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Habitat for Humanity of Missoula

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Local/State/Regional

For Immediate Release

Pedaling for Affordable Housing - Bike & Build Cyclists Volunteer at Missoula's 50th and 51st Habitat Home

Members of the Bike and Build organization will be pedaling through Missoula on August 5 to August 7 as part of a cycling trip that started in Providence, Rhode Island and will end in Seattle, Washington. Founded in 2002, Bike & Build's mission is to create fair, decent housing for all Americans. Specifically, it is a service-oriented independent organization that engages young adults in national cycling trips through partnerships with various affordable housing nonprofits – including Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat for Humanity of Missoula (HFHM) has teamed up with the Bike & Build organization for twelve years to help complete Habitat homes. The group of 29 cyclists will volunteer at a total of 13 build sites across the country during their "P2S16" trip, Missoula being just one of 59 stops the team will take during a 4000-mile journey spanning over three months. The P2S16 group is one of eleven Bike & Build routes taking place this summer across the United States.

"We are thrilled to have such a long-standing and rewarding partnership with Bike & Build. These young adults are so passionate about their journey, their varied experiences, and helping to create homeownership for families across the country," states Noreen Humes, HFHM's Executive Director. "We have been reading their blog along their route and look forward to their arrival. We are grateful for this opportunity and for the community organizations and volunteer help we rely on to make this weekend happen."

HFHM Community partners include St. Paul Lutheran Church to provide all the group meals and St. Anthony Catholic Church to provide the lodging for the Bike & Build team. The cyclists will work at the build site of two Habitat homes, 2215 & 2217 Burlington Avenue on Saturday, August 6. An evening banquet will follow Saturday's build day at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The evening includes a program in which the cyclists share their trip experience with attendees in addition to answering questions about the Bike & Build organization. HFHM and Adventure Cycling leadership will be present to provide additional connections to cycling, affordable housing, and our community. The general public is invited to attend this free program beginning at 6:45pm on Saturday, August 6 at St. Paul's located at 202 Brooks Street in Missoula.

"A cycling trip is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but it requires a significant commitment" according to the Bike & Build organization. Each participant is required to spend numerous hours volunteering on a local build site and raise a minimum of \$4,500 in order to make the trip. The organization's requirements give trip participants knowledge on affordable housing efforts before embarking on their cycling trips. In addition, the Bike & Build organization provides grant funds to participating organizations around the country, including HFHM. Bike & Build's partnership with Habitat has been extremely valuable in continuing to eliminate poverty housing in the Missoula community and with other Habitat affiliates throughout Montana.

For more information:

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