

Mike Bainbridge Rides to Vermont for Scleroderma

Mike Bainbridge completed his ride to Lake Willoughby in Vermont from Jersey City, New Jersey raising over \$6000 for scleroderma.....read his story



This summer I cycled 400 miles from Jersey City to Vermont to raise money for a relatively unknown but very serious disease...Scleroderma.

In 2000, my Mother-in-Law, Susan Pierce, was diagnosed with Scleroderma. Like most people, we had never heard of this condition let alone its cause and symptoms. Over 300,000 people in the US suffer from the disease, an autoimmune disorder which creates a hardening of the skin, connective tissues, nerves and sometimes internal organs. While the condition is treatable, it can be fatal and as yet there is no known cure. Fortunately for us, Susan has been able to keep her symptoms in check but this disease lacks the public awareness and therefore the financial support that it really needs to fund research to find the cure.

Susan is an active member of the Scleroderma Foundation and this year I have decided to do my part to help her and the foundation. So on July 21st I set off for Vermont's Northeast Kingdom to raise money for the foundation. My specific destination was Lake Willoughby, which has been a summer vacation retreat for 4 generations of Susan's (and now my) family. It is a place of great natural beauty that brings our family together every year. The trip took me up the Hudson Valley to Albany, across the Green Mountains to Brattleboro and up the Connecticut River to Lake Willoughby. It was a blast and I am blessed with great friends who supported my effort with their donations and thankful to my family for letting me loose on the countryside on my own for a week!

Mike accepted donations through his Firstgiving site so far raising \$6000. We are grateful for Mike's generosity and bike riding abilities!!

Thank you