

# ILLINI for Cancer 4 000

*Uniting Students, Families, and Communities in the Fight Against Cancer*

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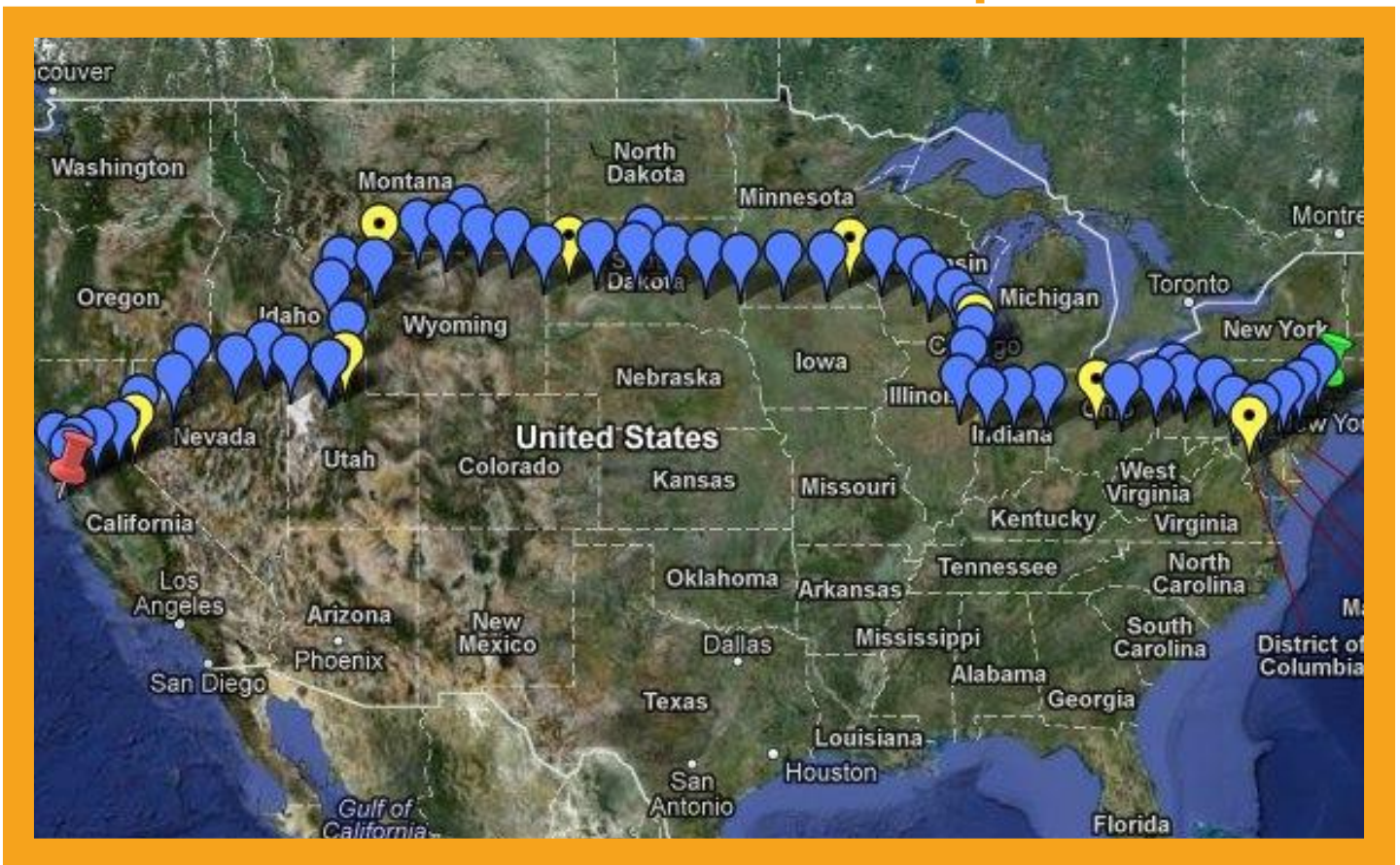
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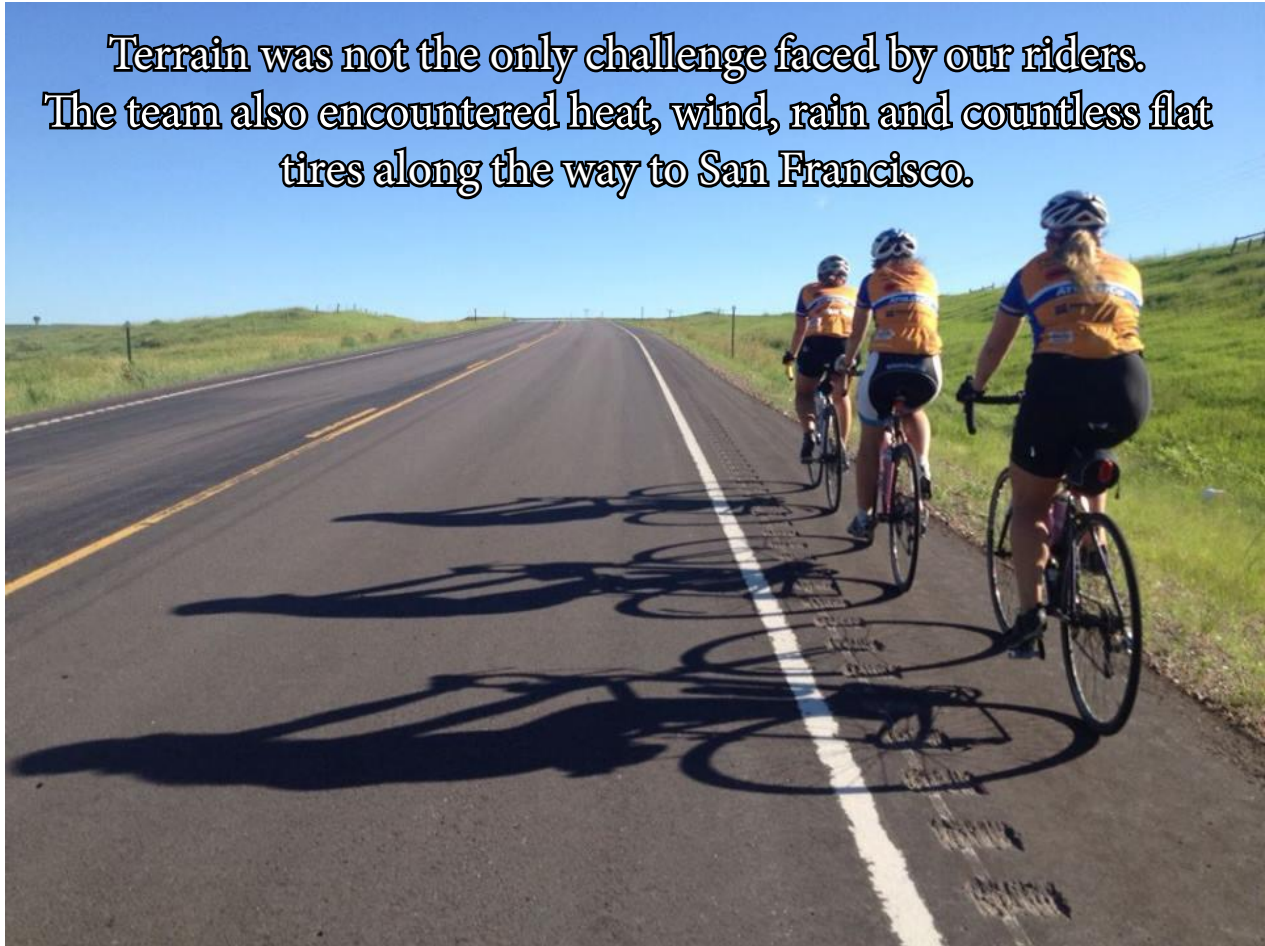
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## 2013 Ride Recap



The 2013 Illini 4000 team embarked on their journey, barely knowing each other, and knowing even less about what the summer had in store for them. On May 25th, they began pedaling from New York City. 4,188 miles and 68 days lie between the team and San Francisco. As the summer began to fly by, the days consisted of biking, eating, and sleeping, with lots of laughs, songs, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The team became accustomed to sleeping on floors and going days without showers. With every mile, the team of 22 got closer.

**Terrain was not the only challenge faced by our riders. The team also encountered heat, wind, rain and countless flat tires along the way to San Francisco.**



By the time this year's I4K team began to forge all new territory, up the Teton Pass and through Idaho, Utah, and Nevada, biking had become second nature. The challenge of riding everyday became more mental than physical with over 3,000 miles behind them. Heat, headwinds, rocky roads, and steep climbs gave them every reason to quit; however, knowing there was a stay over waiting or a plateau at the top of the mountain was relief enough to continue onward.

Knowing that people affected by cancer do not know when the pain will stop kept the team going. Each day, they dedicated their ride to loved one affected by cancer, and that not only brought the team closer together, but also kept them grounded in the Illini 4000 cause. Along the way, the team met with some of the researchers who benefit from Illini 4000 funds. These men and women have dedicated their lives to finding cures, treatments, and therapies for those with cancer. This inspired the team, and again, kept them pedaling.

Finally, while certainly humbled by our country's amazing and expansive landscape, it was truly the people they met who made the trip memorable. The team experienced kindness and generosity from people across the country. People cooked delicious meals, offered floors to sleep on, and opened up showers to the team. The people of this country are truly amazing. It was both an unforgettable and successful summer for both the team and the organization, having raised \$115,000 for cancer research and patient support services.

## **The 2013 Team**

|                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b><i>Aashiv Bharij</i></b>      | <b><i>Elyssa Musaraca</i></b> |
| <b><i>Matt Cannella</i></b>      | <b><i>Heather Norris</i></b>  |
| <b><i>Rishy Chacko</i></b>       | <b><i>Kara O'Herron</i></b>   |
| <b><i>Gregory Colten</i></b>     | <b><i>Jordan Orr</i></b>      |
| <b><i>Sarah Eisenberg</i></b>    | <b><i>David Pohlad</i></b>    |
| <b><i>Je Won Hong</i></b>        | <b><i>Madeline Schuh</i></b>  |
| <b><i>Catherine Kemp</i></b>     | <b><i>Matt Soltys</i></b>     |
| <b><i>Meiling Liu</i></b>        | <b><i>Yang Song</i></b>       |
| <b><i>John Meehan</i></b>        | <b><i>Shun Toyoshi</i></b>    |
| <b><i>Jacqueline Minnick</i></b> | <b><i>Ben Wooley</i></b>      |
| <b><i>Rebekah Munaretto</i></b>  | <b><i>Peter Zhang</i></b>     |

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# The Portraits Project

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*During the trek across the country, the Illini 4000 Bike America Team interviews cancer patients and survivors from all walks of life. Each Portrait adds to the Project's goal: an enduring and evolving representation of cancer's effect on American life. The Project illustrates how individuals respond to cancer based on religious beliefs, location, and socioeconomic status. Since its inception in 2007, the Illini 4000 has recorded over one hundred of these stories.*

## *A Word from our Director of the Portraits Project*

It's not every day that you see a group of 22 sweaty, span-dex-wearing college students taking over a gas station or roadside café.

Sometimes, people would simply give us a strange look and walk away. But many times, they would approach us and ask questions. We loved these opportunities to tell them about I4K and one of its most important features—the Portraits Project.

The Portraits Project is a collection of narratives that documents the American cancer experience and gives patients, survivors, and caregivers the chance to share their stories. Throughout the summer, we sat down with people we met during our journey and simply asked them to tell us about their experience with cancer.

This summer, the team conducted 30 Portraits—each one incredible in its own way. We heard stories about faith, sorrow, hope, anger, courage, love, and so much more. We are so grateful that so many were willing to share about their very personal struggles.

If nothing else, these stories affect each and every rider. They make us stronger people. They inspire us to persevere on hard days when we are biking into the wind or up a mountain. We become connected to people we never would have met and create bonds that are so strong and unique.

The Portraits Project is something that sets our organization apart from other cancer fighting organizations. It allows us to personalize cancer—something that can often seem vague and impersonal and far away. It inspires others and brings people together who wouldn't usually interact. It creates a community of powerful people who have been touched by cancer in some way. By sharing these stories, we hope to unite people, provide resources, and guide them toward a new way of thinking.

During the upcoming year, we will be revamping portraitsproject.org, sharing these wonderful stories in new ways, and connecting people all over the country. Stay tuned, because Portraits is going places!

*Casey Fee, Catherine Kemp, Sarah Bopp, Connor Wilson, and Rishy Chacko  
Portraits Project Board*

*Steve Odon is a cancer survivor and 2010 rider and one of many to share his story with the Portraits Project.*



*2013 Illini 4000 riders with Ken Bettencourt, a Portrait participant from this summer's ride.*

# Connecting to the Cause

*The Illini 4000 seeks out opportunities to learn more about cancer research, treatment, and prevention. We also spend time interacting with members of the community affected by cancer.*

**New York City, NY:** The 2013 team set off for New York City in the afternoon on May 22nd and started on their bikes the morning of May 24th. Within that time they had the opportunity to meet with the NYC Illini Club and the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. The team met with some of the researchers from Damon Runyon, received a tour of the facilities, and spoke with some of the scientists about their research.



**Champaign and Chicago, IL:** The team worked their way through Champaign and Chicago, where they were welcomed home by friends and family at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center and Millennium Park, respectively. The team had a ride-along event with Illini 4000 alumni, friends and family, as well as local cyclists out of both of these cities.

**Rochester, MN:** While the team was making their way west they had the opportunity to tour the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Here they spoke with nurses and doctors to learn more about the process of cancer treatment. They were shown the chemo center and radiation equipment, and saw firsthand how a cancer patient is treated.



**Salt Lake City, UT:** The team dipped south towards Salt Lake City, where they again got to meet with Damon Runyon scientists at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. They heard about the research being done in this area, spoke with doctors, as well as met some patients who were being treated at this facility.

**San Francisco, CA:** The 2013 team finally arrived in San Francisco on July 31st, and were welcomed by the San Francisco Illinois Alumni, friends, and family to a picnic at Crissy Field Beach. Many riders stayed in the city for a couple more days before heading back to Illinois to prepare for school.



# Our Beneficiaries

## Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation



**\$50,000**

The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation works to accelerate breakthroughs by funding young scientists in their pursuit of innovative research. The organization uses 100% of donations for research.

**\$29,125**

The Illini 4000 supports the American Cancer Society because of its long-standing commitment to cancer research. The American Cancer Society is the largest, not-for-profit source of funding for scientists studying cancer and has provided funding for some of the most important breakthroughs in cancer research.



**\$15,000**

The Illini 4000 is also proud to support the efforts of Camp Kesem, an organization which runs summer camps for children whose parents have been affected by cancer. Through our continued support, the Illini 4000 has helped dozens of children to attend Camp Kesem Illinois free of charge.

BENEFITING

**LIVESTRONG**

**\$8,875**

The Illini 4000 allocates a portion of its donation to patient support services. The Livestrong Foundation focuses on providing victims of cancer with various resources, such as the Livestrong Guidebook, which helps survivors learn about treatment and find the best healthcare options.



**\$5,000**

The Illini 4000 contributed to the research of the University of Illinois' own Dr. Brendan Harley. Through this unrestricted contribution towards his research in biomaterials, Dr. Harley could venture into the introductory stages of potential research paths and obtain funding for large-scale future research projects.



**\$5,000**

Only 3% of the National Cancer Institute's budget funds childhood cancer research. The Illini 4000 is proud to support the Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation in working to close this gap, as well as provide support to families of children with cancer.



**\$2,500**

Camp TLC in Lombard, IL, provides a volunteer-run, fun-filled week for children with cancer and their siblings. Illini 4000's donation will allow five campers to attend for free.

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# Our Donors

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**MECHANICAL SYSTEMS, INC.**



**TREK**

CHAMPAIGN CYCLE CO.



Champaign, Ill.

BICYCLES



**THAT'S**  
RENTERTAINMENT



**HENDRICK HOUSE**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



**ATHLETICo**

PHYSICAL THERAPY • OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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## Contact Us

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### Board of Directors

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We would love to hear from you! If you have any general questions or comments about the organization, email us at [contactus@illini4000.org](mailto:contactus@illini4000.org)

For more information about the Illini 4000 for Cancer and the Portraits Project, visit:  
[www.illini4000.org](http://www.illini4000.org)  
[www.portraitsproject.org](http://www.portraitsproject.org)

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# Support the Illini 4000

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Dear Donor,

On behalf of the Illini 4000, I would like to thank you for your support of our organization throughout the past year. It is due to the generosity of donors like yourself that the Illini 4000 is able to reach its ambitious fundraising goals, as well as spread cancer awareness through the Portraits Project.

Throughout the past year, the Illini 4000 raised \$115,500 for cancer research and patient support services. The deserving recipients of these funds include the American Cancer Society, the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the Ishan Gala Foundation, the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, B+ Foundation, Camp TLC, and Camp Kesem - Illinois, and Illinois researcher Dr. Brendan Harley.

As we speak, preparations are underway for another successful year of fundraising. We are in the process of selecting determined participants for the 2014 Bike America Team. During the upcoming year, this team will help the Illini 4000 reach its goal of raising \$150,000. As always, we are incredibly excited and we would like to share that excitement with as many people as we can.

Accordingly, we kindly ask you to renew your support for the Illini 4000 in our ongoing fight against cancer. We are sincerely grateful for your continued encouragement, especially as our organization continues to expand and mature.

A donation form can be found below. Donations can be made online via PayPal by visiting [illini4000.org/donate](http://illini4000.org/donate).

-Alexandre Massey  
Director of Fundraising

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## ***Donation Form***

Please fill out the information below and on the next page, cut from page and mail to:

The Illini 4000 for Cancer  
P.O. Box 2431  
Champaign, IL 61825

Your Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Email: .....

(If your email is provided, we will send donation receipts electronically, which allows us to keep organizational mailing costs low)

I want to continue supporting the Illini 4000 by supporting the 2014 team with a tax-deductible donation of (select one):

\$25

\$50

\$100

\$200

\$250

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**All checks should be made out to the Illini 4000**

*Thank you for supporting our team!*

November 2013

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# Our Hosts

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*As we travel across the country, we are often fortunate enough to have an arranged place to stay for the evening. Many of our hosts provide us with a meal and the opportunity to interact with the community and share stories. We are so grateful for all of the places that donate their time and resources to our team.*

|                                   |                     |                                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Church of St. Paul the Apostle    | New York, NY        | Gloria dei Lutheran Church          | Sioux Falls, SD      |
| Sangakar household                | North Brunswick, NJ | Mitchell Christian School           | Mitchell, SD         |
| Calvary Methodist Church          | Philadelphia, PA    | Zion Lutheran Church                | Chamberlain, SD      |
| Salem United Methodist Church     | Newark, DE          | First United Methodist Church       | Pierre, SD           |
| Second Presbyterian               | Baltimore, MD       | Presbyterian Church in Kadoka       | Kadoka, SD           |
| Westminster DC                    | Washington, DC      | St. Patrick's Catholic Church       | Wall, SD             |
| United Methodist Church           | Boonsboro, MD       | Christ the King Lutheran Church     | Newcastle, WY        |
| Everett Church of the Brethren    | Everett, PA         | First United Methodist Church       | Gillette, WY         |
| United Methodist Church           | Mt. Pleasant, PA    | St. Luke's Lutheran Church          | Buffalo, WY          |
| Church of Ascension               | Pittsburgh, PA      | Trinity Lutheran Church             | Sheridan, WY         |
| St John's Episcopal Church        | Wheeling, WV        | Greybull Recreation District        | Greybull, WY         |
| Westwood Baptist Church           | Zanesville, OH      | Christ Episcopal Church             | Cody, WY             |
| Broad Street United Methodist     | Columbus, OH        | First Baptist Jackson               | Jackson, WY          |
| First English Lutheran Church     | Richmond, IN        | Cavalry Baptist Church              | Idaho Falls, ID      |
| Tabernacle Presbyterian Church    | Indianapolis, IN    | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church       | Pocatello, ID        |
| First United Methodist Church     | Rockville, IN       | Saint Catherine Newman Center       | Salt Lake City, UT   |
| Zion Lutheran Church              | Clifton, IL         | Grantsville High School             | Grantsville, UT      |
| Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church | Homewood, IL        | Wendover High School                | Wendover, UT         |
| University of Illinois Chicago    | Chicago, IL         | Wells Elementry School              | Wells, NV            |
| Trinity United Church             | Deerfield, IL       | United Methodist Church             | Carlin, NV           |
| Topol household                   | Lake Geneva, WI     | United Methodist Church             | Winnemucca, NV       |
| Bethel Lutheran Church            | Madison, WI         | Bethel Baptist Church               | Lovelock, NV         |
| St. John Lutheran Church          | Reedsburg, WI       | Lutheran Church of the Good Shepard | Reno, NV             |
| First Presbyterian Church         | La Crosse, WI       | St. Theresa Catholic Church         | South Lake Tahoe, CA |
| Zumbro Lutheran Church            | Rochester, MN       | Christian Life Center               | Pollock Pines, CA    |
| First Lutheran Church             | Albert Lea, MN      | Chinese United Methodist Church     | Sacramento, CA       |
| First Baptist Church              | Jackson, MN         | Hillside Christian Center           | Napa, CA             |
|                                   |                     | First Presbyterian Church           | San Anselmo, CA      |