



Man Begins Last Phase of Transcontinental Scooter Trip for Charity

Scooter-riding volunteer hopes to raise \$60,000 for SOS Children's Villages

DENVER ([PRWEB](#)) July 14, 2005 -- Don Morreale's cross-country scooter ride for charity is heading into the final turn. This month, Morreale will begin the last phase of his trip, leaving on scooter from Quincy, Illinois for Washington, DC on historic US 40.

In February of 2004 he began the trip from his home in Denver, Colorado averaging about 65 miles per day. He stopped at the Mississippi River in July of 2004.

Riding a motorized scooter across the United States may sound like an unusual way to bring the public's attention to the plight of orphaned children but Morreale is convinced it will work.

A self-employed real estate investor and author of two books on Buddhism in America, Morreale is riding a two-wheeled, standup scooter called a Mosquito Stinger cross-country. He hopes to raise \$60,000 for SOS Children's Villages of India.

Morreale's inspiration springs from a trip to India in 1976. "I witnessed firsthand the plight of orphaned children dressed in rags," Morreale says. "They were swarming over garbage heaps in the sweltering streets of Delhi. With no one to care for them, they were left to fend for themselves. I resolved that someday I would do something to help them."

That resolve strengthened in 2000 when Morreale attended the funeral of a close friend from India who had been killed in a Colorado mountaineering accident. The man's mother, an SOS Children's Villages fundraising volunteer, asked that money be sent to SOS in lieu of flowers.

With the help of a few sponsors, including Rotary International and a motorized, hybrid scooter donated by The Mosquito Company, Morreale decided to ride the scooter cross-country to raise money for SOS.

The Mosquito Stinger has bike brakes, 16" bike wheels and a bike seat, but is powered by a two-stroke motor roughly the size of a leaf-blower and is ridden standing up. The Mosquito Company is also providing logistical support for Morreale's trip.

Morreale plans to raise enough money through sponsorships and donations to educate 1,000 children for one year (the cost of a year's education for one child in India is around \$62.50) and to encourage contributors to provide ongoing support.

When he concludes the ride this year, Morreale plans to visit India to photograph SOS Villages and then retrace his trans-continental route by car, stopping to speak to local Rotary organizations in small towns along the way. He will keep a journal throughout his journey, and aims to publish a book about his adventure. To reach Mr. Morreale, make a donation or for more information, contact Michelle Tennant at 828-749-3200.

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