



ATG BIKE-A-THON

June 17-23, 2006 • Riding through Armenia!



Yes, we are doing it again!

This year we are continuing the tradition of biking through the countryside of Armenia that started four years ago with a veteran cyclist Vatche Soghomonian. This year some 12 riders — up from four last year — from the U.S., Europe and Middle East are joining Vatche to help raise funds and create jobs in Armenia and Karabagh.

Over the course of seven days volunteer riders will travel approximately 1000 km (650 miles) in northern Armenia, visiting Echmiadzin, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Dilijan, Sevan and Khor Virab, among other cities and towns.



The results from past Bike-a-Thons are impressive! Your donations enabled ATG to purchase and set in place four milk-cooling tanks in four Armenian villages that have helped over 3300 families store their surplus milk and save it from spoilage.

Another year, your funds helped create a professional grape nursery that created year round jobs for 53 families in Khramort village, and jump-started the agricultural development in Karabagh. Farmers begun rejuvenating their vineyards, which eventually has increased their farm productivity and income.

Bike-a-Thon IV has the new objective of enhancing the grape nursery's capabilities by supplying them with grafting and cold storage facilities, which in addition to creating jobs and generating income, will expedite table and wine grape industries in the area and expand it to Armenia, helping farmers in both places!

Our goal is very simple: to raise funds and create new jobs opportunities to the Armenian families, help increase their productivity and generate more income.

YOU sponsor us and WE do the 1000 km riding — TOGETHER let us achieve our objective!



"Helping Khramort and its villagers was very important," said Vatche Soghomonian, "The village was completely destroyed during the war. I was very happy to do what I could to help Khramort, which, in turn, benefited all of Karabagh."



"The nursery in Khramort is important in the rebuilding of the grape and wine industry in Karabagh," stated Vladimir Zakiyan, who directs ATG projects in Karabagh, flanked here with ATG board member Zareh Misserlian and Executive Director Varoujan Der Simonian. "We need to increase the number of cuttings we can produce, to be able to replant vineyards left abandoned during the war. Our facility for grafting is in need of improvement, and we need better equipment to do a good job. With the income received from the Bike-a-Thon, we will be able to renovate our current resources and build a new, modern facility for our purposes."



"One of the most memorable moments in my life was riding in the mountains of Armenia," Jack Margossian of NJ, (far left). During their journey, the cyclist were greeted by the mayor and young soccer team of Khor Virab.

Cyclists are volunteering and paying their own travel expenses.

HELP US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL

Please mail your tax deductible donations to: ATG P.O. Box 5969, Fresno, CA 93755

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