

From: Karen Richards [mailto:bikerchick@karenrichards.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 07, 2004 10:14 PM
Subject: Changing Gears - The Adventure of a Lifetime! - Chapter 2

Dear Friends,

Many of you are already aware of my upcoming participation in a new event to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. For those of you who are not, and as a reminder for the rest of you, this past July, I was lucky enough to have been chosen to participate in Changing Gears, a unique high profile advocacy, community building and fundraising event created for and by young women living with breast cancer.

From October 2 - 9, 2004 I will be among twenty young breast cancer survivors embarking on the adventure of a lifetime, riding motorcycles up the coast of California from San Diego to San Francisco. Motorcycles, riding gear and riding lessons will be provided to all participants thanks to our generous sponsor, Harley Davidson.

"But Karen", you say, "you don't know how to ride a motorcycle!" Well that was true until very recently. Of the twenty of us chosen from across the United States and Australia, and I am one of five riders who has used this event as an opportunity to learn how to ride. As a matter of fact, within the span of 2 weeks last month, I got my learners permit, took my lessons, got my license and a loaner bike the same day, took the loaner on a 150 mile trip, and - (I couldn't help myself) - I bought my first motorcycle! She's a beauty - a 1997 Suzuki Intruder 800, in candy apple red!

But back to the event: We will be spending the week raising awareness of the unique needs of young women living with breast cancer, challenging media stereotypes, and raising funds for Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization and the Young Survivor Coalition to ensure that no woman has to face a diagnosis of breast cancer alone.

Of the more than 2 million women in the US living with breast cancer, 250,000 are under the age of 45. These women experience a higher degree of social isolation, greater financial stress, more unhappiness and have greater unmet needs than older women. I want to change this, and I strongly feel that my ride will truly be making a difference.

I have set a personal fundraising goal of \$5,000. For more information about the event, to view my rider profile, or to support my fundraising efforts, please go to www.changinggears.org. You can also click on the link at the end of this e-mail to go directly to my fundraising page. I have made up some great flyers too, and if you can think of any places to post them, please let me know and I'll send some to you.

Also, if you think anyone you know may be interested in learning about this event, or in sponsoring me, please feel free to forward this message to them.

Thanks in advance for your support it means so much to me!

Warmest regards,

Karen Richards
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