Kathy Shoemakers Experience:

As graduate students, it can be challenging to venture outside of our departments and explore the community around us. The demands of studying and teaching can often keep us indoors, entrenched in mathematics. However, BGSU is an amazing community and I recently took the opportunity to get involved and outdoors with an organization here called Bike4Tikes. Their mission is to raise money and awareness for our local children’s hospitals by biking hundreds of miles through Ohio, and it is almost entirely run by students here at BGSU! I had a fantastic time training, fundraising, and meeting new people for this great cause! Having a reason to step away from (or rather pedal away from) my work for a few hours a day was incredibly beneficial, and combined we raised over $2,000 for our local children’s hospital! Feeling good and doing some good was a great way for me to end my time here in Ohio.

Sam:

One of the hardest things about being a graduate student is remembering that there's a whole wide world outside of academia and our studies. Luckily, BGSU offers some excellent opportunities to do good for people outside of the university. One of those is Bike4Tikes, which is part of Ziggython, an organization that raises money for the local children's hospital. I participated this year and raised over $2000 with a fellow mathematics graduate student! I had a terrific time fundraising, interacting with folks outside of the department, and getting a chance to stretch my legs for a few hours every weekend while training for it. Also part of Ziggython are Dance Marathon and Extra Life, so if biking isn't for you, you can still raise money for a great cause in other ways.