

For immediate release

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Bike ride honors Cookie Wiebe's legacy and raises hope for local families

NEWTON, Kan. – How can you ride your bike into the Flint Hills in the morning, enjoy a bountiful Amish meal at noon, and help Harvey County families move out of poverty at the same time? Air up your tires and head for the first **Cookie Wiebe Bike Ride** on Saturday, April 21.

The event, open to the first 100 registrants, offers 30- and 60-mile routes into the Flint Hills or a 10-mile route in the Newton vicinity for families and less experienced or ambitious bicyclists.

The ride is planned in honor of Cookie Wiebe, an inspirational Newton resident and bicyclist who died of cancer last year at age 57. Cookie was instrumental in launching Circles of Hope, an initiative of Peace Connections that fosters relationships between volunteers and families who want to make the journey out of poverty.

“For our 25th anniversary we purchased a tandem bicycle,” says Cookie's husband Dave. “We had a lot of fun while raising funds for worthy causes. This ride is a chance for other people to do the same thing for a cause Cookie believed in.”

The Cookie Wiebe Memorial Bike Ride will begin in the parking lot of First Mennonite Church in Newton on Saturday, April 21. The 60 mile ride begins at 7:30 am, the 30 mile route at 9:30 am and the 10 mile option at 11:00 am. Registered riders will enjoy a homemade Amish lunch of soups and assorted breads and pies, as well as a short program honoring Cookie, in the church's fellowship hall. Lunch will be served 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm.

The cost of the ride is \$10 for 10 milers; \$30 for 30 milers; and \$40 for the 60 milers. A \$5 early bird discount is available for those who register for the 30 and 60 mile rides by April 1. The cost includes the lunch as well as a water bottle. T-shirts are available for purchase for \$15 for those who pre-register by April 1. A drawing will be held at noon for registered riders for five \$50 gift certificates. They were provided by Bicycle Pedaler in Wichita for use in their bicycle shop.

Register online or download a registration form at www.cookiesride.org and send to: Cookie Wiebe Memorial Ride, Box 1155, Newton, KS 67114. The deadline for pre-registration and ordering t-shirts is April 1. For more information about the event, contact John Hobbs, chair of the event steering committee, at 316-258-4399. For general information, contact Peace Connections at 316-284-0000.

To date, corporate sponsors for the event include Bicycle Pedaler, Everence Financial Advisors, Leroy Hershberger/Storyteller, Midland Bank, Newton Medical Center and Prairie Harvest.