



## THE *Heart* OF THE TRIANGLE

Sharing the vision and supporting the mission of the Triangle area non-profit community.

# When You Give a Child a Bike, You Open Up Their World

By Judy Liu, MPH

**R**iding a bike enables children to explore their world and gain independence. Unfortunately, many children do not have bikes. These children often come from loving homes in which their hard-working parents do not have the means to purchase bicycles. The Triangle Spokes Group is in its eleventh year of operation and has given more than 4,400 bikes to Triangle area children. They need your support to make this another successful year!

Triangle Spokes Group is a nonprofit organization that distributes new bicycles and helmets to less fortunate families. 100% of all donations go to the bikes and kids! They partner with the Salvation Army of Wake County to distribute the bicycles in time for the holiday season. Their goal for 2017 is to donate 750 new youth bicycles to area families. The Salvation Army is expecting to have more than 4,000 families (including 9,000 children) come to them for help this year in Wake County alone. The number continues to climb each year.

One hundred percent of the money donated to the Triangle Spokes Group goes directly toward the purchase of bicycles and helmets. All administrative fees and overhead costs are covered by the founding members of the Triangle Spokes Group on a personal basis. Gifts of \$10, \$20, and \$70 can add up quickly! The combined cost for each assembled bike and helmet is \$70.

Donations can be made in honor or in memory of someone special. Please visit the website for information, to track the group's progress and to check out the latest events and happenings ([www.trianglespokesgroup.org](http://www.trianglespokesgroup.org)). Become a fan of the Triangle Spokes Group on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

They welcome community partnerships in fundraising efforts. These can range from charity bike rides, bake sales and other local fundraising events. On April 8, 2017 many individuals participated in the Continue the Ride in Memory of Jason Markley Charity Ride. This event raised donations



to Triangle Spokes Group. Instead of accepting personal donations, his widow decided to organize this charity ride to raise funds for the Triangle Spokes Group so that children will enjoy bike riding like Jason once did.

The Triangle Spokes Group also encourages individuals to help with the distribution of the free bikes during the holiday season. Please visit their website to learn more about this wonderful organization and how you can help a deserving child experience the joys of riding his or her very own bike.

### ONLINE DONATIONS

Make a donation at <http://www.trianglespokesgroup.org> or send your check payable to: Triangle Spokes Group, Attn: Ashley Wilson, 2109 Hopeton Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27614

*Natural Awakenings supports Triangle area non-profits by offering a free full-page feature article each month. It is a very visible platform from which an organization can tell its story and detail the services it offers. Please let us know if you would like for your non-profit organization to be considered for inclusion in an upcoming issue. Call 919-342-2831 or email [TrianglePublisher@NaturalAwakeningsMag.com](mailto:TrianglePublisher@NaturalAwakeningsMag.com).*