

## **What Participants are saying about Pedal to the Park Stage 1 . . .**

*From Jeff Levin, captain with stoker Bianca:*

I had a blast and am really glad I did it. The hill was a bit challenging on the tandem, but Bianca kept putting coals on the fire until we got to the top - it's a long climb even though not a steep one. No worries though - we beat Morton to the top, which Bianca was ecstatic about! She's a great kid - thanks for making her my stoker! Her Mom and Dad took some pix too, which they will be emailing to me.

*From Jim Krause, PTP participant with son David Krause:*

Thank you for organizing the bike ride on Sunday. My son David and I enjoyed ourselves. I am interested in learning more about the TRS program for cycling with those with disabilities. Can you direct me to a web-site or email so I can obtain more information and see if I could qualify to be a rider?

*From Dalys Stevenson, novice 10 mile rider:*

This was my first experience riding in traffic. It was not as bad as I anticipated. I agree, I think the media should give more coverage to this type of events to encourage people to ride the bicycles, it is healthier and better for the environment and it saves \$\$\$.

*From Laurin White, captain with Stoker Harrison:*

i can't begin to say how thankful i am for really getting to participate and discover the true meaning behind it all by having the opportunity to captain a blind stoker. all i could think about afterward was how much respect i have for all those kids, especially the ones like harrison who have such an incredible outlook on life. i cannot fathom or even begin to wrap my fingers around the concept of losing my sense of sight and i was truly touched by all the braille institute kids.

*From Amy Eernisse, Youth and Career Services Consultant, Braille Institute:*

thank you for all the planning you put into this event... the kids definitely enjoyed the ride and the game. Thank you for getting the head sets for the kids-- it made it much easier for them to understand what was happening. That was such a sweet e-mail from Laurin. I am glad she had fun with Harrison; he is definitely a character. He enjoyed riding with her, as well. All the captains worked well with the kids... It is always fun to go to an event with a group of volunteers and see them take charge of the kids and get to know them... The kids loved it and the volunteers were great. Thanks again for everything you did to make it happen:) Keep me posted about everything... and I will let you know what other Saturday [TRS monthly] events we will attend.

*From Amy Hovda, novice 10 mile PTP single cyclist:*

Thanks for hosting the event. In September, I'd like to try to 40 mile ride with some intermediate/more experience road cyclists. Can you connect me with anyone? Also, do you know of any groups who go on regular long training rides? I'm just getting into the sport, but I need to find others who are in to road biking.

*From Jonathan Hebert, Founder and Co-Director of Cycling for Sight (CFS), and tandem captain with stoker William:*

I appreciate what it takes to organize and execute an event such as P2P. David and his staff of family and volunteers did an excellent job of reducing a great idea to practice. I strongly endorse the P2P event and even more so the idea to have Petco alter their park to better accommodate the logistics required to promote cycling to the park. If acted upon, Petco's management could at very little cost easily demonstrate a very progressive stance and support of a truly "clean" alternative to driving or even catching a train to the park.

*From Tom Hall, PTP 25 mile single bike rider:*

I enjoyed the entire event on Sunday. Thanks for all of the hard work and planning that goes in to such an event. (We even got 2 games for the price of 1). I am sorry to say that I do not know anything about what you folks do. It looks like you are involved in using bicycling to help people who may not, under normal circumstances, enjoy the activity as much as I do. I live next to Balboa Park, and am always looking for someone to ride with. I would like to offer this availability to your associates. Please let me know how to "throw my name in the hat".

*From Jay Hatfield, Asst Regional Director, Braille Institute:*

Congratulations on your tireless efforts in coordinating this first Pedal to the Park outing. I have heard nothing but positive comments from the participants and am happy that we were able to join in this historic event. We are looking forward to our continued involvement in the monthly tandem rides. Thanks again for all your hard work and organizational skills to make the event the huge success that it was.

*From Eric Brochu, tandem captain with stoker Erika:*

Having done something similar once, I know how hard it is to bring everything together just right, and it almost never goes off without a hitch...there are just too many variables. I think what you did that was very unique, and what made the event so much better, and a much more gratifying experience was your individual attention to almost every person there. From what I saw you must have talked to everyone participating at least once, which makes a large event like this feel so much more personal, and fulfilling. Many thanks to you, and your family and everyone else that helped out. I also wanted to remark on the fact that by sheer luck I got paired with Erika, who just happened to be a Red Sox fan, and having grown up in Boston, we were both quite happy to talk about the Sox for our whole ride. She was a great rider, and right from the start we just took off without any problems. She tirelessly provided all the power for our bike, and about all I had to do was steer. What I remember most vividly though are the little races between Erika and myself and Laurin and Harrison. Every once in a while on an open stretch, one of us would challenge the other and give a play by play to Harrison and Erika, and the laughter and joy and pure excitement they showed at that interaction was so immensely enjoyable. Neither Laurin nor I could have hoped for a better day, it was the type of fun that we both enjoy regardless of activity, but this made it that much more pleasurable.

*From Kathy Aceves, District Manager, Head of Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS):*

It's amazing all the benefits reaped from the event, other than the obvious one of a good time for all. Thanks so much for inviting me to come, my family and I really enjoyed it. All the participants and volunteers I talked to were having a great time as well.

*From Dave White, Pedal to the Park Founder and captain with stoker Zane:*

With participant contributions, excess proceeds were just enough to gift a Bike Friday Family Tandem to the Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) program, and Leader Connie Hegey proudly rode the new addition to her TRS fleet with stoker Abbott. Other teams of stokers and captains were introduced in the morning and exchanged email addresses in the afternoon. My stoker, Zane, started with a hesitant pedal stroke and vehement verbal protest, and ended with a relaxed confidence and unexpected discovery of stoker skills. I even made a radio talker out of him on the return leg, to report our condition and answer a call for assistance. We are proud of all the opportunities offered and gained by the PTP population – for sharing quality time in activities of common interests.