



By Linda Martin

**Emmy Giarrusso, 16, from Hingham starts off the ride with the National Anthem. More than 80 volunteers helped make the event possible.**

## **Kids Pan Mass Challenge raises \$50K**

**Mon Jun 30, 2008, 07:32 AM EDT**

- Hingham -

Sunday at Hingham High School more than 500 bikers age 3 to 15 celebrated the work they'd done to fight cancer. The Second Annual Kids Pan-Mass Challenge in Hingham gathered kids from all over the South Shore for a ride and post ride party. Just like the adult PMC bike ride in August from Sturbridge to Provincetown, 100 percent of the funds the kids raised goes to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund.

The Hingham Ride has raised over \$50,000 this year so far which brings the two year total for the kids to more than \$114,000. Donations are still coming in for this year.

The day started with the kids turning in their donations and a pre-ride ceremony. Kelley Tuthill from Channel 5 News Team, a Hingham native and a cancer survivor who is treated at the Dana Farber, joined in as emcee and Emmy Giarrusso, 16, from Hingham, sang the National Anthem. Heavy hitters who raised more than \$250 each were recognized, but the kids were anxious to start off on their selected routes. Challenge riders were led off on their seven-mile ride into Wompatuck by Melissa Robin, last year's co-chair and Team Perini, the PMC team she rides with. Team Perini, based in Hingham, has raised over \$2.5 million over the years for the Dana Farber.

Then the 2.5-mile Crusader riders were led off by Jonathan Sheehan of Quincy, 8, the top fund-raiser from last year. In 2007 he raised \$1,500 and this year he has raised almost \$3,200 so far. His mother Janice, said after he turned in his donation, Jonathan's first question was "Mom, when can I start raising money for next year?" Then the 63 tykes on tricycles and small bikes took off on their loop around the parking lot and were the first to finish and get their medals under the colorful balloon arch waving in the wind.

After the ride, the kids lined up for Nona's Ice Cream, the New Balance inflatable obstacle course and to get balloon art created by Bob from Magic for All Occasions. Andrew Mackinlay, a 15-year-old participant from Hingham, a leukemia survivor who is a patient at the Dana Farber, spoke about how meaningful this ride is to him. This year, he will be the youngest cancer survivor to ever ride the adult PMC. He told the kids that "the funds you raised helps people like me fight cancer."

Raffle tickets helped up the donation amount topped off by Red Sox Tickets and gift certificates to Burton's Grill and Gymboree. The kids raised money by selling refreshments at athletic events, asking for donations for birthday presents, doing chores and writing letters. Registration Crew Leader Lisa Patterson from Hingham remarked 'My kids are still raising money. They have another lemonade stand planned and a birthday coming up, so we'll be sending in more'. Cochair Matt Dillis who is over 6 feet promised from stage to ride his 8-year-old son Curran's little bike in the Hingham Fourth of July Parade if the donations reach last year's \$64,000 level by then. "That should be a sight worth paying for" as Matt said.

More than 80 volunteers helped make the event a success. Riders included 360 Hingham children; there were 76 from Scituate, including teams from the Jenkins Elementary School and the Inly School. Riders came from as far away as Denver, Co.

To see that display of athletic ability, keep donating at [kids.pmc.org/hingham](http://kids.pmc.org/hingham) or P.O. Box 606, Hingham. Checks can be made out to PMC/Jimmy Fund. "These kids have worked so hard to help in the fight against cancer they need just a little more help to get to their goal," said Cochair Rose Dillis.

*Photos on following pages...*



Five of the 558 kids aged 3-15 from around the South Shore who fought cancer by contributing to the Kids PMC Bike Ride in Hingham.



They're off! Hundreds of children join the cancer fight in the second annual Kids Pan-Mass Challenge in Hingham.



Matt Dillis who is 6 ft 7 inches tall, will ride his son Curran's bike in the Hingham 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade if the funds raised for the Dana-Farber reach the 2007 level of \$64,000. Currently the 2008 Kids PMC in Hingham has raised about \$50,000.



PMC Team Forza-G members who helped to make the 2008 Hingham Kids Ride a success (L-R): Drew Strobert, Gert Reynaert, Leon Brink, Matt Dillis, Garrett Lunden and Sara Gagnon.