

# HABITAT 500 BIKE RIDE

## Fundraising Examples

Sample letters, emails and more!



# What?!?! You're Doing What?!?!?!?

Hello Family, Friends, Strangers,

Have you ever traveled 500 miles? Probably and you probably were driving a car. Now imagine trying that distance in one week on a bicycle. Talk about crazy, right?

Well this summer I have pledged to ride those miles to raise money for Habitat for Humanity—a nonprofit organization that builds houses in partnership with families in need. Would you like to help me? You can come along or you can help me raise the money I need to get me there.

If you don't know anything about Habitat, they are an organization that builds houses and sells them to low-income families at a zero percent mortgage rate, which I think is pretty nice. And the families are required to put a little (300-500 hours) sweat equity into building their home. My goal on the ride to help raise money to keep this relationship going along with raising awareness for this need of simple, decent, safe and affordable houses. All on a bicycle!

Now I understand we are in hard times, but I would like you to consider all the millions of people who are worse off than you. If this doesn't work for you, then think of me... I am giving up one week of vacation, my family, and my job to help those who are less fortunate. So I am asking if you would pledge for me. You can do one flat rate or by mile. The choice is yours.

Now for logistics—all donations are tax deductible, average pledge is \$60, the ride uses only 4% of the funds raised to cover overhead costs, and I will need your cash, checks or money orders by July 12.

I hope you consider making a difference for a family in need. And if you could tell other people about me, this bike ride or organization, that would be much appreciated!

Thanks!

## Riding to ReBuild

Hello dear family, friends, neighbors, and others,

As some of you may know, this summer I will be bicycling 500 miles for Habitat for Humanity over seven days in picturesque southeastern Minnesota. I was hoping this year you would be able to help sponsor me and a project called the *bike.home*.

Oh the *bike.home*! Not more to say expect it is a fascinating hands-on project that takes place each year on the Habitat 500 bike ride. This project was started 4 years ago to embrace the Habitat 500 riders' love for cycling and desire to create homeownership opportunities for those in need. Every year the home is designed in partnership with local Twin Cities' architects and ride participants and is built in part during the ride by the participants. It is an amazing experience to help lift those walls and drive in those nails.

The best part is that the design for the home is based on 'green' or environmentally safe principles and is built using sustainable building materials, which will help this home remain energy efficient and affordable for a long time. Each year the Habitat partner family joins us for a celebration and shares their struggles, successes and hope for the future. It is amazing to hear their inspiring stories.

This year the annual *bike.home* will be in Rushford, MN, an area completely devastated by a flood in August of 2007. This will be the first Habitat for Humanity home in Rushford, hopefully one of many for the families in this small town.

The funds I raise through the Habitat 500 will be designated to the *bike.home*. Your donation *will* help put a roof over the heads of a deserving family.

I would really appreciate any amount (large or small) that you can contribute to this amazing project.

Thank you,

[name] [rider #]

## Sample Email letter

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Friends:

I write to you today with a request for fundraising support. I have (possibly foolishly) pledged to ride 500 miles on my bicycle! What's worse is that it will be in 80 degree and up Minnesota heat and around 100% humidity.

I am doing this of course for Habitat for Humanity—an organization dear to my heart. They build houses and build hope in partnership with families in need. I cannot go through my summer without helping out this organization.

Now what I need from you is your financial support. I am so sorry to be coming at you at a time when I know many have little extra funds flowing, but I really need your help.

Can you do that? The easiest way is to go to the website ([www.Habitat500.org](http://www.Habitat500.org)) and donate to me (rider\_\_\_).

Or you can send me check made out to "Habitat 500" with my name in the memo mailed to my home address at:

Name  
Address  
City, State Zip

Please help me ride 500 miles for this great organization. If you would like to find out more as to why I am doing this, please visit their website and read some of the tremendous stories.

Thank you in advance for your contribution and please forward this message to anyone you know who may be interested in supporting Habitat for Humanity. I would love to include as many people as I can in support of this great organization.

Sincerely,

[name] [rider #]

## Example Fundraising Letter / Training Ride Invitation

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Dear Friends

As many of you know, every summer I take up my bicycle and ride 500 miles over seven days in support of Habitat for Humanity— a nonprofit organization that builds houses and helps low-income families achieve the dream of home ownership. Can you believe this is my [#] year doing this ride!

As you may remember, in the past I am usually sending a donation plea, begging you for financial support. However, this year instead of just simply asking for your money, I would like you to participate in a training ride with me.

On [DATE], I am inviting all my close friends and their families on a [X-MILE] leisure ride around [LOCATION]. To help support my Habitat 500 fundraising efforts, a donation of \$20 for an individual and \$10 for children under 15 is suggested. Along the scenic route I plan to take two rest breaks so please bring refreshments and nourishment with you.

We will be meeting [LOCATION] at [TIME] with a start at [TIME]. I will provide a route map for every family attending this massive fundraising event. Please let me know if I can count you and your family in by [DATE].

This will be a fun ride offering you a glance into what the Habitat 500 is all about, and why your donations are going to a great cause. Please invite your neighbors and family so this can be a community event filled with laughter and great memories to share years to come.

I hope to see you there. Thank you for all your generous support and donations over the past [#] years.

Sincerely,

[name] [rider #]