



RIDE

Many have described their experience of the Ride as "transformational". Believe me moving close to 700 people over 320 kilometers in four days is transformational. Needless to say it was a huge success.

Over 500 riders from Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles and many other places made their way from Vancouver to Seattle through some of the most scenic country British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest has to offer. Night one was spent in Sumas, night two in Mount Vernon and night three in Port Townsend. Breakfast, a mid morning rest stop, lunch, a mid afternoon rest stop and dinner awaited all the riders over the four days. Showers, tents, a general store, evening entertainment, free AT&T calls home and many more perks were bestowed upon these amazing participants and

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volunteers. What an experience!

The support from many, many volunteers in making this happen was staggering. I have not witnessed such a show of love from so many volunteers in my life. The Ride happened because of our volunteers.

We will not know the final dollar tally on revenue or expenses until sometime in October. Our Ride evaluation night attracted over 70 riders and volunteers last Thursday who communicated their positive and constructive comments. The overwhelming response was that the event was life changing for most involved.

Your support, in whatever way you gave it, of this first time adventure has been appreciated.

Thank you.

Volunteers:

Zarina Lakhoo
Fred Ludwig
Holly Gardner
Fay
Pegge
Tom Swope
Larry Cleve
Keith Nichol
Micheal Harding
Micheal Do
Shalon Williamson
Chim Sum Ng
Erik Graff
Philip J Maddatu
Parbinder Bains
Karen Birak
Keith Scott
Kim Geralch
Cathy Foster
Chris Gour
Mark Kaluk
Paulette Thomasson
Christine Mckenzie
Andy Alex
Manuela Schneider
Todd Sutherland
Leslie Edmonds
Colleen Shimek
Paul Blaney

Tony Wade-Cooper
Zara Suleman
Dahn Vanlaarz
Scott Ashton-Swan
Nick Petroff
Ian Benner
Vena Lanji
Aviva Prussick
Jaqui Dudeck

What A Ride August 18, 1997

We just returned home from the most in credible volunteer experience! We spent the last four days with approximately 700 bicycle riders raising money for HIV/AIDS education, research and support for people living with AIDS. The commitment and dedication of these riders was true inspiration to us and, we're sure, to all who travelled with them. With a lot of grit and determination each rider rode a minimum of 85 kilometres per day through 30 degree heat across hill and vale in some of the most scenic areas of the West Coast. They arrived at the camp each evening somewhat exhausted but extremely proud of each and every hill they tackled. They are truly the heroes of this ride.

Our job on this ride was to make the riders experience as good as it could possibly be. We had no idea what we were getting into when we first volunteered last spring. Having spent these last four days on the road, in campsites, in the blazing heat, we would do it all over again.

The work was tough! The hours were long! The rewards were huge! As "road crew" we were divided into teams and volunteered for positions. These positions were given a job description and included



Feeding the multitudes

such jobs as roustabout, van driver, rider check-in, information centre, medical team, lunch camp set-up and many, many more.

We chose Information Central and found out very quickly, the job descriptions were not cast in stone. We got to load the baggage on the trucks, unload the baggage from the trucks; set up tents, take down the tents; set up canopies for the assorted venues in the camp and take down these assorted canopies...among other jobs.

In between those duties, we spent a lot of time at Information Central and were asked about 1000 questions each day. The questions were as varied as the number of people in the camp. If we didn't have the answer, somebody always did. The staff for Ride for Reason were an incredible source of information and some of the most accommodating people we have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Not once did we see anything we could not be proud of.



Did this experience change our lives? We don't know! Quite possibly! Did this experience bring joy to our hearts? You bet! Thank you, AIDS Vancouver and Ride for a Reason. Sign us up for next year!!!!

Paul Blaney & Tony Wade-Cooper



Thank you to all the volunteers for a job well done.

RIDE



solitude

*Along the way there
was time for*



camaraderie

*and pitching in to
get a job done.*





We faced various challenges.



Made some new friends.



Became closer to one another.



Finally decided some of us are just fitter than others.

RIDE



Even the fashion queens made this ride.



Breakfast of Champions



Feeding the multitudes After 320 km, the smile continued.



*Thank you
I could not be here if it
was not for you.*



The ferry into Seattle.



"Mom, my bike was what colour?"



The journey begins.



One Year and Counting: The Volunteer Program of Community Outreach is One Year Old this Month!

*Riko
explaining
the merits of
a flavoured
condom at
UBC
OutWeek.*



September 1996 Community Outreach had its first volunteer training. Since that time some volunteers have left, some new ones have joined, and a lot have remained dedicated to the program.

Thank you to the volunteers new and old who give their time, wisdom and humour to helping Community Outreach thrive. That means you:

Alasdair, Brahm, Brenda, Darren, Gagan, Grant, Guy, Jeanette, Mike, Riko, Robyn, Sol, Sunaina, Yasmin, Nora and Zara.