



## **Bike & Build, Inc.**

[www.bikeandbuild.org](http://www.bikeandbuild.org)

6109 RIDGE AVE BLDG 2 ▪ PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128 ▪ T 267.331.8488 ▪ F 661.752.9806

July 28, 2010

Dear members of the Bike & Build community,

The past week has been a trying time for everyone, and the shared grief of this tragedy will not soon be forgotten. The services in St. Louis were a powerful testament to the vivaciousness of Paige's personality, and the stories and memories shared were a touching tribute to a person who meant so much to so many. Paige was an amazing individual and it was moving to see the positive impact she was able to make in such a short time. We continue to offer our sympathy to Paige's entire family and keep them in our thoughts.

Although it is certainly hard to find any good in this situation, the overwhelming amount of support from alumni, friends, family, hosts and everyone else in the community is a powerful testament to the positive impact our organization has had on so many different people over the years. We remain committed to what originally brought us together in the first place and to continue to do what we do. We will move forward, and we will ride for Paige.

### **What's Next**

All trips will continue on their respective journeys towards the west coast, and the P2S riders have been given the option to resume their trip on Friday from their scheduled stop in Dubois, WY. Kristian is still with the team and will help the group for the next several days as needed.

Prior to getting restarted, all riders will once again go through a rehash of safe riding techniques and safety drills. Per their request, we will be equipping them with helmet mounted safety mirrors to make it easier for them to see cars approaching from the rear. Grief counselors will be provided as needed, and we also have plans to make them available in several of the larger towns and cities the route will be passing through on their way to Seattle.

As always, the safety of our riders is still our number one priority and trip leaders will do their best to make sure the emotional toll of this event does not adversely affect the physical safety of the participants. The van is available to anyone who needs time off the bike, and they will be vigilant about supporting everyone emotionally as needed.

## **Moving Forward and How To Help**

Many of you have generously asked how you can help riders or Bike & Build. At this time there are several ways you're able to help Bike & Build and the P2S trip in particular:

- Mail Drops - Send your support through the mail ([instructions are here](#)). Letters, postcards, cookies - anything. Mail drops are something every Bike & Builder looks forward to, and it would be especially nice to be able to channel some of the support we've heard to the riders directly.
- Chalk for Paige - A 2008 rider put together a great B&B style tribute: chalk drawings in Paige's memory. We printed out all the pictures we had at the time of the memorial service and gave them to the family, but we are still taking submissions. You can see [everything we have so far here](#), and you can learn more about how to contribute on the discussion board of our [Facebook page](#).
- Financially - Help us defray travel costs associated with the accident by donating in Paige's name [on our website](#).

## **Contacting the Hicks Family**

Paige's family has provided the following email address where notes may be sent:

[InMemoryOfPaigeHicks@gmail.com](mailto:InMemoryOfPaigeHicks@gmail.com). *Note: We accidentally typed this address incorrectly in our letter on July 23rd.*

## **Thank You**

Once again, we thank the entire community for the amazing support they've provided us over the past week. Our accommodations and meals in St. Louis fell into place so quickly we weren't even able to take all of the help offered. The contributions of food, money, services and other resources were absolutely remarkable, and we couldn't be more grateful for it. We are proud to be part of such an amazing organization.

With gratitude,

The Staff and Board of Bike & Build