Danielle, and PBTf scholarship recipients Annie and Emily. After a scenic ride through the Pennsylvania countryside, several of them spoke to the crowd about their lives.



Giselle (left) and her VIP escort show off their ride in Philadelphia.

“Things could be so much worse for me, but because of you I have been in remission for six years,” said Emily, 14. Added Giselle, 17, “The research that you fund is probably why my surgery has gone so well.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Jill Bookman, \$18,693
- **Family team or organization:** Team Tyler, powered by American Collectors Insurance, \$28,703
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA PA-A, \$7,390
- **Motorcycle business:** Powersports East, \$16,636

St. Louis celebrates 10 years of hope

St. Louis motorcyclists celebrated their 10th Ride for Kids® on Sept. 18 by raising \$101,831.

Over 175 riders and supporters gathered in the morning hours at St. Charles Community College in Cottleville in support of their “stars”—brain tumor survivors James, Isabelle, Brian, Joshua, Daniel, Hope, Abigail, Josh, Zachary, Ashleigh, and Courtney.



This clown brightened a rainy day for St. Louis stars Isabelle and Josh.

PBTf college scholarship recipient Abigail addressed the crowd at the post-ride Celebration of Life. “Thanks so much to everyone that gives up their time to help. You give us hope,” she said.

Dr. Joshua Rubin of St. Louis Children’s Hospital and Siteman Cancer Center also took the stage, assuring riders that their dollars make a difference.

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Lisa Rozier, \$45,000
- **Family team or organization:** Taylor Rozier's Hope for a Cure Brain Tumor Foundation, \$45,000
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Brian Ott's Bikers, \$12,179
- **Motorcycle business:** Niehaus Cycle Sales, \$17,760

Texans open hearts for the kids

Oct. 2 was a banner day for motorcyclists at the ninth Dallas/Fort Worth Ride for Kids®, where 500 participants raised \$156,749 for the PBTF.



These young people are the reason we ride in Grapevine.

Departing under sunny and clear skies from the Grapevine Mills Mall, the ride honored Benjamin, Cassie P., Kami, Summer, Cassie M., Christina, Daniella, Shelby, LeighAnna, J.C., Heidi, Jerald, Nora, Rachel, and John.

Said John's father, "I thank you for helping to save John's life, and the lives of all the kids up here today and those not yet born."

Added Dr. Joann Sanders from Cook Children's Hospital, "The money you raise here today will go a long way in helping find even more answers and to keep moving research forward."

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Sam Caine, \$50,802
- **Family team or organization:** Caden Johnson Memorial Fund, \$53,419
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Valkyrie Riders Cruiser Club, \$16,803
- **Motorcycle business:** Maxim Honda, \$35,788

PBTF marks 500th Ride for Kids® milestone

Sept. 25, 2011, was a milestone for the Ride for Kids® because the national program marked its 500th event in Ellicott City, Md.

What began as a single event in 1984 that raised \$4,000 for childhood brain tumor research has now evolved into a multi-city annual event at which motorcyclists around the country have contributed over \$50 million to the cause.

The 500th ride originated at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Md., with 450 participants adding another \$197,015 in donations to the programs of the PBTF.

Brain tumor survivors and event "stars" Maggie, Ruxandra, Janell, Nicholas, Paige, and Zachary led motorcyclists on a leisurely 50-mile tour that wound through areas of beautiful homes, farmland and woods.

During the post-ride Celebration of Life program, Maryland State Senator Jim Robey presented a proclamation and a senate resolution, and Ginnie Gick offered a proclamation on behalf of Howard County.

"Because of research funding from the Pediatric



Baltimore/Washington star Nicholas (left) has a great view from his sidecar in September.

Brain Tumor Foundation, we have developed targeted therapy which goes after only the cancer cells and does much less damage," said Dr. Nishant Agrawal, a researcher from Johns Hopkins.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Bob & Suzanne Henig, \$36,186
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** The Tribe Motorcycle Club, \$20,511
- **Motorcycle business:** Bob's BMW, \$83,137

Las Vegas serves up a full house

Over 450 enthusiastic participants were in attendance on Oct. 2, as the seventh Las Vegas Ride for Kids® got underway, raising \$53,543.



Las Vegas stars Hannah (right) and Bradley enjoy lunch with Bradley's sister, Keani.

Riders assembled at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway before taking back roads to Town Square. There, the crowd heard uplifting words from brain tumor survivors Devin, Tobin, Hannah, Cheyenne, Nicole, Brandon, Bradley, Jaxson, Nico, and Alex.

"We have to live with [brain tumors] because we have to...you guys are here and have raised all this money because you want to," said Alex. "Speaking for myself and all the other survivors up here, we thank you so much."

Pediatric oncologist Jonathan Bernstein, director of the Children's Specialty Center of Nevada, also expressed his gratitude, reminding the riders that their donations are changing lives.

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Rob Mancini, \$3,859
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Desert Riders, \$5,922
- **Motorcycle business:** Customers of Carter Powersports, \$14,533

Northern California turns out in force

Over 300 participants helped mark the 19th Northern California Ride for Kids® on Oct. 2, raising \$93,947.



Reiana (right) prepares to lead the Northern California ride.

After departing from Solano Community College in Fairfield for a ride through Northern California's rolling and scenic countryside, the crowd gathered to celebrate the lives of brain tumor survivors Darren, Reiana, Liliana, Malcolm, Vanessa, Elias, Jaylen, and Chelsey.

Their moving stories inspired the crowd, as did the words of Dr. Nalin Gupta, a researcher at the PBTF Institute at the University of California, San Francisco.

"Your effort to raise money is directly applied to our research," Gupta said. "Our goal is to improve the quality of life for the survivors and find a cure. What you are doing is incredibly important."

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Amy Snyder, \$17,215
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Curve Unit, \$20,546
- **Motorcycle business:** Hillside Honda customers, \$5,756

Phoenix riders go the extra mile

Warm, sunny weather greeted 260 participants at the 15th annual Phoenix Ride for Kids® on Oct. 16. The event raised \$61,461.



Brain tumor survivors are center stage in Phoenix.

Departing from Desert Ridge High School in Mesa, local brain tumor survivors Gaites, Rosalena, Keegan, Emily, Sabrina, Megan, and Steve led ride past Saguardo Lake before returning for the Celebration of Life program.

There, Keegan's father told the crowd, "It doesn't matter how much you bring in, it is all appreciated."

Pediatric oncology nurse Annie Gieseck of Phoenix Children's Hospital, agreed. "Thanks for helping to raise funds so these kids can have a fighting chance," she said.

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Matthew Hogan, \$7,915
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** CMA Mission Riders, \$8,640
- **Motorcycle business:** RideNow Powersports, \$19,763

Lucky 7 for San Diego

Motorcyclists brought \$58,551 in donations for the PBTF at the seventh San Diego Ride for Kids® on Oct. 16.

After an oceanfront ride that departed from MiraCosta College in Cardiff, the 260 participants heard from the "stars" of the day: Alyssa, Leo, Jordan, David, Steven, Brennan, Lauren, Michelle, and Jonathan.

Among the brain tumor survivors who talked about their lives during the Celebration of Life program was PBTF college scholarship recipient Lauren. “Thank you for being here,” she said. “It’s really a blessing to know you care about kids going through treatments. It is really nice to be supported by so many people.”



Jordan gets a close-up from her San Diego sidecar.

Dr. Robert Wechsler-Reya, a brain tumor researcher at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, also thanked the crowd.

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Miriam & David Kaufman, \$6,603
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Northrup Grumman Motorcycle Club, \$5,647
- **Motorcycle business:** BMW Ventura, \$5,547

Louisiana event raises \$30,000

Over 100 eager participants turned out to raise \$30,233 at the Oct. 23 Louisiana Ride for Kids®.



Louisiana star Paige snuggles with her grandmother after the ride.

Departing from SLEMCO headquarters in Lafayette, motorcyclists wound their way past cattle ranches and pecan orchards before returning for a celebratory program to show their support for the “stars” of the day: brain tumor survivors Paige, Lily, Brooke and Audrey, who then took the stage at the post-ride Celebration of Life.

“Thanks for all of the support that you and the foundation have given me to continue with school,” said PBTF scholarship recipient Audrey. Two-year-old Paige’s mother, Megan, who had learned of the ride just days before from their oncologist, said the support from the motorcycling community was “overwhelming.”

Top fundraisers

- **Individuals:** Anita & Baileigh Porche, \$5,600
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** GWRRA LA-F, \$7,120
- **Motorcycle business:** Northwest Honda of Houston, \$9,800

2011 season closes in Tampa Bay

The 2011 Ride for Kids® season drew to a close on Nov. 6 in Tampa Bay, where motorcyclists raised \$37,715. Windy and warm conditions greeted the 280 riders and other supporters who gathered at the Walter Heinrich Training Center in Lithia to honor Ride for Kids® “stars” Chiara, Gina, Trinity, Andriana, Michael, and Corey.



Chiara gets ready to ride with Big Bird in Tampa.

Gratitude was the theme of the day. “Thank you for coming, people like you save lives,” said 11-year-old Chiara. Added Gina’s mother, Linda, “Your hard work has given our children longer lives and a brighter future.”

Dr. Stacie Stapleton, director of pediatric neuro-oncology at All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg, thanked the riders on behalf of patients and researchers.

Top fundraisers

- **Individual:** Darleen North, \$2,487
- **Motorcycle club/chapter:** Hap’s Gulf Coast Riders, \$11,515
- **Motorcycle business:** Hap’s Cycle Sales, \$13,850

Seacord retires from PBTF

Ride for Kids® administrator Pat Seacord retires from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation® this month after 14 years of service. She and her husband, Jim, first became involved with the PBTF in the early 1990s as task force leaders for the Hudson Valley event. In 1997, Pat left her job as an executive assistant at IBM in New York City to work for the PBTF in North Carolina. Since then she has become an invaluable resource for the Ride for Kids® program. The PBTF appreciates her dedication to the kids, and wishes her a fond farewell.



Ride for Kids® made for families

(continued from page 1)

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of the Ride for Kids® is the opportunity for the kids and their siblings to actually participate in the ride itself—as the precious passengers of caring motorcyclists.

Reiana's older brother Ruben rode with a member of the Buffalo Soliders Motorcycle Club at this year's Northern California Ride for Kids®. On a recent trip to the mall, the family recognized some members of the club.

"Our family walked away with a sense of belonging, and love toward them for providing such a wonderful service to the kids," says Alina.

"I remember riding on a motorcycle near the front of the line," says Dorene. "I was able to look back from the top of a hill and see everyone else behind us. It was a very long stream of motorcycles and therefore, a long line of supporters. Additionally, I will always remember the roads being blocked off by policemen to allow us to pass through. I thought this was really cool," she said.

Families looking for more information on how to attend a Ride for Kids® event can contact Shelley Pressley at 800-253-6530 or spressley@pbtfus.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Carrie Ann Janik

February 5, 2004 –
September 3, 2011

Caden Stephen Johnson

July 7, 2004 –
November 24, 2006

If you would like us to memorialize your child, please send your child's name, birthday and date of passing to familysupport@pbtfus.org. You can also call our Family Support team at 800-253-6530.

PBTF takes Causes to heart on Facebook



The PBTF is pleased to announce the addition of a new feature to our Facebook page: a special "Causes" button that enables you to effortlessly help us raise money!

To get started, go to [facebook.com/pbtfus](https://www.facebook.com/pbtfus) and click the "donate now" link in the left-hand column. This opens a Causes page, where you can make a single gift, or "donate your birthday."

When opting to donate your birthday, a message will be posted on your Facebook page that asks your friends to make a donation to the PBTF in lieu of sending you a birthday gift.

Even better, you can personalize your birthday wish—for example, maybe you are raising money for the PBTF in honor of someone special. You can also customize your request with a suggested donation amount, a fundraising goal, and a personal message about why you support the PBTF.

Don't worry if you have a longer story to tell. There's even a place for you to share that with your Facebook friends as well.

Perhaps the best thing about the new Causes option is that it not only makes it simple to raise money for the PBTF, but it also generates awareness among your followers, encouraging them to learn more about our mission.

Causes has already raised over \$5,000 for the PBTF. Since its founding in 2007, it has generated over \$30 million in donations for 25,000 nonprofits. Its 140 million users worldwide have created over half a million causes.

causes

FirstGiving makes online fundraising easy

When the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation® started using the FirstGiving fundraising program in 2005, our supporters raised \$8,000. To date this year, we've already received over \$430,000, and our six-year total tops \$2,500,000.

"FirstGiving has provided a way for fundraisers to receive donations from around the world with just the click of a mouse," explains the PBTF's Teresa Warren. "It's incredibly effective and simple to use. If you can send an email, you can fundraise with a FirstGiving page."

Thinking about starting a FirstGiving page? It's easier than you might think, according to Warren. Just go to firstgiving.com/pbtfus and click "get started."

FirstGiving even provides easy-to-use online tools to get your very page up and running. Then check out Warren's "tips for success" below. And before you know it, those donations will start rolling in!

Tips for a successful FirstGiving page

1. Personalize your page with your own event pictures, stories, and videos.
2. Use the email template provided by FirstGiving to send your page to everyone in your address book.
3. Place a link to your FirstGiving page in your email signature line.
4. Place a link to your FirstGiving page on your Facebook, Myspace or LinkedIn page.
5. Place a link to your FirstGiving page on your blog.
6. Regularly update your FirstGiving page with news about your fundraisers and PBTF/RFK.
7. Regularly post status updates about RFK/PBTF/your fundraiser with a link to your FirstGiving page.
8. Suggest tying donation amounts to fundraiser event milestones. For example: If you're plunging into freezing cold water, suggest a donation of a dollar per degree of water temperature. If you're turning 50 and doing a birthday fundraiser, suggest a donation of \$50.
9. Whether you're making candy or selling brisket, etc., FirstGiving is a great way to collect payment.
10. Hold a drawing for a prize.

New booklet addresses common side effects

The PBTF has issued "Basic Facts About Short-Term Side Effects of Pediatric Brain Tumor Treatments," a new booklet in our ongoing series of publications that provide valuable information to families and brain tumor patients.

The latest booklet offers an introduction to the possible short-term side effects commonly associated with the available medical treatments for pediatric brain tumors—surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

Intended as a reference guide, it provides a general understanding of what a medical team may advise families about specific treatments for a child, and what he or she may experience as a result.

"This should help parents become better informed in discussions about what is best for their child," says PBTF President Dianne Traynor. "While we cannot describe all of the possible side effects of treatment, we are helping families and patients understand that side effects are not limited to physical reactions. They can also be emotional, psychological, cognitive and even social."

The booklet explains that short-term side effects are usually seen during the time of the treatment and shortly afterward. Some effects can last longer, and then show signs of resolving.

Each patient can react differently to a given treatment, depending on their unique medical history or other conditions that may be present. Also, not everyone will experience every side effect, and some may avoid serious side effects completely.

"In every case, the best strategy is for patients and their families to learn which effects could occur with each treatment, how long they might last, and how severe they might be," Traynor says.

Go to pbtfus.org or call 800-253-6530 to order the free booklet.

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