

Creation Cruzin's Tour of Lancaster County

Gap, PA
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Photos by Jeff Whitehead

Combine a leisurely ride through lush Lancaster County farmland with rolling hills, covered bridges and

picture-postcard Amish kids perched atop whitewashed fences waving as riders go by, then top it off with Pennsylvania Dutch home-cooking and great door prizes and you have the House of His Creation MBenefit Ride—aka Creation Cruzin'.

House of His Creation (HHC) is a Christian ministry that has served pregnant and parenting single young women from Lancaster and surrounding counties for 38 years. Over that time the ministry has touched the lives of more than 800 young women with services such as prenatal and postnatal care, a GED program, adoption counseling, life skills, spiritual care, and more.

The idea for a benefit ride came from a couple of HHC's board members who are also avid riders. First held in 2008, Creation Cruzin' has grown steadily since, in large part because the HHC folks do it right. The ride is well organized, the route carefully selected, traffic control is the best and everyone has a great time.

This year's turnout totaled over 90 bikes and over 120 riders and passengers. And it really doesn't matter what one rides—Harley or Honda, Triumph or trike, sportbike or scooter...all are welcome.

Riders gathered in Gap and departed in the early afternoon. The route took participants through quaint hamlets, past cottage industries, one-room schoolhouses, and waist-high cornfields.

More than a few times riders had to steer around *deposits* left on the road by Amish horse and buggies—just part of the local experience.

The ride wound through Intercourse (formerly Cross Keys) and paused in historic Lititz—established by the Moravians in colonial days, it served as a hospital during the Revolutionary War.

A planned break had two purposes—refreshments and an opportunity to tour the HHC home in Lititz to see firsthand how the ministry works.

From Lititz, the ride turned north and toured the upper reaches of rural Lancaster County where field and forest alike are clothed in endless shades of green. Turning southward we carved our way on winding and scenic PA Route 897.

Riders cruised through towns like Terre Hill and Blue Ball, eventually arriving in Bird-In-Hand where we sat down at the Plain and Fancy Farm for a sumptuous and filling meal and far too many door prizes to list. Suffice it to say that everyone left the meal well-fed and more than half took home a prize.

Riders are always welcome to get involved. If you like rural riding, good eating and the idea of supporting a ministry that is filling a real need in the community, mark your calendar for the fifth annual Creation Cruzin' scheduled for June 24, 2012. It's sure to be even better than this year's ride, if that's possible. For more information, visit the web site www.hohc.org.



Covered bridges are an iconic symbol of Lancaster County and riding through them on two wheels is a special feeling. Below, new meets old as an "iron pony" passes a horse and buggy—a common occurrence in "Amish Country."

