



UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND

Mike Fordney is a top pledge raiser for the UPAF Ride for the Arts, sponsored by Miller Lite!

See below on how he makes it fun and easy.

The performing arts have always been a part of Mike Fordney's life. He picked up the French Horn in grade school and continued with the instrument through college.

He also learned guitar and has played lead guitar since 1971 in the Fordney Bros. Band, along with his twin brother, Ted. The band is still active in the Manitowoc area with at least two "gigs" scheduled for this summer and more to come.



Fordney Bros. Band - 1971

The musical legacy has continued in Mike's family with two of his children attending arts conservatories, earning degrees in acting and voice, and living in New York City.



Supporting UPAF

Mike feels it's important to support the performing arts in our area and has spent many years actively doing so. "I joined the UPAF board in the mid 1990's when I worked for a bank led by Bill Randall, one of UPAF's founders," said Mike. "I started to ride in the then-named Miller Lite Ride for the Arts in 1991. I became a Ride Co-Chair several years later and have never looked back!"

Raising Pledges for the UPAF Ride for the Arts

When he first began participating in the Ride, Mike used to send a letter to his friends with a stamped return envelope asking for \$25. "It's a lot easier now with email and the UPAF website which accepts charge cards," said Mike.

"My Ride requests now go to over 400 people and I still suggest a \$25 gift. I have received gifts as high as \$350 from a client in Texas. A California grocer sends me \$250, and a convenience store wholesaler in San Francisco grew up in Milwaukee and sends me \$100. I should hit \$5,000 this year in supporting gifts."

Mike has earned more than 20 bicycles from Wheel & Sprocket since he started raising pledges for the Ride. In recent years, he has donated the bikes to other charities for their fundraisers, including Sojourner Peace Center this year. Mike says he is always looking to "pay it forward."



Mike Fordney

"As long as I can, I'll participate in the UPAF Ride for the Arts and plan on riding the 70 mile route for years to come," said Mike. "This year, my iPod will be set to the Fordney Bros. set list that we'll play on Aug. 6. See you at the Fat Seagull at 6 p.m.!

**Mike, thank you for your support of the UPAF Ride for the Arts
and all you do for the performing arts in our community!**

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