

# Emmaus holds 33rd Annual Cycle for Shelter

More than 100 cyclists took to the roads of the Merrimack Valley and the seacoast of New Hampshire in Emmaus' 33rd Annual Cycle for Shelter on Sept. 19. The cyclists have helped raise more than \$154,000 for Emmaus, a nonprofit community housing development in Haverhill that also offers emergency shelter, permanent affordable housing, and supportive services to individuals and families.

Cyclists participated in one of three routes—62, 25 or 15 miles—and each pledged to raise a minimum of \$250 for Emmaus by October 1. Most riders have raised much more, said Gretchen Arntz, Emmaus' director of philanthropy. Em-

maus' fundraising goal was \$150,000.

"It was amazing being together again on the campus of Northern Essex Community college after more than two years," said Arntz. "It was wonderful to see many of our loyal supporters all gathered together to raise money to defeat homelessness."

A group of cyclists also participated virtually, an option that was added after last year's ride had to be held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The North Shore Cyclists team had 31 members participate and has raised more than \$22,000. "Thank you to all the volunteers," said NSC member Hillary Ben-

son, a Haverhill resident. "We train for this all year, and I am so excited to support an organization that does so much for our community."

More than 75 volunteers supported the cyclists, and many local businesses supported the event.

Cycle for Shelter donations may be made via the event website (<http://events.emmausinc.org>) through the month of September. If you know a cyclist who rode in this event, you can search for them by name on the event website and donate directly to their ride.