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CT Pour Tour raises \$50,000 for pediatric cancer

By Elizabeth G. Howard on August 22, 2014 in Business News, Entertainment, Latest News, Social, Stratford Features · 1 Comments



Todd Ruggere wraps up the Connecticut Pour Tour with Two Roads CEO Brad Hittle and delivers a ceremonial check for \$50,000 to Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

About author



Elizabeth G. Howard

Elizabeth Howard is a Stratford-based journalist, blogger and poet. She writes on the arts, education, music, the environment, green lifestyle, American culture, travel and food. You can find her online at elizabethoward.net

Massachusetts native Todd Ruggere wrapped up his eight-month fundraiser for pediatric cancer Saturday, the CT Pour Tour, at his final stop, Two Roads Brewing Company.

Ruggere raised more than \$50,000 for the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven Hospital. He spent the last eight months drinking a beer — or two — in all 169 towns in the state of Connecticut to raise funds for pediatric cancer.

Ruggere completed the Mass Beer Tour in 2013, visiting all 351 towns in Massachusetts and raising \$40,000 for The Jimmy Fund. He got support from Samuel Adams Brewing. He decided to continue the effort in his neighboring state.

“I didn’t know what to expect when I came to Connecticut,” Ruggere said. “I didn’t even know if people here liked beer! It was phenomenal.”

Ruggere tears up when he talks about the people he met along the way. In Ridgefield, Ruggere said one man came up to him and handed him \$10,000. From Ashford, he said, a 7-year-old girl sent him the money she raised from her

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
TUE 02	Senior calendar: May 29-June 4 June 1 @ 8:30 am - June 4 @ 4:00 pm					
TUE 02	Catholic Daughters meeting June 2 @ 6:30 pm					

lemonade stand: \$10.

At Two Roads on Saturday, Ruggere announced his plans for 2015: To continue fundraising across the United States, visiting “the wildest location in every state.” He will use the site GoFundMe to support the effort.

Smilow and Yale-New Haven Hospital officials were on hand to accept the check. Lynne Sherman, director of the Yale-New Haven Pediatric Specialty Centers, said donations like this are critical to supporting families where even the best insurance can’t help.

“One of the biggest areas where families need support is psycho-social services,” Sherman said. “When a child is diagnosed with cancer, it impacts the whole family. It can break apart the family, put strain on everything: financial, social, emotional strain. There is a cost for services to support these families.”

Ruggere launched the tour at Two Roads on January. The brewery, his official sponsor, provided him merchandise to hand out at local bars, a car to drive the state in (wrapped with CT Pour Tour logo), a stipend and marketing support. Ruggere covered the rest of his own expenses.

Two Roads CEO Brad Hittle said he was thrilled with the result of the tour, and glad they had supported Ruggere.

“Right from the outset, I knew Todd was the real deal,” he said. “He was just a regular guy doing something awesome, and we wanted to support him.”

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Thursday Night Ballroom Dance
Party
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