

## Fremont Rotary is host club for fourth MESA ride

By LESLIE BIXLER • Staff writer, Fremont News-Messenger



FREMONT -- About 60 people are expected to be riding their bicycles around northern and central Ohio next week to raise money for medical supplies for third world countries.

Riders will take off on Sunday from President Rutherford B. Hayes' barn at 710 Cleveland Ave., near the Herbert-Perna Center for Physical Health.

The Rotary Club of Fremont was selected to lead this year's major fundraiser for the Medical Equipment & Supplies Abroad rotary project. The MESA program raises money to send equipment and supplies to third world countries.

Other Rotary clubs in the district also will be participating.

Fremont's Rotary Club President Rob Lytle said, "It's a great honor for us to be able to host this event. Hopefully we can show the best of our community. It's for a great cause." A pre-tour party from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday with food, drinks and fellowship at Eagle Isle Day Spa Bed & Breakfast on Sandusky County Road 198 will kick off the event.

The riders will then be sent off at 8:45 a.m. Sunday after a 7 a.m. breakfast. They will return for the closing ceremony at 4 p.m. July 19 at their starting point at the Hayes' barn.

After the riders leave Fremont, they will travel 51 miles to Perrysburg, stopping in Bowling Green for lunch. On day two, they will travel 45 miles from Perrysburg to Swanton. On day three, they will travel 65 miles from Swanton to Defiance. Day four will consist of riding 62 miles from Defiance to St. Mary's and on Thursday from St. Marys to Marion, a distance of 72 miles. By day six, they will be heading from Marion to Mansfield, which is 56 miles, and then from Mansfield to Fremont -- another 70 miles, according to the Rotary district's Web site.

According to the Website, people can ride all week, everyday or they can ride for one day, or only parts of the route. If people choose not to ride, they can make their pledge and sponsor a rider.

If anyone is interested in being a day rider, for one day only during the week, call Helene Zielinski no later than 2 p.m. Saturday at (419) 332-6409.

The goal for this year is to raise \$50,000. This is the fourth year for the tour.

According to the Fremont Rotary Club's Web site, Fremont's involvement in the MESA bike tour began in 2007 when former president Zielinski and Rotarian Angelica Reinhart participated in the tour as bike riders.

Over the past year, the Fremont club also donated a truck load of school supplies which was shipped to Central America.

This Article was written by Leslie Bixler of the Fremont News-Messenger