

## **6th Annual Brett's Ride for Rhabdo Scheduled for October 4, 2009, Hickory, NC**

The excitement is building for the sixth annual Brett's Ride for Rhabdo. Funds raised from Brett's Ride are dedicated to curing cancer and improving the quality of life for those fighting cancer.

The ride, which has become the premier charity bicycle ride of the greater Hickory area, is held the first Sunday in October each year in honor of Brett Gosnell of Hickory. Brett passed away August 17, 2006 after fighting a courageous battle with rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancer that strikes children and young adults.

Last year's event was the most successful yet with nearly 1300 participants including riders of all ages and ability, over 250 volunteers, and over 100 sponsors. Thanks to the local support of sponsors, numerous donations, and rider registrations, the 2008 event was able to donate \$109,500 to Brenner Children's Hospital, Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

Due to the efforts of all who support Brett's Ride, the Children's Oncology Group (COG is an organization which shares research and treatment options across the country; see [CureSearch.org](http://CureSearch.org)) was able to open and maintain several clinical trials, including cutting-edge treatments and long-term survivorship protocol. Just this past March 6<sup>th</sup>, the second Brett Gosnell Lectureship was held in Winston-Salem. This year's distinguished expert was the world-renowned Dr. Holcombe Grier of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital in Boston. While at the symposium, Dr. Grier also participated in a special Sarcoma Pediatric Tumor Board Conference.

This year's Brett's Ride is dedicated to Cassandra Jene "CJ" Barnes who passed away January 19, 2009 at the age of 16 from Ewings Sarcoma, a rare bone cancer. CJ was a junior at Fred T. Foard High School and expressed her beautiful talents in the arts and throughout her active community life.

Brett's Ride will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2009 starting and finishing at the Hickory Foundation YMCA. Enhanced ride options will be available this year starting at 9AM. Besides the traditional 10 and 32 mile routes, there will be a 52 mile and 75 mile Brett's Challenge option. The 52 and 75 mile options offer enhanced safety while providing a challenging and timed event. Riders will officially complete these two rides at Caldwell TV on Old Shelby Road. The riders will then ride in neutral fashion back to the YMCA.

Again this year there will be a Tot Ride on the half-mile track located behind the Hickory Foundation YMCA. The track will be open from 10:00 AM through 12:00 PM for the younger Brett's Ride supporters to participate using strollers, wagons, tricycles, or bicycles. Helmets are required.

Early registration for Brett's Ride is encouraged and forms are available at Rock n Road Bicycles, various businesses throughout the Hickory area, or you can register by email at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Entry fee is \$25.00 if registered by October 4th; \$30.00 the day of the ride at 7:30 AM. The Tot Ride entry fee is \$10.00.