



Senior Women's Cycle Team Competing in World's Longest Cycling Race to Raise Funds for Colorado Kids

April 30, 2008 - Four Colorado women will cycle more than 3,000 miles from coast to coast across America as they compete in what's billed as "The World's Toughest Bike Race," this June. And with every mile they pedal they'll be raising funds and awareness for the **Partnership for Rural Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs**.

This senior women's cycle team, the Colorado Flash, has raised more than **\$26,000** to date for the rural youth clubs in Colorado, and plans to raise more funds during the race. To sponsor the Colorado Flash cyclists, please contact Julie Mordecai with the Partnership for Rural Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs at 719.580.0379.

The Colorado Flash cycle team members are all accomplished lifelong world-class athletes. They are also mothers, grandmothers, spouses, business owners, and leaders. And as the ladies will tell you, the desire to compete in athletic events doesn't diminish with age. The Race Across AMerica is the longest running ultra-distance bicycle endurance competition in the world. The clock runs from the start in Oceanside, California and doesn't stop until the team reaches the finish line in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Colorado Flash team goal is to set a new women's senior record and complete the 3,000 mile race in 7 Days, for an average of 17 miles per hour as they pedal through *fifteen* states. The Colorado Flash team members are:

Lark Birdsong, age 57, first time competitor to this race;

Celeste Callahan, age 65, two-time Team Race Across America finisher, including the record-holding Senior Women's Team;

Helena Harman, age 50, first time competitor to this race; and

Carol Whipple, age 50, first time competitor to this race.

The Partnership for Rural Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs provides safe and positive centers staffed with youth development professionals where kids can spend time at the clubs when they aren't in school. This partnership covers 10 different rural organizations and 15 separate sites, serving more than 5,000 kids ages 6-18 in rural Colorado.

The Race Across AMerica begins Wednesday, June 11, and the Colorado Flash team's sponsors include Backpackers Pantry, Adventure Cycling, Sidi Shoes, Vredestein Tires, the Sock Guy, Rack Attack, the Columbia Triathlon Association, Team Estrogen, and Honey Stinger. For more information about The Colorado Flash, please visit <http://www.coloradoflash2008.com/>. For more information about the Partnership for Rural Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs, please visit <http://www.coloradoruralkids.org>. For more information about The Race Across AMerica, please visit <http://www.raceacrossamerica.org/>.

Please contact Samantha Richardson at slrichardson@qwest.net or 720.979.8921 to arrange for team interviews, photos, and more information.