

From Marion Online: Cyclists Raising Funds for Medical Equipment



The Marion Rotary Club is inviting the public to welcome visiting Rotarians from around Ohio, as they pedal through Marion on their 4th Annual Rotary Tour for M.E.S.A..

M.E.S.A. stands for Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad, and is a special project of Rotary District 6600, that covers the northwest quadrant of Ohio, including Marion. Over the last 3 years, the bicycle tour has raised over \$100,000 to send desperately needed medical supplies and equipment, to impoverished third

world countries.

Realizing that much of what American facilities discard as obsolete may be fully usable in other countries, Ohio Rotary clubs began collecting and shipping millions of dollars worth of equipment - everything from wheelchairs, operating tables, x-ray machines, and ambulances - to places such as Guatemala, Zambia, Romania, and many others.

Marion's own Dr. Robert Imbody, DDS., made a large donation of an x-ray machine, and other dental equipment to this effort. Of course, M.E.S.A. serves areas of need here in the United States as well, sending supplies to Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana.

The bicyclists started their tour in Fremont, and are visiting Toledo, Defiance, and St. Marys. The riders will be coming into Marion County, from Kenton, on State Route 309 and will arrive at the Marion County Courthouse at approximately 4:00pm, Thursday, July 17th.

The riders will be back on the road Friday morning, leaving town on Route 95, turning left onto Whetstone River Road on their way to Galion, working their way towards the completion of their journey through Mansfield, then back to Fremont-- a trip of over 420 miles.