

April 16, 2007

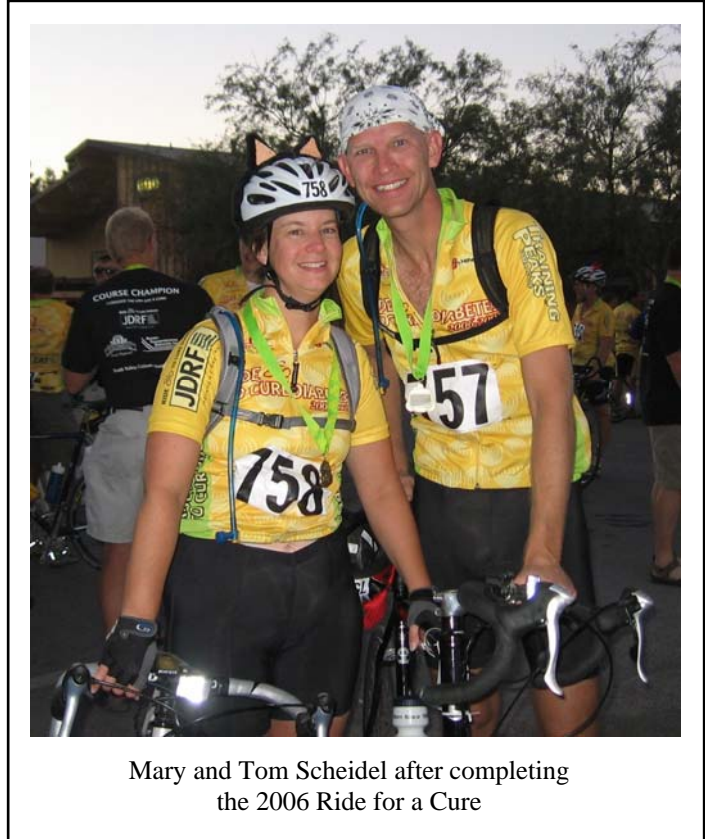
Dear Friends,

What would possess someone to ride a bicycle not once, not twice, but three times through Death Valley? And not just one person, but hundreds from across the country? It would be the possibility of finding a cure for Type 1 diabetes. For the third year in a row we will be participating in the Juvenile Diabetes Ride for a Cure. This 105 mile ride through the desert takes place on October 20, 2007.

We will be riding again this year in honor of our son Jacob. As you may know Jacob was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when he was 6 years old. He is 16 now and will be a junior at Rockford High School this fall. Each day Jacob has to poke his finger 4 to 6 times to check his blood sugar. In the ten years since he was diagnosed that's almost 19,000 finger pokes. Every two to three days he has to change the site for his insulin pump. This involves inserting a catheter into his abdomen so the pump can give him his daily dose of insulin. Most diabetics will say that the finger pokes, shots and site changes don't really hurt after awhile. But it does hurt, they may get used to it, but it still hurts. Although Jacob is the one with diabetes, the disease affects our entire family. So this year we are heading back to the desert to help combat diabetes. In October, Mary and Tom will be participating in the JDRF Ride for a Cure in Death Valley, California. This is a century ride, 105 miles in the desert in a single day. When we look at what Jacob has to go through everyday, this seems like a small effort in comparison.

Today we are asking for your support. Tom and Mary will each be riding 105 miles. We have set a family goal to raise \$8,000. Over 84% of all the donations collected by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation go directly to diabetes research. If you or your company could honor Jacob with a donation we would greatly appreciate it. Checks can be made out to *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation* (or *JDRF*) and sent to us at 6184 Archer St. NE, Rockford, MI 49341. This year you can also donate on-line. Go to www.deathvalleyride.blogspot.com. There you can track our training progress, see photos of the ride and donate to the cause. In the links section on the left side of the page click on "Donate to Tom" or "Donate to Mary" and follow the easy directions. Thank you in advance for your support. Together, we will be known as the people who cured diabetes.

Tom and Mary Scheidel



Mary and Tom Scheidel after completing the 2006 Ride for a Cure

www.deathvalleyride.blogspot.com