

September 18, 2009

RE: Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour

Dear Friends:

I am in training for my 19<sup>th</sup> Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, which will be held in New Bern on September 12 and 13. My plans are to peddle between 150 and 200 miles during that weekend. As I have each year for over a decade, I will be riding with the Selma Cyclepaths. I became involved with the Cyclepaths and Bike MS with the encouragement of friend Bob Bryant, whose brother passed away last year, after living with multiple sclerosis for almost 30 years. As a recently appointed District Court Judge, Bob is no longer permitted to solicit charitable contributions, so he gave me his list of our mutual friends to combine with my list.

Most people with multiple sclerosis are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 50. It affects more than 400,000 in the United States and 2.5 million worldwide. MS is a debilitating disease of the central nervous system that interrupts the flow of information from the brain to the body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis.

Last year, 2300 eastern North Carolina cyclists raised \$1.5 million during this event. The goal for the 2009 Bike MS Event is \$1.7 million. Your contribution will help us achieve that goal. The Cyclepaths have been the top fund-raising team for this Bike MS Event for the past four years. Last year with your help, the Cyclepaths raised \$100,032. Please help us surpass that amount this year. We would love to have you ride with us as well. Please contact me if you are interested in peddling around flat but windy New Bern in September.

You may write a check to the "National MS Society" and return it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope, or you may prefer to make a secure contribution online through the Society's e-pledge system. Simply go to [www.msbike.org](http://www.msbike.org) and follow the donation prompts. You and I will both receive an e-mail confirmation of your contribution. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

With warmest regards,



Lynn P. Burleson

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