



Help for
today
Hope for
tomorrow

Thunder of Hope AZ Rider

Hope Women's Center had our 2nd annual "Thunder of Hope" Motorcycle Ride on February 27th.

It was absolutely gorgeous weather as we started off from Superstition Harley-Davidson in Apache Junction. We had 8 baskets worth over \$400 each, another basket worth over \$300 and a ladies leather jacket to raffle off. The baskets were incredible and generated a lot of excitement from our riders.

The riders enjoyed coffee, water & donuts provided by Superstition Harley-Davidson while perusing the awesome raffle baskets and chuckling at the "losing hand" prize of our humorous cycle gnome. (I have a feeling there will be another gnome turning up next year to make the riders smile again!) There was a whole lotta spirited raffle ticket-purchasing going on, both here and at our last stop.

The self-paced route's first stop took the riders to Independent Motorcycles in Chandler to pick up their second card and to look over their merchandise for ideas and additional customization ideas. From there the riders traversed down to Coolidge via the blooming springtime scenery of Highway 87 to Tag's Café, a quaint eatery with a fascinating story.

Then to the Windmill Winery in Florence and wow-what a lovely, breathtaking place! They offer wine tasting & host weddings, but we just enjoyed the scenery and the ride.

The last stop was at The Hitching Post in Apache Junction where Moe & his staff served food & drinks until it was time for the raffle drawings. We had the darling "Law Tigers" basket (complete with cycle rider stuffed tigers), the very popular "Carnivore" basket, and the huge (yeah, huge!) "I Love My Bike" basket (I think everyone wanted to win this one!). Sadly, not all could win but there were 10 very happy winners when the dust settled. In addition, the gracious winner of the 50/50 raffle donated his winning back to Hope Women's Center. One rider couldn't believe that one of the first items she pulled from her raffle basket was worth \$50, and she had only spent \$5 to win it! Our 5-Card winner's prizes included merchandise and gift card from In-N-Out Burger, gift cards for Red Robin, P. F. Chang's, Red Lobster, Abuelo's and Independent Motorcycles. And the "Cycle Gnome" found a home with the losing hand winner of the 5-Card run, as well as a Harley-Davidson calendar and a \$25 gift certificate from Independent Motorcycles. We received many positive comments from our riders who enjoyed the day very much.

Hope Women's Center (Apache Junction, Coolidge, and Phoenix) exists to help at-risk women and adolescent girls find their way out of crisis. Whether faced with an unplanned pregnancy, drug/alcohol addiction, domestic and sexual abuse, homelessness, family conflict, prostitution or rape, Hope Women's Center seeks to engage, encourage and equip women and teens by providing parenting and life skills training, spiritual guidance and mentoring, material assistance and the resources necessary to make wise decisions for the future.

In addition to our ride stops, Hope Women's Center is very grateful to our Gold Sponsors (The Kenny Klaus Team, Superstition Harley-Davidson, Independent Motorcycles, and the Usual Suspects Motorcycle Club). and our Silver Sponsors (Mountain Vista Bible Church, Landings Credit Union, Thomas Parker & Associates LLC, Pink Ribbon Bookkeeping, Windmill Winery, Tag's Café, Mesa Fraternal Order of Police, The Tomashot Family, The Hitching Post, Judy Holder Insurance, Breyer Law Firm.

I knew this before, but it still touches me, that the cycling community is a very big-hearted community. We are grateful beyond words for their support!

Karen Teplik
Hope Women's Center
Thunder of Hope Chairman