

Dear NAME,

I hope this letter finds you doing well.

Once again this year, I will participate in the NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC) in May, riding 330 miles over three and half days to benefit organizations in Northern California that provide vital services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

This event, the people that participate and the cause are incredibly important to me, and I need your help to make the greatest impact I can in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Over the past two years, I have raised \$7,500 for the beneficiaries of the NCAC – something I am very proud to have accomplished along with the physical challenge of riding so many miles over so many consecutive days. What I am most proud of is that this money has remained local and, because the event is organized and conducted by volunteers, 72 percent of what has been raised goes directly to those who need our compassion and support rather than administrative costs and salaries.

In addition to providing support, the NCAC sends a message. Today, HIV infection rates are on the rise again – someone becomes infected in the United States every nine minutes. Complacency, lack of education and lack of testing are some of the reasons that have created an urgent need to ensure that young people know there is no cure and how to protect themselves. While in High School, I was the district HIV/AIDS educator, speaking with other teens about safe sex practices and HIV/AIDS awareness. Now, as an adult, I want to continue to make an impact in my community. With your support, we will be reaching out and touching lives by providing funding for HIV testing and education in addition to direct services.

Most important to me is the support that a specific service provider will receive from NCAC – an organization that I experienced in action. When a friend of mine contacted me last year to share that her sister had contracted HIV 15 years earlier while traveling abroad, I was able to put her in contact with CARES, a beneficiary of NCAC. Her sister had become ill while in South America and had received several shots before returning to the United States – shots from re-used, non-sterilized syringes. This is all it took for a young woman to become infected with HIV and ultimately succumb to AIDS. She was so ashamed of her status that she never shared this with her family until four months prior to her death, not wanting to die alone. For years, she covered up her illness by avoiding family and telling them she had Epstein Barr.

In the final months of her life, I was able to put my friend in contact with CARES. When they were called upon to help save her life, the staff and volunteers did all they could to assist and helped the family through the loss. I was able to experience the benefit of NCAC first hand and am grateful that this wonderful organization is there for the 5,000 individuals they support day in and day out.

Today, I am asking that you please consider sponsoring me in the 2012 NCAC to help create hope for people who have none. While I hate to ask, I cannot make a difference without you. I have enclosed a self addressed, stamped envelope and a donor form to make giving as easy as possible. If you would rather, you can also donate online at: [INSERT LINK.](#)

Thanking you in advance for considering my request. I appreciate your support and all you're able to contribute to this cause. While I tear up the miles in May, you will be with me every mile of my journey.

All my best to you, from me