

# Restaurateur Organizes Motorcycle Run To Help Others

When the Cresskill Police Department wanted to jump start its emergency vehicle unit with a new motorcycle in 1998, one of the first doors they knocked on for a donation was Andiamo Restaurant in neighboring Haworth. It was a smart move.

At the time, proprietor Don Dickstein had been a vibrant and consistent contributor to the community since Andiamo opened in 1990. Through the years, Dickstein has continued with his generosity, donating to charities, local hospitals, law enforcement agencies, community groups and children's organizations.

"We have developed a terrific, long-standing relationship with the local towns," Dickstein said. "We live here and we're proud that the business has been here for so long. We're fully committed to the local neighborhoods. Those efforts are the



Motorcycle enthusiasts from throughout North Jersey will participate in the Andiamo 11th Annual Benefit Motorcycle Run on Sunday, Sept. 12, raising funds for charity and worthy causes such as the new emergency care center at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, and the N.J. Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Andiamo Run co-founder Don Dickstein of Andiamo Restaurant is seated on the motorcycle on the right and is pictured with Michael Toepert, Special Olympics Gold Medalist, seated left, and (standing l-r) Patrolman Michael P. Gracey,



of a new motorcycle, he was more than happy to pitch in.

"There are no vehicles that people depend on more than their community's emergency vehicles," Dickstein said. "Everyone, unfortunately, will need one at some point in their life. It is good to know that if and when we need help, it will arrive quickly. Motorcycles increase the police department's effectiveness in protecting and serving the community."

While Dickstein had been involved with many causes up to that time, this one seemed a little more near and dear to his heart. He describes himself as an "avid motorcyclist and enthusiast." Because of that passion, he was well aware that a quality police motorcycle, back then, went for around \$13,000.

"I told the police officer that came by that it would take him 10 years to collect the kind of money that they needed," Dickstein said. "There had to be a better way."

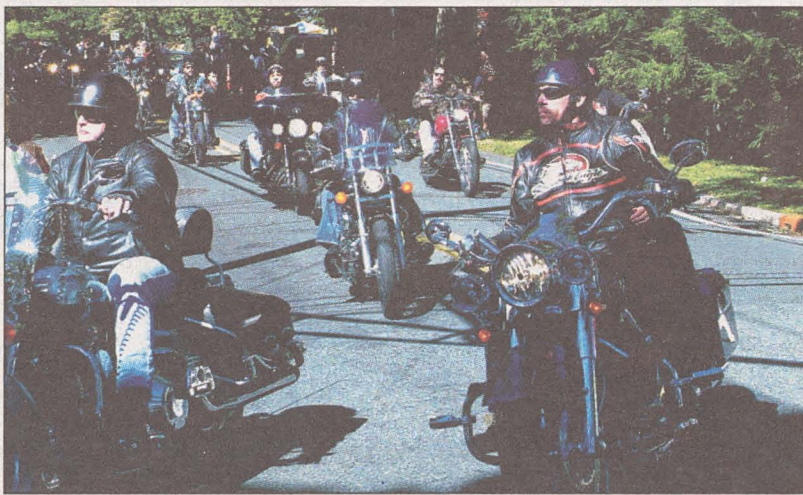
Then it hit him.

He would organize a Motorcycle Run and invite cyclists from throughout the area to participate. The 60-mile run would begin at Andiamo, wind down scenic Route 9W and cross over the George Washington Bridge, then loop back and conclude with a post-run party at the restaurant.

Local residents and businesses were asked to sponsor the event, with proceeds going toward the new police bike. The response was enthusiastic and the needed \$13,000 was raised.

"I was honored to put that event together and it was nice to see the proceeds go to such a great cause," Dickstein said. "It was also nice to see so many local people chip in as sponsors."

Dickstein was so pleased with the success of the



event that it motivated him to make the run an annual event. It was named the Andiamo Benefit Motorcycle Run and the motto "Riding to Help Others" was coined.

Since the initial run, the event has drawn close to 3,000 participants annually, as well as a faithful crew of volunteers and countless sponsors. Typically, it raises close to \$100,000 a year for a slew of charities, law enforcement organizations, health and wellness causes and education needs.

"There are many worthy causes out there," Dickstein said. "It's hard to decide where to donate

the money. We try to change things up. We're open to suggestions. We listen to our sponsors and participants."

The one recipient, though, that remains a constant is Englewood Hospital and Medical Center. Dickstein's wife, Linda, survived a bout with breast cancer 14 years ago, thanks in large part, to the care and treatment she received at EHMC.

Today, Linda serves as Andiamo's chef, working six days a week. Don credits Englewood Hospital with her recovery and has raised more than \$250,000 for the hospital, and has pledged

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Motorcycle riders among the several thousand participants in a prior year's Andiamo Run depart on the 60-mile ride to raise funds for worthy causes.

Registration for this year's event on September 12 begins at 8:30 a.m. at Andiamo Restaurant in Haworth.

to double that amount.

"That was obviously a very difficult time for our family," he said. "Linda made it through because of the outstanding treatment she received at Englewood. That's something that I will always appreciate."

The 2010 Andiamo Benefit Motorcycle Run is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 12. Signups begin at 8:30 a.m. and the police-escorted run departs at 10:20 a.m. The donation for riders is \$30; \$15 for passengers. The post-run party will feature the music of the Ten Fingers Band plus food and refreshments, including Andiamo's famous pizza.

Andiamo Restaurant is located at 23 Hardenburgh Ave., Haworth. For more information, call 201-384-1551.

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