

Chicago Women's Elite Cycling

A non-profit organization designed to support and develop female cyclists in the Chicagoland area.

[2016 Annual Report](#)

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Letter from the President

CATHY FRAMPTON



In 2015, our inaugural year, we created the vision of a Chicago-based composite team racing at the professional level. Then we mapped a course and started walking. So many of you joined us in that walk, participating in the rider development clinics and encouraging the CWEC composite team in their races.

In 2016, we reflected on our first year and decided to take strides to challenge our young organization further and push the pace—to start to run.

When CWEC received 501c(3) non-profit status, you increased your donations. When we called out for race camp and staff to assist us at our first UCI race in Fayetteville, AR, you joined our team. We improved the rider development clinics based on your feedback and you participated. With your outpouring of generosity, we hosted the 2nd Annual Women's Midwest Road

Race Championship in Leland, Illinois, continuing to pave the way for women and girls in cycling.

Through all this, we increased the number of Chicago women racing with CWEC at the professional level by 50% from 2015. And the number of Chicagoland riders that upgraded to the elite level and attempted their first professional race was up 800% year-over-year—from 1 to 8.

2017 will be another building year. With an increased focus on advanced rider development and commitment, while partnering with our local community to continue to provide new opportunities for beginner cyclists, and stabilizing our organizational infrastructure, we will accelerate the effectiveness of the Chicagoland women racing in the professional races while continuing to inspire the next generation. We hope you will join us.

By empowering our local community and providing new opportunities, we're continuing to pave the way for women and girls in the sport of cycling.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Frampton'.

CATHY FRAMPTON
Co-Founder & President

Letter from the Team Captain

DAPHNE KARAGIANIS



In 2016 the CWEC composite team and development program made great strides. Three key moments for me included the Joe Martin Stage race, the Women's Midwest Road Race Championship, and the welcoming of newly upgraded riders for the last Pro Road Tour criterium series of the year. Through these experiences we have grown Midwest women's racing, taking it to the national stage, and continue to inspire women and girls to reach their goals and dream big.

CWEC fielded a team of 6 riders for the 4-day stage race in Fayetteville, Arkansas. We welcomed Amber Pierce (Vitalogic Astrokab Radunion NO) and Nicole Mertz (ISCorps Cycling p/b Smart Choice MRI), two professional racers, to guest ride and help mentor the team. Our director was Alison Powers, former cyclist who last rode for the UnitedHealthcare Women's Team. Powers is the first American rider to simultaneously be National Champion in all three disciplines

of road cycling. We also invited three Chicagoland category 3 women racers to accompany the team on the trip, sit in on team discussions, race preparation, course briefings, and gain insight into racing on the professional level. This experience was monumental for all involved and I hope we can replicate it in 2017.

This year we hosted the Women's Midwest Road Race Championship (WMRRC)—a race we won in Ohio as a team in 2015. We became race directors, mentors, volunteer organizers, course designers, and community motivators. This race saw 16 brand new racers and inspired women of all ages and abilities. To say this event was a success is an understatement—I think it will continue to change the opportunities for women's racing for years to come. (Please visit www.raisetheroad.com to learn more)

Our season ended at Gateway Cup in St. Louis, MO where we fielded a team

Through these experiences we have grown Midwest women's racing, taking it to the national stage, and continue to inspire women and girls to reach their goals and dream big.

of 6 riders for the 4-day Pro Road Tour criterium series. We welcome two riders onto the squad who had never raced at the P 1/2 level. Had these riders signed up for the series alone, they may have been turned off to bike racing forever. Instead, these riders were provided daily team strategy and race-recap learning sessions, race camp set up, meals and comfortable housing, and bike maintenance. All of these accommodations set the team up for success and allow the riders to concentrate on racing their bikes. I was extremely pleased with the fighting spirit of the squad this year and I look forward to working with new riders in 2017.

DAPHNE KARAGIANIS
Co-Founder & Team Captain

2015-2016

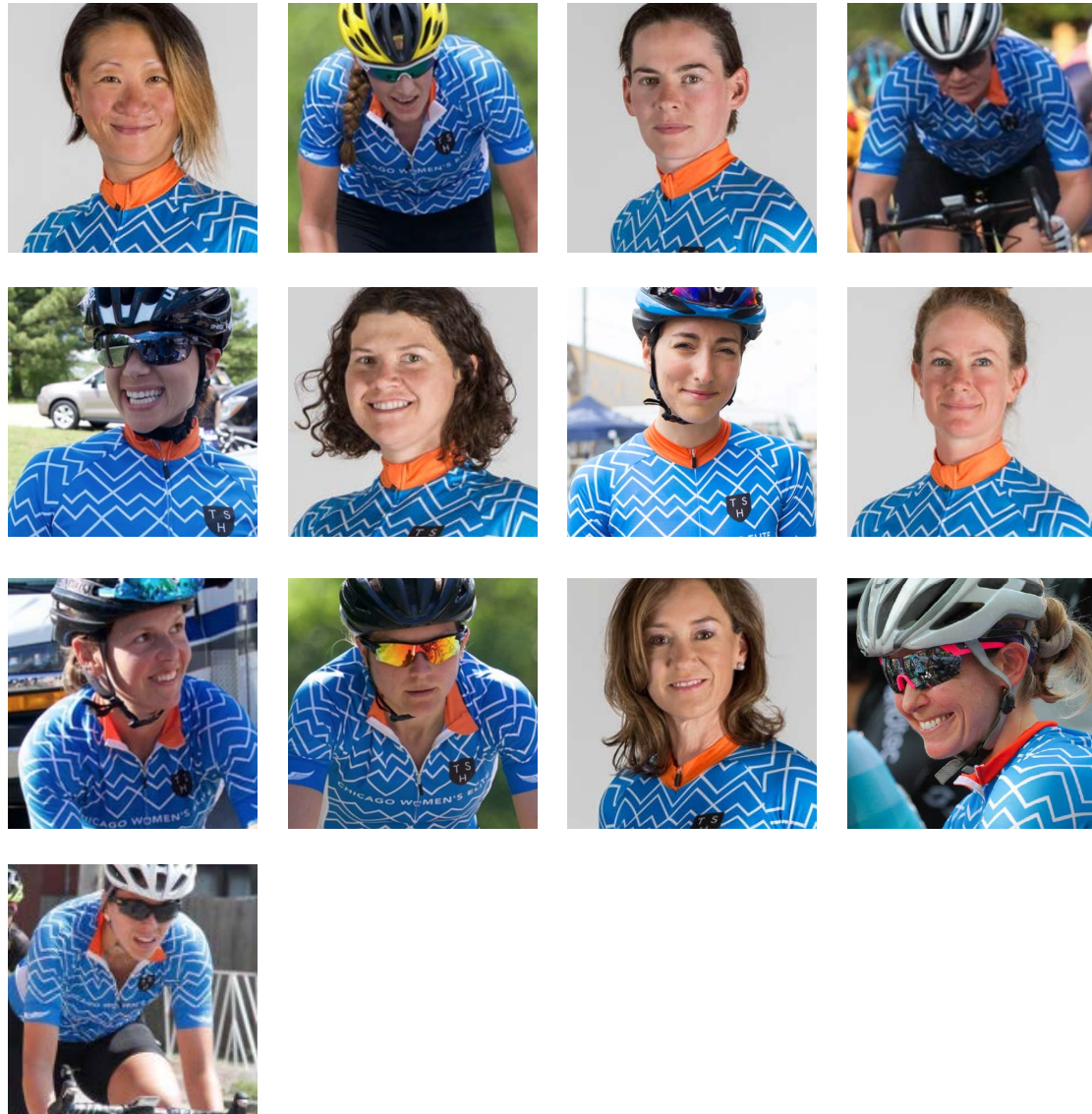
50% increase of Chicagoland category 2 riders competing in the professional peloton.

800% increase in rider upgrades to the elite level.

Of upgraded riders, over 70% participated in a CWEC development clinic.



2016 Riders & Guest Riders



Jannette Rho (*Chicago Cuttin Crew*)

Amber Pierce (*Vitalogic Astrokalb Radunion*)

Maria Larkin (*Chicago Cuttin Crew*)

Kate Powlison (*SRAM*)

Anina Blankenship (*Balanced*)

Annie Byrne (*BFF Bikes Racing*)

Daphne Karagianis (*Chicago Cuttin Crew*)

Mia Moore (*Chicago Cuttin Crew*)

Nicole Mertz (*ISCorps Cycling p/b Smart Choice MRI*)

Sierra Siebenlist (*Women's Racing Project*)

Christine Thornburg (*PSIMET Racing*)

Jeannie Kuhajek (*PSIMET Racing*)

Jennifer Kosatka (*BFF Bikes Racing*)



2016 CWEC Composite Team Races

16 races

92 race opportunities realized

13 racers

4 newly upgraded Category 2

JOE MARTIN UCI 2.2 STAGE RACE

Chicago Women's Elite Cycling fielded a team of 6 riders for the 4-day stage race in Fayetteville, Arkansas. We welcomed Amber Pierce and Nicole Mertz, two professional racers, to guest ride and help mentor the team. Team director was Alison Powers, former cyclist who last rode for the UnitedHealthcare Women's Team. Powers is the first American rider to simultaneously be National Champion in all three disciplines of road cycling.

INTELLIGENTSIA CUP P/B SRAM OMNIUM SERIES

Chicago Women's Elite Cycling fielded a team of 8 riders for the 8-day criterium series in Chicago, IL. Three of these riders were experiencing their first races at the Pro 1/2 level. CWEC placed 3rd overall in the Omnium Series, earning three podium finishes throughout the series.

GATEWAY CUP

Chicago Women's Elite Cycling fielded a team of 6 riders for the 4-day criterium series in St. Louis, MO. One rider experienced their first race at the Pro 1/2 level.



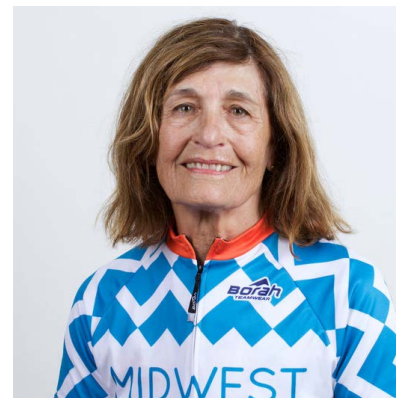
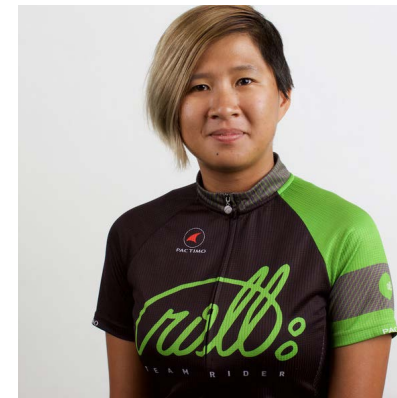
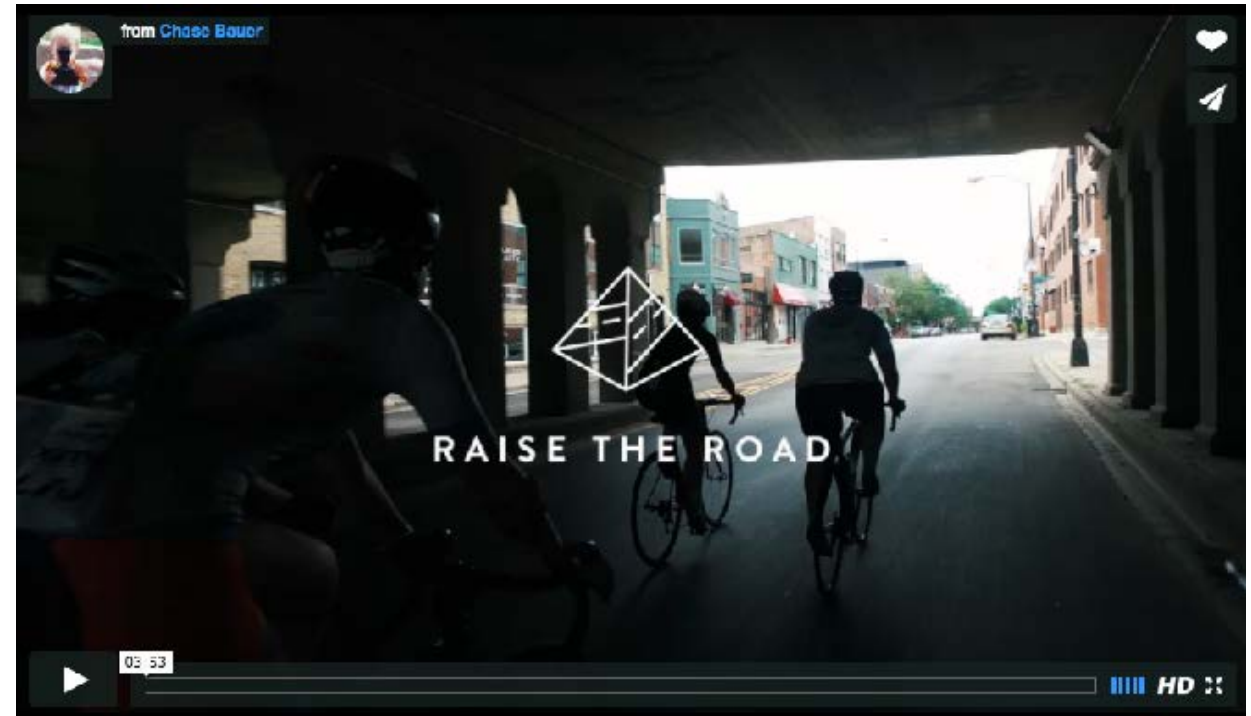
Women's Midwest Road Race Championship

PRESENTED BY CHICAGO WOMEN'S ELITE CYCLING

We united women racers across the Midwest, bringing them together for a day of challenging road racing. By showcasing our numbers in a traditionally male-dominated sport, we aim to Raise the Road and create development opportunities for women racers of all ages and abilities—and set the stage for other cities and regions to do the same.

Please visit WWW.RAISETHEROAD.COM

CLICK TO PLAY



RACERS AT THE WMRR 2016, SNOWMOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY



So many things happen in the whirlwind before the whistle blows on race day that it's almost impossible to take in how much of a success it is to get to that point. There were two key moments however that reminded me of what a momentous occasion this race was.

The first moment was when I realized that there were so many category 4's on the line for staging that I had to find an elevated spot to stand on in order to speak to them all. 50 category 4 women, that's not a sight you see every day, and especially for a road race in the middle of nowhere Illinois. For me, that saying *'If you build it they will come'* rang true for our massive field, with 16 brand new racers towing the line. I thanked them all for coming out and got nothing but cheers in return.

The second moment of clarity was later in the day. I was waiting for our junior girls

to complete their 11 mile race with Bernie Hosey, the father of our youngest racer of the day. We were discussing how Aubrey could be doing, if she was having fun, if she had stopped for a snack break, or if she had decided that this racing thing was not for her. We were about a mile out from the finish when we spotted her. She had the biggest grin on her face. Bernie waved, and we got an even bigger smile and then the giggling started. She giggled, and giggled, and continued to giggle. I swear that she giggled the entire last mile, but she got out of ear shot. It was Aubrey's first race, her longest ride to date, and her first time crossing the finish line, her hands in the drops and joy in her heart.

These two moments helped me to understand that this was a very special day in the Midwest. Women's racing has gone from strength to strength here in Illinois, and across the Midwest. Days

This race was part of a movement to celebrate women—women who have raced hundreds of times, women who are pinning on numbers for the first time, and women who share the common goal of better standards and expectations for what it means to race.

like this are important to celebrate how far we've come and how far we can go. For me this race was part of a movement to celebrate women, women who have raced hundreds of times, women who are pinning on numbers for the first time, and women who share the common goal of better standards and expectations for what it means to race.

Thank you to all who came out to race, all our volunteers, friends, supporters, and the Town of Leland without which this could not have been the success we hoped it would be.

MARIA LARKIN
Race Director

CLICK TO PLAY





2016 Development Clinics

CHICAGOWOMENSELITE.COM/DEVELOPMENT



#1 PLANNING A SEASON

Ancien Cycles | 35 Participants

Discussion: Val Brostrom, Dave Reyes, Daphne Karagianis, Jannette Rho



#2 COURSE RECON & RIDE

Edge Athlete Lounge | 25 Participants

Half Acre Cycling Skyway Classic
Beginner Criterium Series recon



#3 SKILLS & HANDLING

Edge Athlete Lounge | 15 Participants

Discussion and on-bike practice to improve confidence on the bike and sharpen your skills. Burnham Racing supported.



#4 CWEC JOE MARTIN RACE REPORT

Edge Athlete Lounge | 35+ Participants

CWEC riders gather to discuss their experience at the Joe Martin Stage Race (UCI 2.2). Race Director Alison Powers video conferences.



#5 VISION

Monsters of the Midway Crit | 15 Participants

Brian Haas hosts a truly extraordinary Vision clinic. This is an on-bike clinic, practicing vision as it applies to cycling.



#6 CYCLING STRATEGY: PSIMET RACING

Elgin Cycling Classic | 8 Participants

Thinking through and understanding cycling strategy can make or break chances of a victory.

#7 GLENCOE CAPSTONE CLINIC

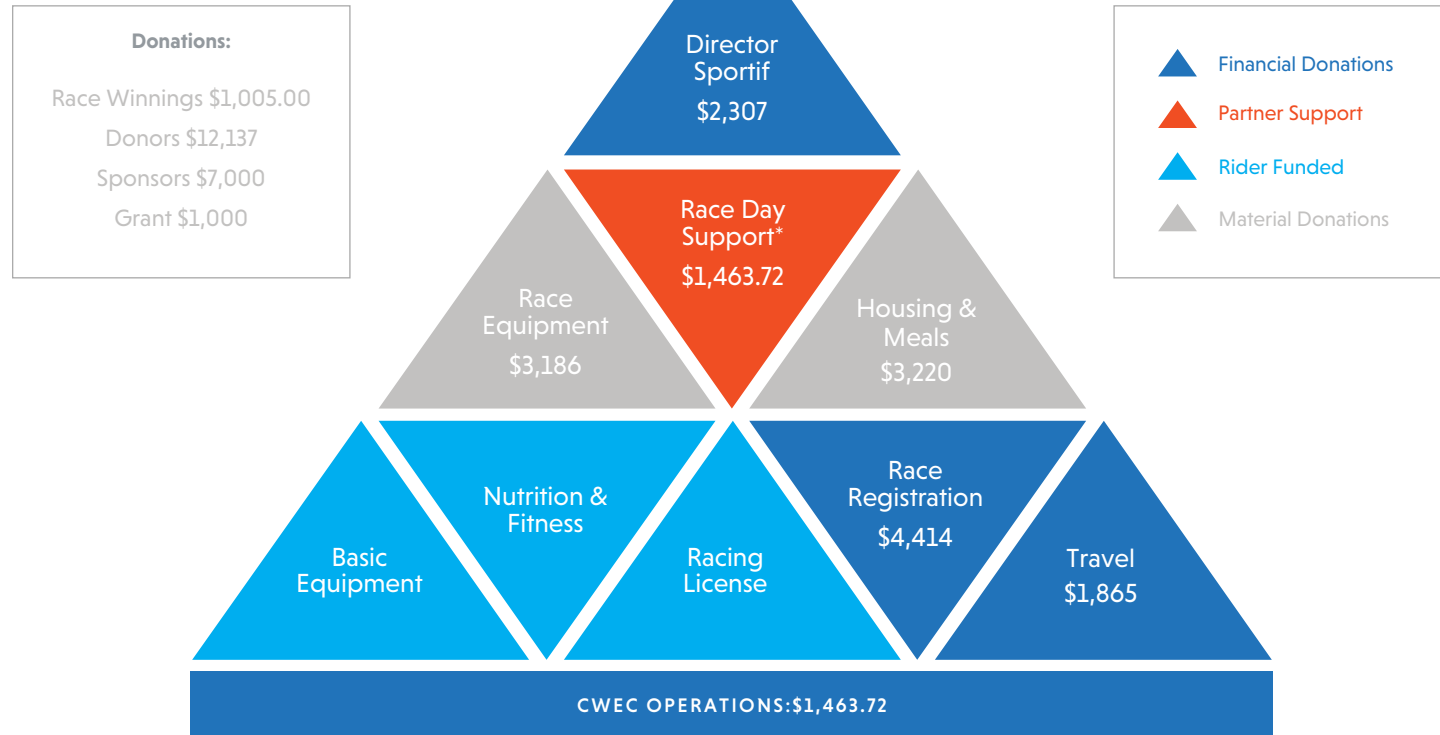
Glencoe Grand Prix



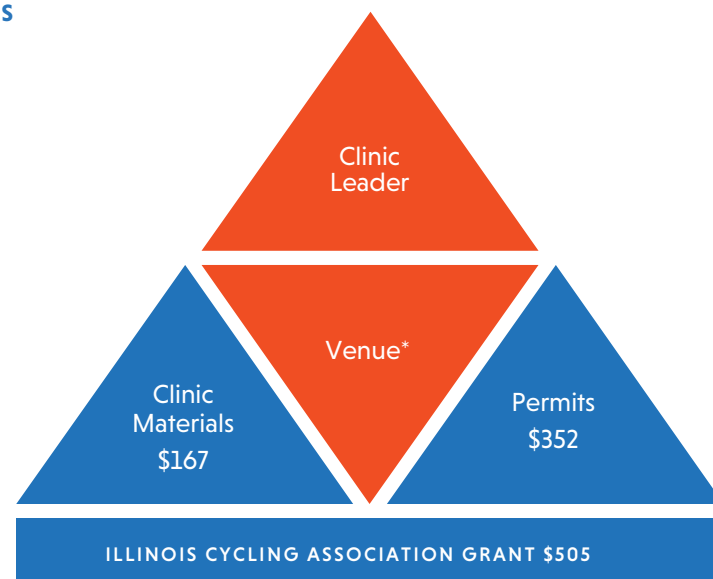
PLANNING A SEASON CLINIC #1 AT ANCIEN CYCLES, SNOWMOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY

2016 Financial Summary

CWEC ELITE RACING TEAM



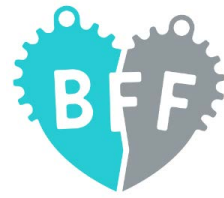
CWEC DEVELOPMENT SERIES



*Partner incurred costs are not known, values displayed are costs CWEC incurred



2016 Major Financial Contributors



Elaine Nekritz
Jennifer Groen
Cathy Frampton
Annie Bryne
Mia Moore
Chubb Insurance
Mike Heagney



PRODUCT & SERVICE DONORS

PSIMET Custom Wheels
Yorke Printe Shoppe, Inc.
Map Room
Edge Athlete Lounge
BFF Bikes
SnowyMountain Photography
JustIce
Frank Schimmel
Gabriel Galloway



MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

JustIce
Intelligentsia Coffee
BFF Bikes
Evanston Bike Club
Christine Thornburg
Edge Athlete Lounge
Powers Family Foundation
Illinois Cycling Association

DONORS

Lauren Wiscomb
Leah Sanda
Pedro Exposito
Claudia Reyes-Todd
Niki Nation
Judy Mannarelli

WMRRC CONTRIBUTORS

Leland Town and Country Association
Mary Spring
Jesse Hautau
Map Room
BFF Bikes
Scarlet Fire Racing
BBVP
Edge Athlete Lounge
xXx Racing
SnowyMountain Photography
BBVP
Annicka & Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan
Chase Bauer
Liv Cycling

Ways to Give

CHICAGOWOMENSELITE.COM/SUPPORT

PRODUCT

Your donations of product not only benefit you through product visibility among our members and community, but they also support our programs and help strengthen community engagement. Your product donation could provide a new experience for a rider that could set them on the path for success. Donations to CWEC are tax deductible.

FREQUENT-FLIER MILES, OR YOUR VAN

Providing our riders with the national racing experience requires travel. We want to get CWEC riders out there racing with the best of them! Contact us about donating miles.

SERVICES

You are talented, we know it. We are growing quickly and can use all the help we can get! If you offer services in such areas as: *Team Manager, Director Sportif, Fundraising Director, Communications Director, Treasurer, Development Director, Volunteer Coordinator*

2017 TEAM SPONSOR

Sponsor an elite women's racing team as they compete on the national stage. Team naming rights are available.



JOIN OUR LIST OF ADVISORS

If you are involved in cycling on the athlete side of the sport as a nutritionist, coach, mentor, race director, equipment expert, sponsor, manager, or other or on the business side in marketing, communications, or promotion, we would love to include your thoughts and perspectives on our program. We are constantly looking for feedback and advice, as this is a learning process for all.

SPREAD THE WORD @CHIWOMENSELITE

Every follow or like we get helps us show donors and sponsors that the community wants to provide female athletes with the development and support to excel. Anything you can do to help us spread the word about CWEC will help us build a stronger community of positive and empowered female athletes—come to a clinic and bring a friend!

DONATE ONLINE

CHICAGOWOMENSELITE.COM/SUPPORT

EMAIL US

INFO@CHICAGOWOMENSELITE.COM

Thank you

See you in 2017!