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Friends' global bicycle trip begins in Hudson Sept. 1

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by Tim Troglen

Reporter

Hudson -- Two friends are leaving the city Sept. 1 on a cross-global bicycle journey to help raise awareness about the lack of clean drinking water in Fiji.

Friends and Hudson residents Ryan Delamater, 36, and Davin Anderson, 29, will begin the first leg of their 18-month, 31,000-mile ride, which will take them to more than 40 countries and six continents.

"We will be riding for Give Clean Water which exists to change the world by providing clean water to every person on Earth who needs it," Delamater said. "The message we share is we should dream big, remember life is an adventure and find a way to help others through the things we are passionate about."

The pair will ride about 65 miles the first day to a speaking engagement in Ashland at the Ashland Brethern in Christ Church, Delamater said.

Give Clean Water is a California-based non-profit organization which is in the process of installing water filters in the South Pacific Fiji Islands.

"The Ride 4 Water will benefit Give Clean Water through donations, raising awareness of the problem of lack of clean water in the world, as well as raising awareness of what our organization is doing to help," said

Amanda Mineer, president and executive director of Give Clean Water Inc.

The riders will collect money at the speaking stops and directing people to the organization's website, www.GiveCleanWater.org.

"This is a first for us," Mineer said of the ride. "[The organization is] only 2 years old, but has managed to give the gift of clean water to over 10,000 people in Fiji."

Delamater began thinking about the ride after completing a 6,000-mile east-to-west bicycle trek across upper North America to bring attention to Ugandan teenagers being drafted into the military, he said.

"I'm not trying to save the world," Delamater said. "But I'm going to do the best I can."

He teamed up with fellow biker, Anderson, the former general manager of Hudson's Tomato Grill, 106 First St.

Anderson will resign from his job and is not sure if he will go back. Delamater, who is a college student and runs a real estate rental company, will take 18 months off.

Anderson said he joined the cause to help the people of Fiji and because he loves bicycling. Anderson has taken some 100-mile trips on a bicycle before, but this will be his longest, he said.

He is looking forward to the personal challenge of the long trek.

They plan on riding 65 miles a day, taking one day a week off to recuperate, Delamater said. He said the pair estimate it will cost \$1,500 a month for the trip. Delamater said he does not have a target goal in mind, but notes that it would take \$20 million to outfit all of Fiji with filters.

"We've sold basically everything we have for this trip," Delamater said.

The riders anticipate arriving in California Oct. 15. From there, they will head south through Mexico and to Argentina, Delamater said. Along the route they will take a flights from Argentina to Africa, Africa to Australia and, Australia to Cleveland.

"I think it's incredible," Mineer said. "They are taking something they love and using it to help others -- it's pretty inspiring."

For more information, to follow the riders or to donate visit www.givecleanwater.org or www.ryandelamater.blogspot.com.

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