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Josh Armbruster fills out an entry for the silent auction at Carter Powersports. Proceeds from the silent auction and the Ride for Kids will benefit the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation

Local motorcyclists find road to giving back

BY SARA CURETON

Las Vegas Ride for Kids, a group of motorcycle enthusiasts in partnership with the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, helps riders find the scenic route to giving back.

In an annual ride on Oct. 4, locals are encouraged to hop on their two-wheeled toys to support research into curing pediatric brain tumors with a journey beginning at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway and ending with a Celebration of Life party in Blue Diamond Park.

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, a nonprofit based in Asheville, N.C., has made its mission finding the cause of and cure for childhood brain tumors by supporting medical research and increasing public awareness of the condition. The Las Vegas Ride for Kids is one of more than 40 rides of its kind taking place in the United States this year.

Charli Carter, chairwoman of Carter Powersports, has served as fundraising captain since the event arrived in Las Vegas in 2004. Through the Ride for Kids event and other Carter Powersports-hosted fundraisers, such as a community garage sale, more than \$100,000 was raised in 2008.

Locally, there is no board of directors for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, but Carter is equipped with what she calls a task force of key volunteers.

"It isn't easy to get the money raised," she said. "But what I like about the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is they have to share their research with everyone."

Carter, who's a firm believer in giving back locally, has gotten to know the population she serves and celebrates the progress her efforts have made.

"What we've found in almost 26 years is the treatments are more tolerable and the kids are surviving longer thus creating a new need -- scholarships," she said.

Devin O'Day, a pediatric brain tumor survivor, received a scholarship from proceeds raised in a past Ride for Kids event and is studying early childhood education at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. O'Day, who has been involved with the Las Vegas Ride for Kids for four years, has also founded a support group known as Brain Tumor Outreach of Southern Nevada.

"It gives the parents hope for there kids," she said. "It gives them hope for life after surgery."

The Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation is grateful to report the Ride for Kids is the official charity of Honda Rider's Club of America. For every \$300 in fundraising, riders will receive an entry for a new Honda motorcycle. For information about the local event and/or to become a volunteer, visit www.lvriderforkids.org.

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