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For immediate release

Rio Paralympic Games Gold Medalist to Lead Ride Focused on Accessible Biking, Sept. 24

Milwaukee, WI (Sept. 22, 2016) – Jake Williams, a gold medalist on the U.S. Men’s Wheelchair Basketball Team at the Rio Paralympic Games, will lead The Ride for Everyone, a ride for people of all abilities.

Milwaukee County Parks in partnership with The Ability Center will present the ride, Saturday, Sept. 24 from noon-4 p.m., with Parks Director John Dargle, Jr. and Damian Buchman, founder of the Ability Center speaking at 1 p.m. Following the speakers will be the one-mile ride, which loops through Veterans Park, starting near Wheel Fun Rentals and Gift of Wings.

For free, families can try out handcycles – recumbent bikes “pedaled” by hand. Eight handcycles will be available for the event. Standard bicycles from Bublr and Wheel Fun Rentals will also be available to use for free for the event.

“With these handcycles, we’re giving people with disabilities the opportunity to bike alongside their able-bodied friends and family,” Buchman said. “In partnership with our friends in the Parks Department, we’re making Milwaukee more accessible, one location at a time.”

The event is the third Ramp Up MKE crowdfunding campaign of The Ability Center. The Ability Center will be placing four handcycles at the lakefront, and the crowdfunding campaign will place an additional handcycle for every \$2,500 raised. The handcycles will be available for free checkout from Wheel Fun Rentals.

With the focus of bringing greater accessibility to Milwaukee area attractions, previous campaigns purchased wide-tired wheelchairs, which can be maneuvered in the sand, to Bradford Beach, and sledges, or ice sleds, to Slice of Ice at Red Arrow Park.

“We’re building awareness of accessibility, opportunity, and the mission of The Ability Center”

More information and a link for donations is available at rampupmke.org.

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