

Tallahassee Democrat

Tallahassee resident joins 250-mile bike ride in the fight against kidney disease

September 20, 2011

DaVita Inc., a leading provider of kidney care services committed to improving the quality of life for those diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD), announced in August that June Wiaz, a Tallahassee resident, would ride to raise money for The Kidney TRUST to increase kidney awareness in the 2011 Tour DaVita bike ride through New England.

On Sept. 18, Wiaz rode alongside DaVita employees, family and friends riding a total of 250 miles over the course of three days. The ride started in the mountains of Great Barrington, Mass., and ended at the Atlantic Ocean in Madison, Conn. — all in the effort to raise awareness and funds in the fight against CKD.

A silent epidemic, CKD affects 31 million adult Americans, with more than 360,000 individuals suffering from kidney failure and currently on dialysis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize CKD as a major public health problem that not only reduces the quality and length of life, but is also expensive to treat.

"At DaVita we help dialysis patients cope with their kidney disease," Wiaz said. "It's not easy for them and I know that as I bike the 250 miles as part of this event, any discomfort I might experience is temporary and minimal compared to the ongoing challenge of living through dialysis." To participate in the 2011 Tour DaVita, each rider raised a minimum of \$750 in donations and paid his/her own travel expenses. The participants' individual fundraising combined with DaVita and other corporate sponsorships is expected to contribute more than \$700,000 to The Kidney Trust, a non-profit organization working to prevent kidney disease through public education and awareness across the United States.