Dear NAME,

On a perfect day in May 2010, I stood with my sister-in-law Angela and my Mom as my brother Andre, dressed in a black wig, San Francisco 49er’s jersey and purple tights, cycled in to the grounds of our state capitol with his pack – the riders of the NorCal AIDS Cycle. They had just spent four days on the road, riding 330 miles to raise money for organizations providing promise and hope to persons living with HIV/AIDS.

I was really proud of Andre and thought “I really want to support him in this”. As we gathered together at Christmas that year, Andre and I talked and I signed up to be a part of this amazing event in 2011. I had no idea what I was getting myself in to—the love, laughter, service, stories—so much was stirred up in me. It has erupted out loud and made me feel a part of something bigger that has really touched me.

In 2011, I learned that my rest stop captain and his partner had been living with HIV for 30 years. I saw how holding a cold bottle of water to the neck of a sweaty cyclist brought them a smile and a look of relief. And I experienced the gratitude of those organizations who were able to do so much with what my donors and I had given them.

I have returned to the NorCal AIDS Cycle again for 2012 and stepped up to serve as captain of the entire crew. I have been honored to be working with people of “the yes”. Yes, I will be at training. Yes, I will be out on the road supporting cyclists. Yes, I will mark the route. Yes, I will set up the rest stop. Yes, I will remind people to wash their hands. Yes, I will check riders in. Yes, I will be a part of the hope, joy and promise. Yes, I will make a difference. Yes, I will.

This event is so important. It creates hope for people who have none. It provides organizations dedicated to improving the human condition with the resources they need to go on despite all adversity.

Will you journey with me by sponsoring me in the 2012 NorCal AIDS Cycle? 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. I thank you in advance for helping me help others.

With Promise and Hope,