

Harley riders, food shoppers helping in fight against cancer

[Lynn Graebner](#)

Megan Dwyer of San Jose and Meredith Campbell of Brisbane, Australia, live thousands of miles apart but breast cancer brought them together.

These 38-year-olds teamed up to create the first Changing Gears [Harley-Davidson](#) motorcycle ride in the United States last year and are now preparing for repeat rides on three continents this year. In the United States, 28 breast cancer survivors from around the country -- stay-at-home-moms, real estate agents, engineers and former police officers -- will ride 800 miles starting on Sept. 24 in Los Angeles and ending on Oct. 1 in San Francisco. Rides will also be held in the United Kingdom in August and in Australia in October.

The Changing Gears events will raise money to benefit the [Young Survival Coalition](#) (YSC) and Amazon Heart. YSC is an international nonprofit network based in Manhattan, New York, which seeks to urge the medical and legislative communities to address breast cancer in women 40 and younger. It also serves to bring together young women with breast cancer.

Amazon Heart, founded by Ms. Dwyer and Ms. Campbell and based in San Jose and Australia, provides life-changing adventures for breast cancer survivors. In December, the group plans to take 20 women to Sri Lanka for a week to build six houses for poor families and to meet with local breast cancer survivors.

Prior to being diagnosed with breast cancer three years ago, Ms. Dwyer was a structural engineer, a life coach and competed at the amateur level in water polo, triathlons and marathons. Her illness helped her realize she wanted to make an impact on the world.

Sponsors of the events include Harley-Davidson; Buff Downunder, the Australian distributor of Buff headgear; and Map Link of Santa Barbara.