

Donation Pledge

Please join our efforts to help those in need. The riders are making significant personal sacrifice in time, expense and effort. Your equally generous support will both encourage the riders and improve the lives of people around the world. Your donation is fully tax deductible and can be made in lump sum or as a per-mile amount.

I pledge to the Rotary Tour For MESA the following amount:

\$ _____

I have enclosed my check made payable to MESA.

Please bill me for the pledged amount

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Rider/Team sponsored _____

My Rotary Club _____

**Mail to: MESA Treasurer
1092 Bending Brook Lane
Waterville, OH 43566**

**Thank You
For Your Support!**

*Do not use this form for rider registration.
Riders got use the information and forms online at
www.RotaryMESA.org.*

ROTARY TOUR FOR M.E.S.A.

July 10-15 2010



M.E.S.A. - Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad

MESA is a special project of Rotary District 6600, a district that covers the northwest quadrant of Ohio. The MESA project began in 1981 when Rotarians from Ohio met Rotarians from impoverished third world countries who described the desperate need for medical equipment and supplies.



The list of items that are accepted is very long and varied. Now items that are accepted also go beyond the medical field and include basic school items like desks, and computers that are still in good working order.

Medical equipment and supplies remain the primary focus for the project. These items are stored in the project's warehouse until a container is filled. Then arrangements are made for the delivery of the container to South America, Africa, Asia and parts of Europe.



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 to operating tables, x-ray machines

and ambulances - to places such as Guatemala, Zambia, and Romania. Donated supplies also include infant and geriatric care items and school materials.



MESA also serves areas of need in our own country. The best example of that is how emergency supplies and equipment were sent to Louisiana after the Hurricane Katrina disaster.



Since MESA is a 501(c)3 organization, your donation of cash or goods is tax deductible. And you are assured that your donation is used efficiently by the volunteers of Rotary.

The MESA Bike Tour, A Unique Rotary Event

It's Been All Uphill

The Tour began in 2005 with a group of cyclists riding to Chicago for the 100th anniversary of Rotary. The successes of that first year have been duplicated and increased each

year since, with more donations for MESA, more riders, more local clubs involved, more of everything.



What the Tour Does For MESA

The Tour accomplishes a number of things for the MESA project. First of course is that the Tour is a major fund raiser. In the first five years we raised about \$220,000 for MESA.

The Tour goes beyond just fund raising though. It is also a good way to increase awareness among Rotary clubs in District 6600 about MESA. As awareness increases, more donations of equipment and supplies are generated.

The way MESA uses the funds realized from the tour is to pay for the shipment of cartons - large semi vans - to other parts of the world. The cash is also used to purchase large lots of obsolete items that are still very usable in needy areas of the world.



What the Tour Can Do For Clubs

There are a number of ways that Rotary clubs become involved in the Bike Tour.

Clubs that are involved directly in the tour, either as overnight hosts or lunch/rest stop hosts, enjoy first hand the renewed fellowship that rides in with the tour. This is a chance to meet many other Rotarians and to work together to produce an activity that is memorable for all. It is also a chance for members to get together with their own club in a unique social setting.

With the tour comes attention. Wise club leaders use the tour as an opportunity to draw public attention to their place in the community. This is done by inviting the media to help greet the riders as they arrive in their city. Whenever a local club makes it known that they are responsible for helping to raise significant dollars for needy persons elsewhere, that can become big news.



Some clubs are discovering that the tour generates interest in bicycling as a healthy recreational activity that is low in cost and has many benefits to one's physical being. Many Rotarians have become cyclists - regardless of their age - because of the tour.

The MESA Bike Tour has become a true win-win event for all participants.

The 2010 Tour Route



Day 1: Saturday, July 10

Toledo to Port Clinton - 45 miles

After a big send off party we worm our way through town then head east for Oak Harbor for lunch. Port Clinton is a short hop after that.

Day 2: Sunday, July 11

Port Clinton to Elyria - 44 miles

Plans are for the bikers to ride on boats through Sandusky Bay then brunch at the Yacht Club. Then we're off to Huron and Vermilion for lunch and finally into Elyria.

Day 3: Monday, July 12

Elyria to Norwalk - 52 miles

This is a bike trail day as we first wind around Elyria to Lorain then down to Oberlin and finally wend our way over to Norwalk.

Day 4: Tuesday, July 13

Norwalk to Fostoria - 62 miles

Heading west often means headwinds but there are no hills, or are there? No hills on the bike path into Fremont for lunch though. Then a zig-zag route down to Fostoria.

Day 5: Wednesday, July 14

Fostoria to Defiance - 63 miles

Our longest day and perhaps the prettiest as we first ride up to North Baltimore then follow a curvy route along streams and farmland finally finding Defiance.

Day 6: Thursday, July 15

Defiance to Sylvania - 60 miles

Our final day on the road features following the river up to Napoleon then heading north to Liberty Center and finally to our end zone in Sylvania and a final celebration.

MESA will put your donation to work

Use the pledge form on the other side of this page to make your own donation to MESA. When you make your donation to MESA, you are assured that it is used in the most efficient manner possible, with volunteer Rotarians doing much of the work with as little administrative overhead possible. Your cash donation goes toward the shipment of cargo and the purchase of large lots of usable items at great discount.

More information about the tour is available on the website at www.RotaryMESA.org

Ride The Tour

You can do more than just pledge to MESA - you can also ride the tour.

When you ride, you can get others to sponsor you so your efforts are multiplied many times. Contact your friends, neighbors, relatives, and fellow Rotarians to pledge so much per mile that you ride.

For the Tour we have two types of riders:

Through-Riders are those who will ride all week, everyday. **Day Riders** are those who will ride for one day or a part of it; some may ride for more than one day but not all week. Some may ride only a short distance to show their support for the Tour and to raise money for MESA. All are welcome.

All riders, regardless of distance to be ridden, must **register** so we know who is riding when.

To register, follow the instructions online at www.RotaryMESA.org. Riders are not to use the attached pledge form to register but must use the Rider Registration on the website. Important additional information can be found there also.