

Solidarity Cyclers 2008



From May 24-26, 2008, 19 fearless cyclers set out to bike 160 miles for social justice, starting at the CISPES office at St. Stephen's Church in Washington DC. The ride was amazing, and we've got the photos to prove it!



Day One: We biked out Four Mile Run and the W&OD past Leesburg, VA, ending at Wheatland Vegetable Farms to camp for the night.



Day Two: we hit some hills on our way to Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown, WV, and did almost 15 miles more than planned. Our support vehicle met us with meals at lunchtime and tents and sleeping bags at night. It was quite a sight to see all 19 bikes locked up together that second night as we huddled around the campfire and shared s'mores with other campers, feeling tired and tough.



The whole ride was punctuated by periodic shouts of "Solidarity Cyclers - ¡si se puede!", good conversation with our fellow cyclers, and yummy veggie meals.

Day Three: After carrying our bicycles over a stream in the woods from the road to our campsite and back, we shot down the C&O canal trail back to DC.



Although we sustained a couple minor injuries, and a few mechanical problems with the bikes, we were very lucky to have some handy Do-it-Yourself bike mechanics on the ride, and everyone stayed in good spirits.

"Once I'd realized that I was really going to be able to do it, the rest fell into place! Realizing how your thinking changes when you know you can do it and you're committed to a long haul, and when your body, mind, and equipment are all pointed in the same direction, are lessons that are applicable beyond just biking but also in our organizing work."



We found out that stretching is crucial if you're going to bike for 60 miles a day!



At the end of Day Three, we rode up out of Rock Creek Park across a finish line held up by our friends and family, waiting to feed us at a big potluck!

**For more information about the groups we raised money for, visit their websites:
CISPES: www.cispes.org * Haiti Reborn: haiti.quixote.org**