

# Bikers, Backroads, and Benefits

By Kim Ferris aka Sweetie, TRT Correspondent

**D**o you remember that old shampoo commercial where Heather Locklear said “I told two friends... and they told two friends... and so on, and so on...”? Well, the use of that marketing strategy is exactly what made the fundraiser for 4-year old Type 1 Diabetic Juliana Zamora such a resounding success. Juliana’s father, Ray Zamora, a member of American Legion Post 38 in Floresville, asked the biker community for help in raising money to cover travel costs for Juliana. She will represent Texas as a select delegate of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation’s Children’s Congress, held in Washington this June.

Every two years, Mary Tyler Moore, the JDRF International Chairman, and over 100 children with diabetes meet face-to-face with some of Washington’s top decision-makers. The children, ages 4 to 17, represent all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As participants in JDRF’s Children’s Congress, they have a chance to help members of Congress understand what life with diabetes is like and why finding the cure for diabetes is so critical. Sadly each year, more than 15,000 children are diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes.

Little Juliana’s dad specifically asked for help from two big-hearted

bikers, Amos and Janet Trevino. Best known as Shrek and Shorty within the biker community, their generous nature and kick-ass parties are legendary. As a result of both, they have hundreds of friends; so it didn’t take long for the “and so on and so on...” ripple effect to work its magic.

Knowing that word of mouth spreads only so far; the couple also used the internet to solicit support. That’s how I learned about the benefit. As one of their “friends” on BikerorNot.com (BON), a free online social network for motorcycle enthusiasts, I received an invite to their posted event. As a newbie to the wonderful world of motorcycles, BON has turned out to be a great resource for finding like-minded friends, riding buddies, and events such as this one. Other online friends also responded enthusiastically to their request with comments ranging from “If you don’t come out to this you’re just not a Texas Biker...” and “Can’t wait! Good cause!”

Several BON members also then helped spread the word within their groups, like Dale “Maddogg” Barnes, who



posted the ride on the Reguladores LE MC (law enforcement motorcycle club) Facebook group page for all chapters nationwide to see, and Bubbles, aka Paula Johnson who spread the word to her fellow members of American Legion Riders #593.

All the planning and heartfelt efforts culminated with the support of over 130 riders, each contributing a minimum of \$10 to the cause. On Saturday, March 26, much to the surprise of many a Wal-Mart customer, bikers of all kinds descended upon the south side San Antonio parking lot for the pre-ride safety briefing. After which we all headed out in staggered formation with Shrek and Shorty taking the lead.

The predetermined route took us

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**THUNDER ROADS**  
Web-zine *Texas*

through Elmendorf and Sasparamco, both of which required a police escort; we then progressed through Wilson County. The thunderous noise of the procession brought many residents out of their houses to investigate; most smiling and waving to us as we rolled past. The short run ended at the American Legion Hall in Floresville, where we were greeted by the Zamora family and numerous volunteers. For their contribution each rider was graciously fed lunch and provided with entertainment that was donated by LCB Entertainment based in Corpus Christi. To no one's surprise the fundraiser collected more \$2,800; exceeding the family's monetary goal. The additional money raised will also help pay for medical expenses in Juliana's ongoing battle with diabetes.



Another great opportunity to have fun and contribute to a worthy cause will be the "Thunder Run-Texas Style". The upcoming two-day rally organized by Fire and Iron FFMC Station 62 will be held April 15-16 (this weekend) at Cascade Caverns in Boerne. Last year's success has made this an annual event with all funds being contributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Because of the great riding location, two Hill Country rides



will be held on Saturday. Stops will include Albert, Blanco, Comfort, Bandera, Bergheim, among others. A \$10 weekend pass includes live music, auctions, bike contests, and a chance to win a variety of donated door prizes. Additionally, food and merchandise vendors will be there to add to the fun. For more information please visit [https://fireandiron62.org/Home\\_Page.html](https://fireandiron62.org/Home_Page.html)



Remember we are a powerful force and when we join together we can do great things by supporting terrific events like these.

