

Woodburn Independent
Tour DaVita 2014 comes to Woodburn
September 17, 14

The eighth annual Tour DaVita was held in Oregon for the first time last week, and included a two-night layover at Centennial Park in Woodburn.

The event, in which participants and corporate sponsorship raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for kidney care and chronic kidney disease awareness, featured 500 cyclists traveling more than 250 miles in three days.

The course took riders through Canby, Mount Angel, St. Paul, Salem, Amity and Silverton, with the loops ending at Centennial Park Monday and Tuesday.

There, staff and volunteers with Tour DaVita had set up 489 tents for the riders (not counting the approximately 120 tents for themselves). A party-like atmosphere pervaded the space, with colorful balloons and decorations on display and pop music wafting from numerous speakers.

“We host Tour DaVita in different places each year, trying to find new, exciting routes for our riders and explore a new community where we can make a positive impact,” said Bianca Violante, corporate communications and social media coordinator for DaVita.

This year, Tour DaVita riders included DaVita Kidney Care teammates, HealthCare Partners teammates, physicians, corporate sponsors and seven current DaVita Kidney Care dialysis patients, as well as two former DaVita Kidney Care dialysis patients who recently received kidney transplants.

To participate in Tour DaVita, riders each raised a minimum of \$750 in donations and pay their own travel expenses. Their individual fundraising combined with donations from DaVita HealthCare Partners and other corporate sponsorship was expected to raise more than \$800,000 for the nonprofit DaVita Village Trust, which provides early-detection testing, kidney care education and increased access to dialysis treatment in underserved communities worldwide.

Participants were also set to visit the local dialysis center at DaVita Woodburn, 1840 Newberg Highway, on Tuesday and volunteered during a Village Service Day at Marion-Polk Food Share in Salem.

For more information, visit www.tourdavita.org.

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