

### Founder's Statement

I got my first motorcycle at age 50, finally realizing a dream I'd had since I was a kid. I quickly learned that bikers are among the most caring and generous people on earth, sponsoring charitable events in support of virtually every worthy cause you can think of. I'm a physician, and my practice at the time was based in New Britain, CT—original home to that state's Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure®. After watching my wife's mother, and then her 46 year-old sister--her only sibling and her best friend--die from breast cancer, I decided to do whatever I could to rally the motorcycle community behind Komen Connecticut.

There was only one problem: I didn't have the slightest idea how to put together a motorcycle event. Sure, I had been on a couple of charity rides, but I had no concept of the enormous amount of time and work that goes into organizing a successful event, from the selection of a site and a route, to negotiating contracts, to obtaining permits, to handling publicity and fund-raising, to advertising, sponsorships, entertainment....and the list goes on.



Bikers for the Cure Founder  
Jonathan ("Doctor Jon") Ballon

Fortunately, I knew just enough to know that I didn't know anything, and that I would need a LOT of help. In 2001-2002, I succeeded in tapping into a network of the most knowledgeable, experienced, passionate, and hard-working people I could ever have hoped to assemble as a team. That original group has seen some changes over the years, and my wife and I have since moved out of state, but the guiding hand of Laurie Hodges has been constant and unwavering; words cannot describe how grateful I am to her for taking Bikers for the Cure to a level I never dreamed of.

I would like to acknowledge Komen for the incredible work they do worldwide to fund breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment, with the goal of increasing the number of survivors and ultimately finding a cure for the disease. Our sincere thanks to Saint Francis Hospital, which has been a Presenting Sponsor since the inception of the Ride. We are extremely grateful for their generous support as well as the continued support of all of our loyal and dedicated sponsors. Finally, and most important, I would like to thank all those big-hearted men and women on their hogs, cruisers, crotch rockets, trikes, scooters, rat bikes, and choppers who, year after year, rain or shine, have made Bikers for the Cure one of the most beloved and anticipated events on Connecticut's biker calendar.

Ride safe—  
Jonathan ("Doctor Jon") Ballon