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Livestrong Challenge continues with bike ride through Hill Country

By: Jess Mitchell

The Livestrong Challenge continued Sunday with a bike ride through the Hill Country.

About 2,300 people brought their bikes out to Dripping Springs to join [Livestrong](#) founder and Austinite Lance Armstrong for the ride.

Livestrong serves as a charity, but also as a social network, keeping cancer patients in touch with others in similar situations.

Rica Mendes underwent a double mastectomy this summer and will begin her second round of chemotherapy when she returns to her home in New York.

"If I didn't commit to doing it here, I wouldn't have done it," Mendes said after shaving her head. "I want to do it here with all my cancer, Livestrong buddies."

Cancer survivor Renee Nicholas said fighting cancer is far from easy, but the support of others helps a great deal.

"You are going to get through this. Yes, this is going to be a battle, this is the battle for your life, but Livestrong is there beside you every step of the way and you are not alone," Renee Nicholas said.

Survivors have turned to Livestrong's positive community for support since 1997.

Organizers say this weekend's events raised about \$6 million.

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