

Local Cyclists Go the Distance

Information submitted by the Garff and Rains families



Chandler Haueter is in front, followed by Shaun Garff, Chris Rains, Kregg Rogers, and Parry Garff as they pass through northern Utah on their way to Seattle

In 1991, Gary and Lynn Anderson of Piedmont founded the Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Fund (EBMRF). Their son and daughter had both been afflicted with a rare, tragic skin disorder called Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). After living short lives filled with pain, Chuck Anderson died at the age of 27 and Christine Anderson at age 14. This spring, four students from Brigham Young University, including Campolindo graduate Shaun Garff and Miramonte grad Chris Rains, embarked on a 2600-mile bicycle trip to raise funds and awareness for the disease that affects more than 100,000 Americans, most of whom are children.

EB is characterized by infection and blistering of the skin. Simple daily occurrences such as bumps, bathing or even human touch can create new blisters or increase infection. Most EB patients do not survive beyond their twenties.

The Garff and Rains families

are friends of the Andersons. "I've seen kids who have this disease and have seen how painful it is," said Shaun Garff. "I'm motivated by the thought that a cure is right around the corner and children can be freed from this pain very soon. I want to be part of that."

The trip started on May 12 in Provo, Utah. The men (Garff, Rains, Parry Garff and Chandler Haueter) rode from central Utah north through Idaho to Seattle and then headed south along the Pacific Coast. They arrived in the Bay Area on June 7th and spent a few days resting before their scheduled departure for Santa Cruz on Thursday. The trip will end in San Diego.

EBTrek'08 is a student-run venture organized under the non-profit Adventures for a Cause. More information about the trek can be found at <http://www.ebtrek08.org/>, and about EBMRF at <http://www.ebkids.org/>.