PGHS students organize Joy Ride for Hospice of Randolph County

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ASHEBORO — Providence Grove High School’s entrepreneurship class is saying “Happy 35th birthday!” to Hospice of Randolph County by hosting its Joy Ride event on Jan. 20.

“I think it’s a great experience for our class of upperclassman to put on this joy ride,” Erin Steadman said. “We’ve all learned from it, and got insight of how events like this go on. I’m thankful for this opportunity, and excited to see the outcome for hospice.”

The students have spent weeks organizing the event, which is a fundraiser for Hospice in celebration of its 35th anniversary. During its first year, Hospice of Randolph County served 28 patients following the acceptance of its first patient on Aug. 3, 1983.

“The students in the entrepreneurship class have been working very hard organizing the event and planning everything out, from calling businesses in the community to making flyers and creating schedules,” Lauryn Heilig, another member of the class, said.

There are five divisions for entry, including four-wheel drive, muscle, classic, import and motorcycle. The field of participants will include a car entered by the Pettys in honor of Lynda Petty as well as Chris McGee’s pink “Hope” fire truck. Registration is $20 in advance by Jan. 17 or $25 on the day of the event during check-in from 9-10 a.m.

“As a class, organizing the January Joy Ride has not been easy,” Evan Taylor said. “It really put our problem-solving and communication skills to the test. I’m excited to see the turnout, it’s going to be big!”

The event begins at Randolph Mall. Participating cars, trucks and motorcycles will then drive through town and end at Bicentennial Park on West Academy Avenue.

Awards and door prizes will be given away at the end of the ride.

“I am extremely grateful to be involved in the opportunity to raise money for Hospice and work with my classmates on a project that will benefit the entire community,” Anna Thomas said.

Students are currently soliciting donations, sponsorships and door prizes in addition to accepting registrations.

“Some students will be working the event, while others will actually be riding in it,” Heilig said. “We hope to see lots of people come out on January 20th to support Hospice of Randolph and to have lots of fun. We also hope to start a tradition and have the event become an annual project for the class.”

For additional information, including how to register or donate, contact CTE Business Teacher Tony Joyce at tjoyce@randolph.k12.nc.us or 336-588-4250.