

On July 18th and 19th the community will be treated to the roar of over 375 motorcycles as they pay tribute to a pioneer of generosity in our community, and those that carry on his legacy. His name was Father Edwin Frederick, who founded the Father Fred Foundation in 1989. Countless volunteers, staff, and donors work tirelessly to ensure that this foundation continues to operate every day, and help those in need.

Father Edwin Frederick, affectionately known as Father Fred, blazed a trail of generosity in our community. He listened, really listened, to each person who applied for assistance. He did not judge, did not minimize their situation. He was passionate about helping others. These values are the basis for the Father Fred Foundation, whose spiritual director is Father Iakovos.

In 1992, Harley Davidson riders began another tradition. Motorcycles of all makes gathered on a Sunday in July, and rode in a group through Traverse City, gathering donations for Father Fred. In 2009, the Northern Chapter Harley Owners Group (HOG) celebrates the 18th Annual Ride for Father Fred. This is a weekend-long event designed to pay tribute to Father Fred, who died in 2000, and raise money for the Foundation that carries on his legacy.

For participants, there is a Poker Run beginning Saturday morning. Then in the evening, the streets of downtown Traverse City will be closed off, and all participants are invited to show off their rides to the community.

The benefit ride on Sunday has been designed to pay tribute to the final resting place of Father Fred and the first church where he was assigned by riding up Center Road to the lighthouse on the Peninsula and back. Police from our local agencies escort this ride, and many officers donate their time.

Being a tribute rider is a unique experience. Countless members of the community line the route. They set up chairs, make signs, honk their horns, applaud, and shout their support. Boaters on the bay watch for the riders, and wave from the beautiful waters of northern Michigan. A rider can feel the spirit of giving soar in their souls. They understand the euphoria of generosity that embodies the mission of Father Fred. This is a legacy that lives on today. Father Fred shared the same values that many riders share; freedom, peace, and the preservation of dignity for those in need.

Check out the website: www.rideforfatherfred.com

