

If I ride...

Maybe They Will Walk.

Dear Friends and Family:

On March 4, I will begin one of the biggest adventures of my life as I dip my back bike tires in the Pacific Ocean in San Diego, California. For the next 60 days I will pedal across the southern route of the United States until my front tires reach the Atlantic Ocean in St. Augustine, Florida.

I will be one of about twenty women on this trek organized by Woman Tours. Knowing that I might have days where I question the sanity of my decision to trek across the U.S., I am following the suggestion of Woman Tours and seek a "higher purpose" for this trip. Past participants of this tour have raised over \$300,000 for many worthy causes.

All of you know my son, Jason, and his tragic accident which led to his spinal cord injury, so it goes without saying that funding for spinal cord research is near and dear to my heart. Top researchers tell us they are just a few years away from performing human clinical trials that (hopefully) promise a cure both for those previously injured and those who may be injured in the future. As with any cure, the price tag is astronomical and funding at this time is critical.

I have a dream that I can find 100 people to sponsor me for one penny for each of the 3100 miles I will bike across the United States. If 100 people pledge \$31 each, I will raise \$3100 – the exact number of miles I will bike. This is a lofty dream, but I also have a realistic goal: I would like as many people as possible to earnestly pray that a cure will be found; and, if you are able, contribute whatever you can towards my dream of raising \$3100.

All money I raise will go directly to the Bryon Riesch Paralysis Foundation (www.brpf.org) and will be used for research. Bryon Riesch is a personal friend of our family and also has a spinal cord injury. The goal of the BRPF is to find a cure for paralysis through funding the latest medical research. Your gift is tax deductible. If you are able to financially contribute, please be sure to put "I Bike – They Walk" on the memo line of your check (made out to BRPF) so your sponsorship will be credited to my dream. I promise to send you a postcard from somewhere between San Diego and St. Augustine! I am working on obtained matching funds from some local businesses, so if you respond by February 15th, there is an excellent chance your contribution will be matched.

I have about six weeks left to train and then my adventure begins. I can't wait! Biking across the U.S. is a challenge I have considered for years and I expect to have lots of fun, see beautiful sights, and make many new friends. However, when it's raining, snowing, or 95 degrees in the shade, I know that my higher purpose for this trip will spur me on. Through your help, it really is possible that what monies I raise will make a difference and it will be a fact that:

“If I Ride.....Maybe They Will Walk”

Thanking you in advance for your prayers and support!

Patti Hall

Beginning March 3, follow my blog: pattibikes.blogspot.com
email me: luv2bikeusa@live.com

