

# The Taxman Ridith

It's tough to resist the smell of freshly barbequed ribs and nearly impossible to say no to a 5-year-old selling lemonade. Patrick Lennartz, Manager – Indirect Taxes for Ernst & Young LLP in Milwaukee, counted on both in his recent fundraising efforts on behalf of those with multiple sclerosis.

Lennartz will be riding in the Bike MS: TOYOTA Best Dam Bike Ride in August. He'll be joined by fellow Ernst & Young employee Brad Mavis, as well as his sister-in-law Jennifer Lennartz and his 75-year-old father, Robert Lennartz, a retired furniture retailer who opened his own barber shop four years ago and who will travel from Ohio to ride a 20-mile portion of the route both days.



Although there is a \$300 fundraising minimum per rider, Lennartz wanted to do something to raise more than that and do so in a way that would generate greater MS awareness.

“Bake sales, cookie sales, they all kind of merge together, but my fundraising efforts stick out,” he explained.

When he brought in the barbequed ribs in time for the lunch hour on

March 31 (imagine smelling barbeque throughout an entire office floor), he raised \$500. And when his daughter, Erin, came in on June 19 to sell lemonade at 25 cents a glass, it generated an additional \$150 in an hour – thanks in part to heavy tippers on the staff.

“She was so excited to have the stand, and being in the office, we had customers the entire time,” Lennartz described, adding that he was grateful for the chance to “merge my two duties as a dad and fundraising for MS.”

Although he doesn't have a personal connection to the MS, Lennartz said he has come to learn that many Ernst & Young employees do through family members or friends.

Michael Lutze, a partner with Ernst & Young's Financial Accounting Advisory Services (FAAS) Group and vice chair of the National MS Society-Wisconsin Chapter's board of trustees, first invited Lennartz to form a Bike MS team three years ago. He completed the ride and went on to participate in the Bike MS ride in Minnesota with Ernst & Young employees from the Minneapolis office last year. This year he'll be back on his home turf with his own Team EY for the Wisconsin ride on August 2-3.

For more information on Bike MS: TOYOTA Best Dam Bike Ride or to make a donation to Lennartz, visit [bestdambikeride.org](http://bestdambikeride.org).