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Boy's birthday wish will help others

By GERRY FORBES

On Sunday, a very remarkable young Calgarian will be jumping on his bike, with some friends, to celebrate his birthday and raise money for two very worthwhile causes.

Carson Reiser turns eight years old on Sunday and according to his mom, Cory, Carson made a decision several months ago to forego a birthday party in favour of raising funds for Cancervive and Wellspring Cancer Support Centres.

Carson's idea for raising money is a bike race -- named Carson's Road Warriors -- that takes place on Sunday, travelling 21 km from Edworthy Park in the northwest, following the bike path to the Zoo and then back to Edworthy.

And Carson is looking for some folks with bikes and bucks to join him for the ride, with the goal of raising \$4,000, with hopes to make this an annual event.

"We believe this event will not only raise money but it will create mighty warriors to fight the war against cancer -- a disease which impacts so many of us and is truly the plague of our time," says mom, Cory.

All of the money raised, through pledges and corporate support, will go to Wellspring and Cancervive, with a specific goal to build playground equipment for children at the Calgary Wellspring location. Wellspring provides a place for cancer patients to learn to cope with the pain, fear, isolation, and practical problems cancer brings to their lives. The Cancervive Foundation of Alberta (Cancervive) is a non-profit organization that raises awareness and support for cancer survivors and their families.

"I hope we can get 100 kids and their families to help us out," says Carson. "This is going to be even more fun than a birthday party. What I tell my friends is, let's break out our bikes and put the rubber to the road."

The entire route will be monitored by parents and other volunteers, plus there will be turn-around spots along the route for less experienced and younger bikers, so you don't need to worry about the kids as they ride the paths. Warriors interested in entering the race are required to have at least one pledge (how about one each from mom and dad?) and corporate sponsorships are more than welcome.

For more information, you can call Cory at 403-503-0826 and, as Carson says "put the rubber to the road."

