

On July 17, 2016 roughly 3,500 individuals and 650 relay teams participated in the 2016 Challenge Roth Triathlon in Hilpoltstein, Germany. It is one of the largest iron-distance triathlons in the world. For those unfamiliar with triathlons, an iron-distance race consists of a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112 mile bike ride, and finished by running a marathon (26.2 miles). At Roth, it must be completed in under 15 hours. Not too long after Matt Ryan started participating in triathlons, he became aware of this race and it quickly became his “dream race.”

Here’s what Matt said in the days leading up to the 2016 Roth Challenge as he was making his miles matter by raising money for Family House:

“I am originally from Washington, Illinois and after a few moves, my family has settled back in the Peoria area. While we were away, both my wife and I started to get involved in triathlons and have really enjoyed the sport. So far, it has been a great individual challenge to push ourselves to get better, work harder, etc. Triathlon is sometimes characterized as a selfish sport and certainly can be a lonely one during the longer 2-3 hour runs and 5-6 hour bike rides that are a part of long distance triathlon training. So as my wife, Kristi, and I agreed that I could participate at Roth this year (it does have to be a joint decision), we thought “what if every mile mattered to more than just us?” We decided that we would use the race as an opportunity to bring awareness and raise funds for a non-profit organization.

It was important that the effort would benefit a local Peoria-area group and Family House quickly came to the forefront of our consideration. Kristi has worked (and continues to work) in the medical field and sees the benefits that Family House provides to the community. Anytime someone is going through a struggle, the benefit of having family close by for support is unquestionably important. Family House contributes to the healing of not only the patient at the hospitals, but of the families who support them. Family is tremendously important to Kristi and me and we felt that if we could help Family House support more families, it would be fantastic. So, as I embark on this next triathlon journey, I would like every mile to contribute to the efforts of Family House.”

Matt raised just over \$4,100 for Family House as part of his journey to the 2106 Roth Challenge. If you would like to raise money for Family House please contact our Development Director at 309-685-5300.