Thank You Players and Donors

“And a good time was had by all.” Usually, that’s the last line of the article, but I’m starting with it because it is the predominant theme of GSIL’s annual Hoops on Wheels Tournament. Ask anyone involved and they will tell you – it was a blast!

This year marked our 5th annual event and thanks to the fabulous participation of over 200 players and volunteers, and almost 500 donors, we experienced great success. With 23 teams participating (some like Northeast Rehab and AGNE love it so much they submit two teams!), we raised over $29,000.

Two Bonuses

With games played all day long in both Three Rivers School and Pembroke Academy, players had a chance to experience disability first hand. My favorite comment – “I feel like I’ve been walking on my arms all day.” They also had a great deal of fun. Peals of laughter were common, smiles constant. And as the day drew to a close, the competition grew fierce.

The final game featured a rematch between Crotched Mountain Rehab Eagles and CCA Global Partners All-Stars. As a four year championship team, CCA faced Crotched Mountain in the final for the third time, but this year with a different outcome.

He Shoots, He Scores!

With two seconds left on the clock, Nolan Murphy for the All-Stars hooked the ball from center court, and sunk a 3 pointer to tie the game. But the Eagles, fully pumped this year, won the game in overtime in the last four seconds with a layup scored by Alex Maloney. Personally, I have never seen grown men so thrilled. But frankly, so was everyone in the gym, including the very sportsmanlike CCA Global team. It was a game, and ending, to be remembered. Congratulations Crotched Mountain Rehab Eagles!

Join the fun next year! Contact me, Leslie Ari, at 410-6532 or at lari@gsil.org.
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Hoops on Wheels 2016
BY THE NUMBERS

2 Gyms
180+ Players
39 Volunteers
31 Wheelchairs
6 Announcers
52 Pinnies
1 Champion Team
$27,237 Total Raised
23 Teams
974 Baskets Scored
10 Referees
Doug's Travel Journal

[April 9, 2016] Day One - San Diego, CA to Barrett Junction, CA - I begin my day in San Diego, working my way through the city streets and heavy traffic, continuing out into the countryside along very narrow roads carved from the mountainside with no shoulders. Even though the Southwest has been in a drought, it's raining. This is a very technical ride and there's over 1600 feet of vertical gain, it's very steep. At the end of the day my nephew Nathan Hickey was kind enough to set up a tent and provide dinner. We slept to the sound of the pouring rain. In the morning I discovered I had a flat tire which had to be repaired before I set out for the day.

[April 19, 2016] Prescott, AZ to Chino Valley, AZ and beyond - Today I went around the corner just after seeing a sign that said "Watch for Animals," and there was a cow standing out in the road. That's enough to get your heart racing. Tomorrow I am heading north towards Osh Fork and Williams and will connect with Route 66/Interstate 40 which I will follow more or less until I get to St. Louis.

[April 29-30, 2016] Santa Fe, New Mexico - There was hail on my bike and the picnic table where I was camping when I woke up this morning. It's cold! I was delighted when our former neighbor stopped by to pick me up. She will host me while I take my first day off in three weeks and resupply. I have to buy a new bike tire for my back one has worn out. These roads are rough on tires.

[May 9, 2016] Erick, Oklahoma - The roads are much better today. It was the first day I could feel the heat, which I really like. Now there are a lot more trees, deciduous, probably cottonwoods. I only passed two rest areas across the whole panhandle. Rest areas have been a safe place for me to stop and take a break and have a snack. I did 72 miles today! It was really flat and the winds were not against me. It was nice to get calls from my family in St. Louis. I had hoped to see them as I passed through, but they're off on an Alaska cruise. Timing is everything.

[May 24, 2016] Columbia, Missouri (Katy Trail on the Missouri River) - Slept on the banks of the Missouri River last night, it's huge, 1/2 mile across in places. The Katy Trail is only 50 yards away. The mosquitoes are ferocious so I have to keep moving. I've covered 100 miles of the trail so far, it's beautiful and safe so I can turn up the tunes and get into the zone. It's nice meeting people and swapping stories.

[June 5, 2016] London, Ohio - Today was a good day. It was pretty flat. Riding this trail is easier than the Katy Trail because it's paved. The farms are smaller here, but I'm still seeing fields of beans, wheat and corn. It clouded up today but there was no rain - that's what I call a good day. I'm looking forward to a good dinner and a home-made breakfast. I am staying at Andreas B&B, which also has Youth Hostel rooms for a very good price. The place is an amazing Victorian with stained glass and lots of interesting detail.

To read Doug's whole journal, or to make your gift of support, visit www.changinggearsatgsil.org.
Mark Your Calendar!

- April 10th - TBD - *Changing Gears: A Charity Bike Ride Across America*
- June 29th @ 8:30am - Tune in to WEZS 1350AM to hear some of our great stories
- August 19th-28th – *Charitable Gaming ManchVegas Poker Room* | Manchester, NH
- September 22nd – *3rd Annual Chipping in FORE! Independence Golf Tournament*

**September 22, 2016**

11:00am at Lake Sunapee Country Club

**Shotgun Start | Scramble Format**

**Entry Fee:** $150 per player, includes:
- Lunch, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, greens fees & cart
- **Raffles/Prizes/Contests!**

Bring a team or join a team and enjoy a great day on this private course designed by Donald Ross in GSIL’s 3rd Annual Golf Tournament!

*All proceeds directly support seniors and people with disabilities who live life independently.*

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