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Habitat for Humanity of Missoula

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Local/State/Regional

For Immediate Release

Pedaling Coast to Coast for Affordable Housing Bike & Build Cyclists Volunteer at Missoula's 54th and 55th Habitat Homes

Members of the Bike and Build organization will be pedaling into Missoula on Monday, July 30 and spend all day Tuesday, July 31 helping Habitat build 2 homes in the Franklin to Fort Neighborhood. This group of young adults left Yorktown Virginia on May 29, and will finish their long trek in Portland, OR on August 12, 2018. Founded in 2003, 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 25 cyclists will volunteer at a total of 14 build sites across the country during their "Central US Route", Missoula being just one of 58 stops in communities from coast to coast the team will take during their 4015-mile journey spanning over 2 ½ months. The Central US Route is one of four 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 affordable homeownership for families across the country," states Kelin Johnson, HFHM's Board President. "We have been following their blog along their route and look forward to their arrival. We are grateful for this opportunity and for the community organizations and volunteers we rely on to make this happen."

HFHM Community partners include St. Paul Lutheran Church providing group meals and the lodging for the entire team, along with Papa Murphy's, MacKenzie River Pizza, & Noodles & Co. providing other food. The cyclists will work at two locations: the build site of two Habitat homes, 1609 & 1613 Schilling & at the Habitat ReStore in East Missoula, all on Tues., July 31. An evening banquet will follow Tuesday's build day at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The event 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 and our community. The general public is invited to attend this free program beginning at 6:45pm on Tuesday, July 31 at St. Paul's located at 202 Brooks Street in Missoula. The cyclists then leave Missoula early morning on Aug. 1 heading to Kooskia, ID.

"A cycling trip is an 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 journey. 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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