Bike 4Alz

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A group of WKU fraternity members is nearing the halfway point in their bike trip across America.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham finds out why Alzheimers research is a cause so near and dear to these nine young men.

Eight states and nearly three thousand miles….on bikes! It’s an ambitious goal and so is the 175 thousand dollars these men hope to raise for Alzheimers research.

Taking a spin at the park is nothing compared to the miles Bike4Alz member Will Owens has covered this past month.

 “We probably didn’t do as much training as we should have, no way to prepare for 75 miles a day, back to back to back.”

But now the group is near the half way point on a route that takes them from Minnesota all the way down to Florida.

 “We’re actually hitting twelve to fourteen of the biggest cities in America, major media markets and getting the word out even more.”

The word is Alzheimers and it’s a disease that’s personally impacted at least six of the nine Bike4Alz members including driver Austin Lanter.

 “I definitely think of my grandmother when something goes wrong or it’s been a long day for the guys.”

The whole team stays inspired on the road by taking part in daily dedications to alzheimers victims.

 “We wake up, eat breakfast and circle up and pray reading daily devotionals..makes you forget about daily worries, we’re doing this for something bigger.”

With WKU prominently featured on their sleeves, Bike4Alz is happy to spread the red as well as awareness about this deadly disease.

 “Alzheimers is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. definitely affects a lot of families and only one in the top ten without a cure.”

But what the team may not have expected from this journey? The benefits it would provide for them.

 “I think they’ve all grown up quite a bit, rely on themselves and rely on each other, lifelong friendships and lifelong memories.

Bike4Alz is building on a tradition that began two years ago as Fijis Across America which went from California to Virginia. This year’s trip ends next month in Key West Florida.

If you’d like to make a donation, log onto bikefouralz-dot-org.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham

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