

Mt. Charlie Challenge raises \$25,00 for SV Education

The 2011 Mt. Charlie Challenge pledge bike ride on April 23 was a huge success, according to event organizers. "We had no injuries, no rain (although it was close!), superb live entertainment, and a ton of good food and lots of happy riders. Best of all, we raised about \$25,000 for the Scotts Valley Educational Foundation to spend on our four local public schools," said co-coordinator Michael Rein. He and his other co-coordinators, Aura Clendenen and Charlotte Multer, expressed their appreciation to the hundreds of riders, sponsors and volunteers who supported this annual community fund drive for the schools.

For the ninth consecutive year, the Mt. Charlie Challenge Pledge Ride returned to Scotts Valley, this year on Saturday, April 23. Sponsored by the Scotts Valley Educational Foundation, Mt. Charlie Challenge has now raised over \$200,000 for Scotts Valley's four public schools.



Photo credit: Terry Rein

Ride co-coordinator **Aura Clendenen** (from left), **Haley, Martina, Sean and Devin Hawthorn, Hon. Rob Attack. Devin, age nine, was the youngest rider in the nine-year history of the Mt. Charlie Challenge.**

"It's amazing how riders, sponsors, donors and volunteers step up each year. It's truly a reflection of how much this town values its public schools," Clendenen added.

About 60 volunteers, most of whom are parents of students in Scotts Valley's schools, organize the Mt. Charlie Challenge, which is traditionally the biggest fundraiser of the year for the Educational Foundation.

The Mt. Charlie Challenge offers two different routes, each starting and ending at Skypark. The 100K Metric Century (62 miles) climbs to the Summit, passed wineries and through redwoods, winds through Corralitos, Aptos and Santa Cruz before returning to Scotts Valley.

The 50K Half Century (32 miles) featured less challenging climbs through redwoods, a rest stop at a vineyard, on to Aptos and return to Scotts Valley. Both routes culminate in the family BBQ luncheon with live music in Skypark.

"In this time of budget cuts, it's more important than ever that our community work – and pedal – together to support our public schools," explained Clendenen. ■

Visit the Educational Foundation's website: www.svef.net.



Photo credit: Terry Rein

Ride co-coordinator **Charlotte Multer** with son **Gabe Multer, age 15, at the morning registration.**

"We owe it all to the incredible community support we receive," said one of the ride's organizers, Aura Clendenen.



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