



Whittier Daily News staff photographer Josh Estey's photo of Mario Ruedas, Jr., training for the AIDS Ride appeared with a front page story on May 16.

California AIDS Ride's Youngest Is Son of Division 10 Employee

(June 14) The youngest Los Angeles-area biker to challenge the California AIDS Ride 7 was Mario Ruedas, Jr., the 17-year-old son of MTA Division 10 employee Mario Ruedas.

A junior at Whittier High School, the younger Ruedas raised a total of \$4,200 to qualify for the event. The Transportation Communications Union helped out with a \$500 donation and a biker friend contributed \$1,200.

Made him a man

"Mario had a really good ride and finished in the middle of the riders," says a proud Mario, Sr. "It was tougher than he thought it would be and I think it changed him. It made him a man."

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At school, Mario, Jr., is involved in music, playing the drums, piano, guitar and bass. Last summer, he received a scholarship to participate in a camp sponsored by a musical organization at the University of California, Berkeley.

Mario, Sr., is a 14-year MTA veteran. He and his wife, Cynthia, have two children, Mario, Jr., and a daughter, Cynthia, 19.

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