

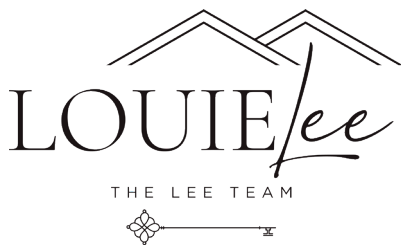
# Introducing Village Idiots Cycling Club



The Village Idiots Cycling club has evolved from a fundraiser for Children's Hospital Colorado to a significant force for good in the Castle Pines community.

Founded in 2007 by a group of avid cyclists, the organization initially supported the Courage Classic, an annual two-day bicycle event that supports Children's Hospital.

Since then, the group shifted its focus to help people in their own community.



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With about 70 members, including businesses, Village Idiots donates about \$4,000 annually to local charities. A portion of the club's \$150 membership fee is directly allocated to charitable contributions. Business member fees help cover the majority of the club's operating budget.

Village Idiots operates on three core pillars: pedal, play and purpose. While the group enjoys cycling and builds social events around their rides, the membership's commitment to purpose shines through their charitable endeavors.

For the past two years, Village Idiots has focused its charitable efforts on the Backpack Society. The all-volunteer organization provides food to food-insecure children in the Douglas/Littleton school district, discreetly placing food in their backpacks to avoid any stigma. Backpack Society also operates a store at County Line and Broadway where people in need can shop for nutritious food.

In addition to financial contributions, Village Idiots members donate their time, helping to stock the Backpack Society's shelves. "We've really gone to more localized community involvement where we can have a significant impact," said Dan Boose, who heads the bike club's marketing and membership committees. "We also have a handful of members who do fundraising rides like Alzheimer's or the MS 150. "Individuals can donate directly to the Backpack Society and say they were referred by the Village Idiots Cycling Club." Village Idiots also teams up with local nonprofit HopeCycle each fall to sponsor a bike drive. HopeCycle, whose mission is to inspire hope for people in need through the gift of a bicycle, repairs and repurposes used bikes to give to disadvantaged youths in the area. Teachers nominate students to receive the bikes.

Finally, the club maintains a section of Havana Road by the Surrey Ridge dog park, where it pick up trash twice a year.

Boose encourages people who want to be involved in the organization to join. If you want to check it out before joining the club, guests are permitted to participate in one club ride.

Last year, the club rode more than 12,000 miles over 80 rides. "Each of our rides is led by a ride coordinator who has been trained," Boose said. "Safety is paramount. You have to have a helmet and there is

a pre-ride briefing to go through the route, any road crossings and hand signals and voice cues." To learn more about Village Idiots Cycling Club, visit [https://vic2.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=0&club\\_id=373425](https://vic2.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=0&club_id=373425).



Each month, Louie Lee of The Lee team uses this space to shine the spotlight on a nonprofit organization that's making our community a better place to be in with the hope of generating support from the people who live here. Louie is proud to highlight the Village Idiots Cycling Club this month. If you have a nonprofit you would like highlighted in Making a Difference, please contact Louie.