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## “Tour de Kids” Charity Bike Ride Makes Children’s Hospital Visit

*Ace employees and retailers ride from Chicago to Denver in an effort to raise \$1 million for Children’s Miracle Network hospitals*

OMAHA, Neb. – Children’s Hospital hosted the first-ever Omaha stop on the Ace Hardware “Tour de Kids” charity bike ride on Sat., Sept. 15. Cyclists arrived at the hospital just after 3:00 p.m. to a warm welcome provided by several young patients and their families.

The 18-day ride, covering more than 1,100 miles, was an effort to raise \$1 million for Children’s Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals across the country. Ace also donated \$5,000 to Children’s Hospital during the team’s visit.

“Children’s Hospital is excited to welcome these cyclists. They are giving so much of themselves to raise money that ultimately ensures the best care possible for sick children,” said Roger Lewis, executive director of Children’s Hospital Foundation. “We sincerely thank these riders and Ace Hardware for their ongoing support of Children’s Hospital through the Children’s Miracle Network.”

The “Tour de Kids” kicked off on Friday, Sept. 7 at Ace Hardware’s corporate headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill. Different teams of riders traveled each of the tour’s three

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legs – the first from Oak Brook to Iowa City, Iowa; the second from Iowa City to Lincoln, Neb.; and the third and final leg from Lincoln to Denver, Colo. More than 50 Ace Hardware corporate employees and retailers as well as executives and vendor partners put in countless hours of training.

“We’re continually impressed – but not surprised – by our employee and vendor participation in this event,” said Jimmy Alexander, president of the Ace Hardware Foundation. “Children’s Miracle Network is such a great cause and we’re proud to do our part in helping to raise awareness and funds for all the children in the more than 170 network hospitals.”

Paul Gapinski, an Ace Hardware district manager based in Omaha, was one of the “helpful” riders. He participated in the second leg of the tour, traveling 349 miles from Iowa City through Omaha and on to Lincoln.

“I haven’t done anything like this before, but wanted to be involved because it’s a more personal way to raise money for the kids,” Gapinski explained. “I’ve always believed in the Children’s Miracle Network and have tried to help out where I can.”

The Ace “Helpful Riders” secured donations throughout the Ace organization and from their numerous vendor partners. As they wrapped up in Denver, the Tour de Kids charity bike ride had raised a total of nearly \$2 million since the inaugural ride in 2004.

“Every dollar we receive makes a difference in the lives of the children who receive care here. Whether it’s through advanced diagnostic technology, cutting edge therapies or the caring hands of an experienced nurse, each and every child deserves the very best we can give,” said Lewis.

This was the fourth annual “Tour de Kids” ride. For more information, or to donate, go to [www.acetourdekids.com](http://www.acetourdekids.com).

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*Located in Omaha, Children’s Hospital is the only full-service pediatric hospital in Nebraska. It proudly serves children in a five-state region, specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of pediatric heart disorders and oncology care. Children’s has achieved Magnet recognition for nursing excellence and is the primary inpatient teaching site for the joint Creighton University/University of Nebraska Medical Center pediatric residency program. Children’s also serves as the pediatric training site for the family practice residency programs at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University, as well as for many of the region’s nursing and health profession schools.*