



Columbus Man Rides For Himself & Others With Kidney Problems

By: *Robyn Haines* | NBC4

COLUMBUS, Ohio –

A Columbus man being treated for kidney failure is embarking on a 230-mile bike ride in Iowa to raise money for himself and others like him.

Tour DaVita is all about kidney health awareness and working to save lives in underserved communities around the world.

Mark Richardson is one of only six patients riding this week, but he will be in the company of 500 supporters and caregivers.

He has a special place in his heart for biking; crediting it with saving his life.

"I was worried that I'd never be able to ride my bike again," said Richardson.

That was his first reaction to learning he had kidney failure. When most people would be fearful, he worried that he wouldn't be able to do what he loved anymore.

So Richardson used his illness as motivation and rides everywhere from the grocery store to his dialysis appointments. He has not once letting his illness stop him from reaching his goal of getting back to where he started.

On Tuesday, Richardson is riding in his second Tour DaVita, a race that has raised more than \$3 million over six years.

"It's a way to bring awareness to people, to raise money so we can do screenings for people and hopefully get to the point where they don't have to do dialysis," said Richardson.

He says it has been three years since he started dialysis and that he is on the waiting list for a cadaver kidney.

"I feel like I need to stay in shape for that kidney because that person is making a sacrifice for me," said Richardson, who rides every day.

Tuesday is the final day in the ride.

Richardson says after he receives his kidney transplant, he wants to become a patient care technician, something inspired by his caregivers.

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