

Friends of the Kids Ride 2018

The Friends of the Kids {FOTK} organization has been assisting the White Mountain Apache Children's Home in White River, AZ for over 10 years. Through the year they collect school supplies, home essentials, foodstuffs, and gifts for in-need children. My thanks to Mike Kyzer, FOTK Board of Directors Secretary / Treasurer for his help with this report.

Summer in the Valley is HOT. Riding in the White Mountains is BEAUTIFUL. They've wisely chosen their annual delivery trip to coincide with the White Mountain Bike Rally that takes place at Hon-Dah Casino. This year that meant the weekend of June 22-24.

The 11th annual Friends Of The Kids Ride to deliver the donations to the Shelter took place that Friday, the 22nd. Riders from the Valley & from the north met in Payson for breakfast & then continued as a group up to White River. There were over 20 participants. Mike explained, "The ride is supported by, but not limited to, people from many motorcycle organizations. The main supporters are Superstition H.O.G. & Superstition Harley-Davidson, and Grand Canyon H.O.G. (Flagstaff). Plus we have support from Logan Roberts from Grand Canyon Harley-Davidson in Mayer. And we had new support this year from The Indian Motorcycle Riders Group."

The entourage included a trailer chock-full of goods... Diapers & other baby needs, non-perishable foodstuffs, paper goods, and all the other kinds of supplies it takes to run a house. FOTK sends thanks to Mark and Theresa from HoggDoggs for the loan of the trailer! Thanks also to the Bob Block Family for the gently used yard toys for the kids.

Children from infant to 17 years are cared for at the home. The number of kids in residence at any time is always changing. Mike noted that "When we were there this June there were approximately 10 children being assisted by the shelter."

In addition to overall support of the shelter, a primary mission of FOTK is to build the kids an onsite playground. We learned that they are "approximately \$2500 shy of our goal of \$7500 to start the playground project." And there are "fundraising events in the works for this fall to finish that project."

Once the deliveries are unpacked there's a bit of visit time with the kids and staff. After that, many of the riders continue up the road to Hon-Dah Resort in Pinetop; for the White Mountain Bike Rally. You'll read more about that in a separate story. Mike added, "FOTK rides & participates together as a group at the WMR events."

Friends of the Kids supporters enjoy another get-together on Saturday night; at which fundraising gets underway for the next year's campaign. The

dinner included raffles, giveaways & other activities. Raffles included items from Law Tigers and Hippo's Stun Guns. "Becki Smith from Grand Canyon H.O.G. in Flagstaff won the FOTK Orange and Black Harley-Davidson Quilt. Logan Roberts won the Blue and White Quilt and the Laser Cut Wall Art. Hans from the IMRG (Indian Motorcycle Riders Group) won the Harley-Davidson Schwinn bicycle (new in the box) that he donated back to FOTK for next year's raffle."

Friends of the Kids "are riders who care deeply for this cause". The FOTK Board wants to thank their supporters "Superstition H.O.G, Superstition Harley-Davidson, Grand Canyon H.O.G., Logan Roberts from Grand Canyon Harley-Davidson in Mayer, and our new supporters from the Phoenix Indian Motorcycle Riders Group."

Friends Of The Kids (FOTK) is a motorcycle rider oriented 501(c)3 charitable organization. All monies collected go to benefit the children of the White River Children's Shelter on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. FOTK is an all-volunteer operation. Every dollar is put to work for these kids. If you'd like to learn more or get involved, visit their website at www.azfotk.org/ or call 602-793-0614.

Betsy

