

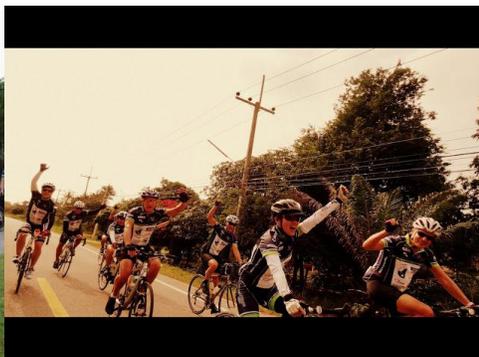
Dear Friends and Supporters of The Tour of Hope,

This year's The Tour of Hope in November is still vividly in our memory. Again we had a wonderful experience in cycling and giving to the less privileged. It is time to share some of these memories with you, who have supported us over the years and made this wonderful experience a reality.

TTOH2012 led us from Bangkok to Phuket, cycling 900km in 8 days. We cycled through some of the most scenic spots in Thailand and along some of the best beaches, passing through small fishing villages, first on the Gulf of Thailand, then crossing over to the west and writing along the Andaman Sea. We weathered heat, rain, wind, mountains and some long rides but we enjoyed every minute of it, especially since we were in companion with 46 likeminded people with a common goal. The evening dinners with lively conversations were great to share the memories of the day and get the motivation for the next day's ride.



On a personal note, Caroline sported her new carbon road bike and was awarded with the unofficial title of "best improved rider". Not only did she go along with some of the more experienced riders with a blistering speed but at the same time was able to grab and drink out of her water bottle without slowing down 😊.



Stefan stuck to his mountain bike, still able to challenge any rider and retaining the unofficial title of "king of the mountains", although the mountains were really no match to some of the previous years. He also set a new fashion trend while protecting his skin from the punishing sun 😊



The highlights of the tour were again our stops at our selected charity destinations. This year we again worked together with World Vision, supporting 3 schools and one orphanage along the way.

Our first stop was at the Tubjark School in Ranong Province on day 5. Day 5 was big and special in a number of ways. It was the longest ride, 140km, which took us from the eastern to the western seaboard; it was also the first stop at a TTOH beneficiary - the Ban Tubjark School in Amphur Kraburi, which received a library and 80 bicycles. We were greeted by the school orchestra, received a delicious welcome lunch and treated to some dance performances before we handed over the library and the bicycles. It was a fulfilled day seeing the happiness of kids at the school and knowing we have left a lasting footprint. It was especially fulfilling for us, since Stefan had the honors of handing over the library!



Day 6 was another tough day of 130km with lots of climbing. We stopped at the Ban Bang Hin School in Ranong to hand over 40 bicycles. After the handover we were treated to delicious local lunch before mingling and playing soccer with some the students.



Although day 7 saw a relatively shorter ride, we visited one more school to hand over 30 bicycles. Again it was very fulfilling to see the joy of the students. In addition we stopped at an orphanage which received aid from us. Among others we expanded a hen house and donated 500 egg laying hens which will help to create a recurring income for the orphanage. The orphanage was started by a Thai couple after the 2004 Tsunami. They take care very well of their 12 kids and already create some income, selling hand-made souvenirs but it is not enough to provide the 12 kids with the food, health and education they require. Our donations will help them to add needed income and become self-sufficient and hopefully over time even take on more kids. We toured the facilities, had a nice lunch and mingled with the kids who received a day off school to be with us and for sure our visit was a highlight for them. Finally, we also visited a memorial for the victims of the tsunami as we reached Kao Lak.



We hope this summary can communicate some of the wonderful moments we experienced. It was so grateful to see with our own eyes the lasting impact and the joy of the recipients. This was only possible because of your generous donations and support. Thanks' so much for your support! We already start planning for next year and appreciate your continued support.

All the Best,

Caroline & Stefan

