

CPC Volunteer Profile

Larry Halverson

The memory of his fiancée will always be a part of what motivates Larry Halverson to stay involved with the Loreen Miller Bike Ride. When Larry created the ride in her name just three months after she died in 1994, he had no idea it would become Cancer Patient Care's biggest annual fundraiser, and one of the longest-running cancer-related bike rides in the nation.

"I didn't have a clue what we were doing," he admits. That first year, a co-worker helped him make copies of registrations, which garnered just 12 cyclists.

"There were a few serious riders, a few friends of mine, a few friends of Loreen ... and one kid on a BMX bike with a relative who had cancer. We raised \$500."

The size of the ride has doubled each year, hovering for the past three years at nearly 600 participants, and raising close to \$60,000 per ride.

Larry's continued involvement has been spurred by many things: His father's death from cancer, hearing riders' powerful stories of survival, and what he considers an ongoing need by one of our area's most crucial local organizations.

"Each year Cancer Patient Care just struggles to get funding. They are one

of Spokane's best kept secrets, and they don't mean to be," he says. He and other volunteers who witness their care first-hand do what they can to get the word out.

"I've been associated for the last 15 years and I'm always amazed. They just care about their clients—they're their "family.""

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Cancer Patient Care, and the 15th anniversary of the Loreen Miller Bike



Larry Halverson (left) leads the group with Olympic Gold Medalist Tyler Hamilton during the Loreen Miller Bike Ride '06 (Alex Renner photo)

To visit Larry's Janus Charity Challenge webpage and find out more, go to the cancerpatientcare.org Larry's Challenge link. You may also contribute directly to CPC and specify Larry's Challenge to support his effort.

Ride, Larry is stepping up his fund-raising commitment by participating in this June's Coeur d'Alene Ironman Triathlon. Larry's goal is to raise over \$50,000 in honor of CPC's 50th Anniversary Celebration this year.

Competing through the Janus Charity Challenge's "Men of Iron, Hearts of Gold," 52-year-old Larry's physical training for

the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.4-mile run is intense: three to five hours a day. But he brings the memory of his own and others' loved ones to each workout.

"Do I want to get up at four a.m.? No, I've never been a morning person," he laughs. "What keeps me going is that I can. A little bit of body pain is nothing compared to fighting for your life. How can I whine? I do," he confesses, "but how can I?"

His Ironman training won't take his focus off the Loreen Miller Bike Ride, for which his wife Melissa and four of their children all volunteer. And Melissa will proudly wear the 15th T-shirt that bears the name of her husband's ex-fiancée.

"Sometimes I tease him about it," she says, casting him an adoring look. "But this

bike ride is more than Loreen — it's about all the people it's helped, all the people who the bike riders are riding for. She and the race are part of what made Larry who he is now. I have cherished being a part of it."

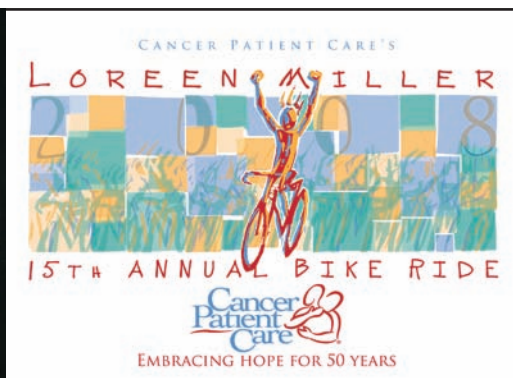
- Lisa Fairbanks-Rossi

"It was my ride at first, my way of honoring her. There were 12 riders the first year...It has grown to 600 riders. Now it's everybody's ride. What a blessing this has been, from an idea... to an event."

— Larry Halverson,
Loreen Miller Bike Ride
Founder



Loreen Miller



15th Anniversary T-shirt design
(Bassett & Brush Designs, Inc.)