

News

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****Awards presented to "cyclists for sight."

DALLAS--Eleven-year-old Ronny Hayes is a kid who just doesn't give up. Although no operation will reverse the optic nerve damage that has caused him to be classified as legally blind, Ronny doesn't let that stand in the way of helping others.

For the past two years Ronny has ridden his bicycle in the annual Lions Club Cycle for Sight to help those whose sight can be improved by surgery.

This year the heroic little boy was a big winner in the fund-raising event. He received a new bike awarded to the boy who brought in the most money in the April 9 event at White Rock Lake.

Presentation to Ronny and the other winners -- who include his cousin Krissy Foster, of Balch Springs, winner of the girls' event -- were made at the Bike Mart of Richardson July 8. Ronny is the son of Ron and Marilyn Hayes of Garland. Ten-year-old Krissy is the daughter of Bobby and Sue Foster of Balch Springs.

Ronny said he made the ride because he wants to help others. However, he didn't turn down the new bike.

Riding his small blue-and-yellow bicycle is Ronny's favorite hobby. During the Cycle for Sight he rides beside a volunteer. At home, however, he rides on the sidewalk in front of his house, sometimes alone and sometimes with neighborhood friends.

The Cycle for Sight benefits the UT Lions Eye Bank, the Lions' sight and tissue foundation, a part of the bankable organ transplant program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas. The eleven-year-old learned about the fund-raiser last year from mother Marilyn who works in the office of Dr. Charles Baxter, professor of Surgery and director of the transplant program at UTHSCD.

Besides giving Ronny "fun days" of bike riding, the Cycle for Sight helps people with vision problems that can be helped through surgery. The bankable organ transplant program provides both corneas and sclera (whites of the eyes) for transplantation. In 1982 the Dallas eye bank supplied 277 corneas for transplants in the Dallas area and 49 for other areas. In addition, 43 eyes were donated for research.

Other winners include Bobby Bonds of Dallas, who also received a bike. Boy Scout Troop #415 (Northlake Elementary School) received an Apple Computer, donated by Compushop of Richardson.