

Holly Grey's 2014 PMC Ride

In the 35 year history of the Pan Mass Challenge, the 2014 ride was the wettest and coldest on record! We rode through driving rain all day Saturday, seeing many of our fellow cyclists drop-out due to the weather conditions, which brought on hypothermia in dozens of riders. Even for several members of the team I rode with, the rest stop at mile 80 on the first day brought uncontrollable shaking as we worked to warm-up. But, this was also the rest stop where the mile preceding it was lined with the pictures of the “pedal partners” – children being actively treated for cancer. As one team member said, “how can I possibly quit when I see those pictures”?! So, we donned the garbage bags being handed out by one of the volunteers for some extra dryness and warmth and off we went. It was a long hard day but one that was fulfilling when we finally finished – and even more fulfilling was the hot shower afterwards when we could finally warm up and get dry!

Day two brought more rain, but only in limited amounts. The highlight of that day was the mid-way point rest stop when an adorable 12 year old boy was walking around with his “living proof” sign. He fought cancer starting at age 5 and is now age 12. When we went up to get our picture taken with him and I told him I’m living proof too, he said “sweet” and gave me a great big high five. It was a great moment as I was fighting back the tears.

The event is well on its way to its goal of raising \$40 million, which will result in crossing the cumulative amount raised of over \$450 million, with the final number being published in the November timeframe. I also personally achieved a milestone crossing the \$50,000 mark in funds raised in my 5th PMC. This milestone is solely because of the generosity of everyone receiving this email who has supported me this year and/or in prior years that I have ridden. For my sister and fiancé, this was the first year they did the PMC and I was worried that the weather might have deterred them from ever doing it again. When we crossed the finish line, they both looked at me and said “what a special event and I can’t wait until next year!”. So, until the next fundraising email, I will leave you all with some pictures of this year’s event (at left).

Sturbridge start – is always one of my favorite times in the ride when thousands of riders, all wearing the same jersey, create a sea as far as the eye can see as we begin



Day one gear – we tried everything to beat the rain!



Living proof – his sign says it all

