

Bike for Life III : A Long Ride, A Courageous Journey for Kids With Cancer

Romeo Patnugot was a tricycle driver for many years. He saw cyclists every day as he was transporting his passengers. He never thought that one day, he himself would ride a bike and be part of a cycling caravan for childhood cancer.

On September 16 and for the next 14 days, Mang Romeo will cycle everyday and endure a grueling and back breaking 1500 kilometer trip from Alabang to Davao City. He is one of the nine fathers and eleven other bikers that will be riding with James Auste, the executive director of the Cancer Warriors Foundation who himself is a brain cancer survivor. This long ride is Bike for Life 3: A Journey of Courage and Hope undertaken by Cancer Warriors Foundation with the support of 7-11, PEPSI, Sarmiento Management Corporation and Vitarich .

Mang Romeo has found the strength to undertake this extreme challenge in order to honor his daughters courage in battling cancer. His only daughter Regine, 9 years old is battling ALL (acute lymphocytic leukemia). The burden of single-handedly caring for his daughter has forced Mang Ramon to sell his tricycle/give up his main source of livelihood. He now accepts laundry from neighbours to raise funds for their daily needs. His daughter is one of 80 kids whose medical treatment and care is being fully supported by Cancer Warriors Foundation.

“To see my kid rise up with a smile very morning, to imagine her laughing and playing again , to know she has a chance to be healthy again and live a full and long life --- this is what motivated me to get on the bike, prepare myself for this exhausting long ride, and push myself to my own limits ,” said Mang Ramon. “This will also be an opportunity to inform everyone how difficult and demanding childhood cancer is, especially if you are a child of poor parents. People out there need to know that children can have cancer and that they can do something to help these kids face cancer. No child should face cancer alone”

Bike for life will kick off at Alabang town center on Sunday, September 16 at 7:00 am then on to Batangas City (September 16 noon; town plaza) : Calapan / Roxas Mindoro (September 17), Caticlan (September 18 Port Area) , Kalibo (September 18 3 PM Forum at : Dr. Rafael Tumbokon Memorial Hospital), Roxas (September 19; 2 PM Forum at Filamer College), Iloilo City (September 19; 1:30 PM Forum at St Pauls College), Bacolod City (September 21; 2:00 PM Forum at UNO R), San Carlos City (September 22, PM Forum at Municipal Hall) Dumaguete City (September 23; Silliman University), Cebu City (September 24; Mormon Temple – Lahug and September 25, University of San Jose Recoletos) , Cagayan de Oro (September 26 and 27) , Malaybalay Bukidnon (September 28) , Quezon,

Bukidnon (September 29), Davao City (September 30 ; Davao Medical School Foundation).

----- (if short hanggang dito na lang ... if long ... proceed)

Bike for Life is a fund-raising as well as consciousness-raising initiative. Childhood cancer is an unknown, growing menace in our society. Every 3 hours, one Filipino child dies of cancer. What kills them is not the disease itself but poverty --- the lack of funds and support for seeking and completing medical treatment and care. The high incidence of deaths among kids with cancer means that out of ten kids diagnosed with cancer, only two or three will be lucky to live. Contrast this with resource rich countries where nine out of ten kids are now able to survive cancer and become healthy adults .

You can support Bike for Life by riding in any of the legs, attending their forums in any of their stops or making a donation to Cancer Warriors Foundation at MetroBank Account No. 7-168-509-240 For more information visit www.c-warriors.org ; www.cancer-warriors.org or write support@c-warriors.org . You can also email jamesauste@yahoo.com, cva@sarman.com, or call 551-4588; Fax: 832-9703 ; Send a Text/SMS to : 0917-794-0626; 0917-8485258 .