

# “Ride With Larry” April 20, 2017

1:30 & 5 pm @ Cheri Theatres, 1008 Chestnut, Murray KY

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Larry Smith is a tough guy. Sort of. He spent twenty-six years in law enforcement as a Captain in the Hamden Police Department (Connecticut). He’s been married for 37 years, raised three children, and moved to South Dakota twelve years ago when his wife accepted a professorship in Political Science at University of South Dakota.

Some might suspect that the tough guy went soft when he opened the Bakery Café in Vermillion. He and his devoted staff of bakers invent new breads every week, and turn out salted baguettes that are craved by customers, near and far.

For more than 20 years, Larry has been fighting Parkinson’s Disease, a slowly progressive condition resulting from a chemical deficiency of dopamine in the brain. As a result, messages from the brain to the muscles are disrupted, causing symptoms that include tremors, difficulty with voluntary movement, muscle rigidity, and lack of balance.

Parkinson’s has transformed Larry back to tough guy mode. Sort of. After a 20-year battle, he has exhausted every conventional method of treatment to no avail. Nevertheless, he refuses to give up, and one of the methods he uses to maintain mobility is riding a recumbent bike.

The film “Ride With Larry” chronicles Larry’s 300-mile ride across South Dakota. His journey of hope is inspiring to the able-bodied, those with disabilities, care givers, the elderly, and anyone facing the temporary or permanent challenges of a life-altering illness. Courage, love and community propel Larry on his journey, and free showings of the film are scheduled at the Cheri Theatre, Murray Ky., 1008 Chestnut Str., Murray KY on April 20, at 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The 1:30 screening is open to groups that have pre-registered for the event by contacting Keith Travis, VP of Development, Endowment Office, Murray-Calloway County Hospital. Contact Mr. Travis at 270-227-0253 to reserve tickets.

There is no registration required for the 5:00 p.m. screening, which is open to individuals who want to see this amazing chronicle of an individual’s courage and a community’s heartfelt support.

“Ride With Larry” is made possible by an Arts Access Assistance Grant to the Murray-Calloway County Endowment for Health Care from the Kentucky Arts Council. The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, is supported by tax dollars and the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant supports a series of hands-on arts experiences, arts programming and community outreach focused on adults with disabilities.

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