



# Michael Johnson going all out to promote the Bike for Boys and Girls Club



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Michael Johnson has made the top of a semi trailer his home, at least for a little while.

The **Boys and Girls Club of Dane County** CEO has been living and sleeping on top of the semi trailer at Metcalfe's Market parking lot in the Hilldale Shopping Center since Wednesday. He wants to be down before Saturday, when the 11th annual **Bike for Boys and Girls Club** will take place, but he said in an interview Thursday that "I will not be attending the Bike4BGC, unless we have \$400,000 pledged."

The event is the nonprofit's biggest annual fundraiser, with the money going toward services for some 3,000 young people in Dane County. As of Friday just before noon, there was still some \$33,000 to go to reach the goal.

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The effort to get there has been thoroughly chronicled on [Johnson's Facebook page](#). That includes a [short aerial video](#) courtesy of [Green Clock Films](#) showing Johnson's temporary residence, but mostly it is dozens of pictures featuring supporters.

On Thursday, a new face seemed to appear every five minutes at the top of the trailer with news that they had contributed to the \$400,000 goal. Mayor Paul Soglin was among the visitors, along with Madison School Board member T.J. Mertz and many others.

Randy Sproule, a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club and a state Supreme Court administrator, took time off of work Thursday to visit Johnson.

"This is the fundraiser that enables us to do many of the things that we do," Sproule said. "Every time I talk to Michael, I end up taking my checkbook out."

The fundraiser offers people of all ages (including families) and all abilities the chance to join in. Participants have a variety of options to help out; ride one of three routes (8, 25 or 50 miles), pledge donations, help register bikers, direct the bike route or work at the rest stations throughout the daylong event.

The presenting sponsor, Trek Bicycle, will be providing mechanical assistance, rest stops with snacks and water, and rider support. All of the rides leave from Edgewood High School, 2219 Monroe St., which is also where the post-ride party featuring food, custard, cold drinks, and music will take place. The earliest ride begins at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Asked Friday if he thought the goal would be reached in time for him to attend the ride, Johnson was far from sure but he did say that some \$7,000 had been pledged just that morning.

"Anything is possible," he said.

**Tags** Michael Johnson, Boys And Girls Club, Hilldale Shopping Center, Green Clock Films, Randy Sproule, Edgewood High School

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