



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Beth Starkin

Manager, Communications

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

beth.starkin@holeinthewallgang.org

645-425-0405

**10th Annual AngelRide Raised More than \$700,000 for
The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Hospital Outreach Program**

More than 400 Cyclists Rode 55 miles to benefit seriously ill children

Ashford, Conn., July 8, 2013 – Even rainy weather couldn't stop the fundraising efforts of this year's AngelRiders, who raised more than \$700,000 in the Memorial Day weekend ride. More than 400 cyclists from across New England rode during the 10th anniversary of the event, raising money for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp's Hospital Outreach Program (HOP), which brings Camp-style activities to children in hospitals and clinics.

"AngelRide is not just an incredible ride, but you feel really good participating because you know your efforts are helping seriously ill children," said Dave Gruendel. "I'm proud to ride inspired with such a dedicated and caring group of people."

Over the past 10 years, AngelRide, which is put on annually by co-founders Lynn McCarthy and Fred Brooks, has grown from 32 riders raising money for a single child battling leukemia into one of the largest fundraising cycling events in New England. Participants begin their journey in scenic Norfolk and travel to Camp's 344-acre facility in Ashford the first day. The second day, riders travel from Camp to beautiful Mystic. It is Conn's only cross-state charity ride.

This year, though, things were a little different, as rain forced the cancellation of the first day of the ride – the first time this has happened in all ten years. Instead, riders experienced a day of Camp, including tours of the facility, Camp-style activities and a chance to get to know their fellow riders.

AngelRide is part of a series of athletic and other events available through Team Hole in the Wall, which provides participants the opportunity to raise funds for a variety of Camp programs. Cyclists participating in AngelRide commit to raising funds to support HOP, bringing the joy and empowerment of Camp to the bedsides of seriously ill children in hospitals throughout the northeast. The program seeks to improve the quality of life for hospitalized youngsters through activities such as painting, crafts, games and companionship.

In addition to cyclists, the ride is supported by sponsors including Aetna, Covidien, Fusco Corporation, Mohegan Sun and Poland Spring, and hundreds of volunteers who provide support along the course. More information is available at www.angelride.org.

About The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp

In 1988, Paul Newman opened The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Connecticut so that children coping with serious illnesses could have a special hideout where they could simply be kids. The Camp, which served 288 campers its first year, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012-13 with 20,000 children and family members now experiencing “a different kind of healing” annually. Each year, 2,500 are served onsite and 19,000 visits by the Hospital Outreach Program bring the fun and friendship of Camp into more than 20 sites throughout the Northeast – all free of charge.

About Team Hole in the Wall

Team Hole in the Wall is The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp’s grassroots community fundraising program; providing an opportunity for people to take action and make a positive impact on the lives of the children and families we serve. Team members participate in athletic events or use their passion and interests to create unique community events while raising funds and awareness for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.