



The Children's Heart Foundation™

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2 Men Bike Across America to Raise \$75,000 for The Children's Heart Foundation

June 1st, 2011 - Two ambitious cyclists are set to journey across the United States, over 3,800 miles from San Francisco to New York City. They will venture 100 miles a day with one solid goal in mind – To raise \$75,000 in funding for The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF). The mission is "Bike4theCHF," and the cause couldn't be nearer to their hearts.

The first cyclist, Nels Matson, was born in 1982 with all the signs of a healthy baby. Flash forward 2 years, and his family sat on the edge of their seats as Nels was diagnosed with a rare congenital heart defect. Open-heart surgery was imminent. Nels was blessed with a second chance at life, and thrived physically after his open-heart surgery, even going on to wrestle for Iowa State University. However, Nels is ranked as one of the lucky ones. Every year, nearly 40,000 children are born with congenital heart defects in the US alone, and unfortunately, countless children lose this battle. This will be Nels's second bike ride across America to raise money for The Children's Heart Foundation.

Nick Busta, an Ironman athlete who is the first cyclist to join Nels for the entire cross-country journey, has a unique motivation. Once upon a time, Nick fell in love with a girl named Jeni, who had an incredible story to tell. Jeni was born in 1985 with a complex congenital heart defect, Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome- basically half a heart. The prognosis was grim, and at the time, her condition had not yet been recorded in textbooks. Thanks to a revolutionary surgery that was performed within 24 hours of her birth, Jeni was able to survive a condition that only 2 years prior had been deemed 100% fatal. Today, Nick is proud to call Jeni his wife, and has made her cause his own, with intent to raise funds for research that will help to save the lives of countless children in Jeni's position.

Bike4theCHF is the first major fundraising event of The Children's Heart Foundation's newly created "Team CHF," which gives individuals the opportunity to raise money for CHF through athletics. Whatever it takes, Nick and Nels are fully committed to funding research that will help to improve the lives of children born with congenital heart defects. These two ambitious young men intend to cycle the 3,800 miles across the country, starting on June 1st, and finishing on July 16th with the following city stops:

- Davis, CA: June 2
- Denver, CO: June 18
- Omaha, NE: June 26
- Bettendorf, IA: June 30
- Chicago, IL: July 3
- Fort Wayne, IN: July 5
- Columbus, OH: July 7
- Pittsburgh, PA: July 10
- Washington D.C.: July 13

- Philadelphia, PA: July 15

Team CHF plans to visit hospitals along the way, allowing them to connect with the children they care so deeply for, bringing them even closer to the ones they are determined to save.

Jeni Busta will accompany the ride as her health permits, along with several Kids4theCHF (children affected by congenital heart defects) who will join, bringing inspiration and vitality to the journey. Kids4theCHF will also honor children who have lost their battle with congenital heart defects, allowing their inspirational stories to live on in the hearts of the cyclists and their supporters. These inspirational Kids4theCHF will be autographing Nick's and Nels's bikes.

Sponsors for Bike4theCHF include Ryder Bikes, Hilton Hotels, Champion Systems, mix1 "all natural protein" beverages, Cardiac Science, Trevor's Allstars, Midwest Heart Connection, Elements Therapeutic Massage University Park, Ellen & Michael Weiss & Family, Takedown Wrestling Media, and USA Wrestling.

To make a donation, learn more about the cause, follow the Bike4theCHF journey, or register to ride along with the team for a portion of the ride, please visit their website at www.Bike4theCHF.org.

The Children's Heart Foundation

Established by Betsy Peterson in 1996, The Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) is the country's leading organization solely committed to fund congenital heart research. Since 1996, CHF has funded 41 research projects with more than \$3.9 million. CHF is a national 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization that does not receive any government funding. The goal of the foundation is to bring health, hope and happiness to children and families impacted by congenital heart defects, the most common birth defect in the United States. This objective is accomplished by funding the most promising research to advance the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of congenital heart defects. For more information, please visit: www.childrensheartfoundation.org.

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