



TEAM WILL BREAKAWAY NEWSLETTER

November 2011

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Welcome to Team Will's Breakaway, an electronic newsletter to update you on Team Will's activities and programs. Team Will is a community of volunteers who share the joy of cycling.

Our goal is to raise awareness for children with cancer and their families, to advocate for their needs, and to support research so every child can survive and lead a long and healthy life.

Cyclists of all skill levels and ages across the country have joined Team Will and are promoting a community that imparts a coherent, credible voice to educating society about childhood cancer through various cycling activities and partnering with organizations to provide resources to families affected by childhood cancer.

Cards for Kids

This program enables children to make cards for children with cancer. Team Will will be distributing these cards during our next cross-country journey. Cards should be made on 9x12 cardstock or construction paper folded in halves or thirds. Postcard size also works. The key message of the cards should be "You are my hero." For more information please visit the Cards for Kids website at <https://sites.google.com/site/teamwillcardsforkids/>.

UC Davis Children's September Hospital Visit

UCDAVIS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On September 30th, five Team-Will members rode to UCD Children's Hospital in Sacramento to visit the with the young patients and their families. Activities in the play room ranged from word puzzles and coloring to magic tricks with Play Doh. For the children who couldn't get to the play room, Team Will members went to them handing out games, t-shirts, and wrist bands to smiling faces in exchange for signatures on jerseys. For one young hero who couldn't raise his arm, his mother traced his hand on a member's shirt and signed for him. Every signature, sign, or mark on a Team Will jersey has a story. In this case, a hand print spoke volumes.

Hospital visits are at the core of Team Will's mission. For new members, they are an opportunity to experience firsthand why we "Go the Distance". For all members, they remind us who we ride for and how that drives us to raise awareness of childhood cancer. The next hospital visit is scheduled for the afternoon of November 18th. Beginning in January, our goal is to schedule one visit per month. These visits typically take place on weekday afternoons, as this time works best for the hospitals, their staff, and the patients. Every effort will be made to set dates far enough in advance to allow members who would like to participate a chance to make arrangements to attend. For more information, please contact John Depew at john.depew@team-will.org

Riding for a Sister



Riley Adams on the right. His jersey shows a picture of his sister.

Long before I rode a bicycle, my journey with Team Will began in Washington, D.C. in 2007. My family and I were there lobbying for Curesearch. We were trying to get some political giants to give us money for cancer research. While we were there, we ran into some Team Will cyclists on the steps of the Capitol. Four years later, I am going to be one of those cyclists. It is a very small world, and it's amazing how much events can connect over time. I am riding for my sister, Eden Rae. We lost her in December of 2008, but her spirit lives on, and gives us reason to never give up. Never lose hope.

- Riley Adams, New Albany, Ohio

Children Creating for Children



They say kindness is contagious. Team Will's is so contagious it has changed the way hundreds of children view serving others.

I am an elementary art teacher who learned of the Team Will organization and I asked how I could help. In 2010, my students created 300 handmade cards that the team could deliver to children's hospitals. My students were so inspired they asked what more we could do. This fall over 2,100 elementary students participated in a drawing contest to create a coloring book for childhood cancer charities. So far, the project has inspired the donation of 400 boxes of crayons for a local children's hospital, the creation of over 1,000 handmade cards and over \$300 in staff donations to the Foundation for Children with Cancer...and we haven't even started selling the coloring books yet! For each coloring book sold this year, an additional coloring book will be donated to a hospital and a dollar will be donated to charity. We're also planning a fundraiser celebration for the day Team Will passes through our community. My students can't wait to cheer on the Team Will riders!

But most importantly, thousands of children took to heart Team Will's message, so poignantly featured in the "Go the Distance" documentary: "It's not ok to just sit back and let things happen when you can make a difference." Clearly Team Will's legacy goes beyond the support they give children and families and the dollars they have raised for Childhood Cancer charities. Team Will has shown so many across the country how to use their talents to make a difference in the lives of others. For that, we are all extremely grateful. Wishing you a successful preparation for the 2012 ride! Keep on inspiring!

- Megan Clark, in her 8th year teaching art at Clear Creek Elementary School in the De Soto District in Shawnee, KS

A Statistics Update since the article was written:

- Over 700 cards made for kids in hospitals
- 400 boxes of crayons collected for local children's hospital
- 900 coloring books donated to charities (children's hospitals, hospice house, Team Will)
- \$1,400 donation to local children's hospital
- \$2,500 donation to Foundation for Children with Cancer

Details on how to order coloring books will be provided in a future edition of Breakaway.

Have a Special Talent? Support Team Will

Interested in supporting Team Will in its cross-country ride or cancer advocacy? Please contact info@team-will.org.

Team Will Heroes

A Team Will Hero is someone who does something extraordinary in an extraordinary circumstance. These Team Will heroes have done just that, something extraordinary; they have inspired everyone they meet with their courage and bravery in the face of extreme challenges as they battle for their lives. For this they are Team Will Heroes and we will never forget them. [Click Here](#) for a complete list of all Team Will's Heroes.

Thank you for being a part of Team Will. Please spread the Breakaway by sharing this newsletter with your friends and associations!

Sincerley,
Team Will