

## What Participants are saying about Pedal to the Park . . .

*From Connie Hegey, TRS Cycling Program Leader:*

Pedal to the Park 2 was wonderful. The 1st ride was great to begin with, your volunteers went out of their way to make each ride a positive lasting memory in all our heads. Dave thank you for your wonderful idea to make Pedal to the Park happen, and all your time to make each detail contribute to a successful event. A smile appears on my face every time I think of Pedal to the Park Stage 2.

*From Elaine Wilson, mother of TRS participant Troy:* Thank-you for all your hard work and for encouraging and involving Troy. He had the best time and is talking about May, already.

*From Kermit Cain, TRS Volunteer Tandem Captain:*

Was great! Don't think we made that many mistakes on the first ride but the second ride last week was excellent, and with as many factors involved as there are, I was quite impressed. Looking forward to a third ride.

*From Jeff Levin, captain with stoker Bianca [blind teen]:*

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! *From Dave Morton:* Jorga [blind stoker] is a real trooper and loved every minute of it. I enjoyed sharing the experience with her. Makes me really appreciate the things I usually take for granted in this world.

*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? [Editor's Note - Jim has now become a TRS volunteer captain].

*From Michael Welch, MD (PTP 25 mile Bike Buddy with William):*

I don't have alot of suggestions to make for how to make PTP any better. It was pretty great the way it was. There are two parts to comment on:

- 1) the aspect of helping children who are physically challenged, to have a wonderful biking experience. This was accomplished. The future challenge is to expand the program to make more children be able to take advantage of it. I can help with this.
- 2) The other part is the effort to make Petco Park more bike friendly. You have made important first steps, which need to be continued. The word needs to get out, that taking a bike to the ballgame, is the way to go!! This is where the Bicycle Coalition comes in, as well as the various bike groups in the county. The Padres also need to advertise to the city, that bikes are welcome now at the Park.

*From Laurin White, captain with Stoker Harrison [Braille Youth Program]:*

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 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 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 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 tandem team Kirk & Trudie Newell, Kirk's Bike Shop in Ramona:*

We had a great day! The 25 miler was quite an adventure for us, taking us through neighborhoods we had never seen before. The little hump up out of OB over to Point Loma was just enough to really get the blood flowing and make us feel like we'd had a workout. Special kudos to Nancy and the rest of the crew that toughed it out in the parking area for 17 (!) innings of baseball!

*From Dave White, Pedal to the Park Event Director:*

With great collaboration and support from my Bicycle Coalition VIPs Jim Baross, Kathy Keehan and Stephan Vance, we demonstrated a cyclist-friendly Bike Parking Pavilion to the Padres management team, and to 130 cyclists using the temporary facility. Special thanks to Jim and to my regular stoker Nancy for 8 hour marathon duty before, during and after the 17 inning game !

*From Eric Brochu, tandem captain with stoker Erika [Braille Youth Program]:*

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. [Editor's Note – Eric and Erika reunited and stepped up to the 25 mile route for PTP Stage 2, along with Laurin and Harrison].

*From Kathy Aceves, District Manager 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 exchanging 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.

*From Russell Buckley, Sports for Exceptional Athletes, Cycling Team Coach:*

I want to let you know how much all of our group enjoyed the ride. From my vantage point, it went off without a hitch. Many thanks from all of us. Maybe we can arrange a ride with the coalition sometime before next year's Pedal to the Park. *From Olivia Winkler, mother of S4EA cyclist: David Winkler had a WONDERFUL TIME.* Thank you and the coaches for making this possible.

*From Mark Cardenas, youth coach:*

Thank you for a great outing and experience! The kids enjoyed themselves and said they would do it again. I know that I enjoyed seeing parts of Balboa Park that I hadn't seen before or hadn't seen in years. The nice leisurely ride allowed us to take it all in and enjoy some good conversation along the way. The kids also learned a lot about riding in the city and obeying traffic laws. All and all it was a fantastic day - a great bike ride, a great baseball game, and another fantastic and sunny day in San Diego. In the future, we should get the Little League, Pony, and girls softball teams involved. They would enjoy the ride and game - a good combination for them and a great team building outing.

*From Michael Welch, MD (PTP 25 mile Bike Buddy with William):*

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*From Tim Gackstetter, father of Jason (Padres fan with cerebral palsy):*

I just wanted to let you know that Jason and I had a blast on the ride and at the game. We're looking forward to the next Pedal to the Park and maybe some other rides before then as well. Thanks so much for arranging this.

*From Vickie Watson, TRS volunteer and fiancé of SD Bike Shop Manager and PTP Stage 2 bicycle mechanic Taylor Everich:*

Thanks for putting on a great event that combines both mine and Taylor's interests - helping the disabled and cycling! Thanks again for a great Sunday, and I'll see you at TRS monthly tandem rides! We both had a great time! Let us know about the next event.

*From Gary Rossi, Leader, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Annual Ride Across California (RAC):*

Great pictures and it was a great event I wish more cyclists could have joined us.

*From Mike Fillat, RAC parent:* Thanks for a great event. My son and I heard about PTP from Gary Rossi because we are doing the Ride Across California. We had a great time on the ride and at the game. So much so that we went down and did a similar ride yesterday and went to the game again.

*From Jerri Will, Marketing/Advertising Director, San Diego Magazine:*  
We loved the event - the ride route was so very fun and ending at the game was a great bonus!! We would love to ride again.

*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.