

Motorcycle club shows their softer side

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By Siobhan Barton Columbia-Greene Media |

KINDERHOOK — Philanthropy is not a word that usually comes to mind when leather jackets and motorcycles are involved.

The East Coast Riders of Columbia County, a non-profit motorcycle riding club that on Saturday donated nearly \$13,000 to Community Hospice, is well acquainted with the biker gang stereotype.

“We’re not your average biker club,” Riders President Ron Schneider said.

Schneider coasted his 2000 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy off Route 9H and into the Kinderhook Elks Lodge parking lot to present the donation, raised from charity walks, T-shirt sales and raffles.

This year, the Riders raffled a 2014 Harley-Davidson Road Glide for the cause.

“Both my grandparents... and other club members have experienced the grace and love of hospice,” Schneider, of Ghent, said.

The Riders raised a total of approximately \$24,000 this year for Community Hospice in the tri-county area, he said, more than the usual \$13,000 to \$15,000.

Schneider attributes the donation increase to the economy.

“People try to give no matter what, but when the economy is doing well people give more,” he said. Founded in 2002, the Riders promote Harley Davidson “while working to raise monies for charities and the less fortunate,” according to the club’s website.

Comment from Community Hospice, a non-profit organization that provides personalized medical care, was not available at press time.
