

AIDS/LifeCycle™

SF TO LA • END AIDS • 545 MILES

2018 MEDIA KIT



For Immediate Release

More than 3,000 AIDS/LifeCycle® Participants Journeying 545 Miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles

SEVEN-DAY BIKE RIDE FROM JUNE 3 THROUGH 9 IS WORLD'S LARGEST HIV/AIDS FUNDRAISER

SAN FRANCISCO/LOS ANGELES, May 17, 2018 — Thousands of cyclists and volunteer “roadies” will embark on a 545-mile journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles, from June 3-9, united by a common cause: fighting to end HIV and AIDS. AIDS/LifeCycle raises millions of dollars annually to support San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the HIV/AIDS-related services of the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Participants are HIV-positive and HIV-negative, LGBT and allies, ages 19 to 90, and from nearly every state and 16 countries.

This is the 25th year of riding to end AIDS. The ride debuted in 1994 as the California AIDS Ride before it was reconfigured to what is known today as AIDS/LifeCycle, the world’s largest annual HIV/AIDS fundraiser. AIDS/LifeCycle is a fully supported, 545-mile bike ride—not a race—that raises important awareness about the ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic, in addition to funding critical services such as HIV testing and screenings for other sexually transmitted infections, HIV medical care, prevention services, and more.

“Our tireless riders and roadies have once again risen to the occasion, raising millions of dollars to make a difference in the fight against HIV and AIDS,” said Los Angeles LGBT Center CEO Lorri L. Jean. “Thanks to their hard work and the generosity of their donors, we will continue to be able to provide free or low-cost HIV testing and medical services—caring for those most in need and reducing the incidence of HIV infection.”

In the seven days it takes the riders to reach Los Angeles, more than 700 people in the United States will contract HIV. One in seven people living with HIV nationwide is not aware of their status. Since 2002, when AIDS/LifeCycle first began, participants have raised more than \$251 million and completed more than 61,000 journeys on bikes from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

“The enduring commitment of the AIDS/LifeCycle community demonstrates the tenacity we need to end the HIV epidemic for all communities,” said San Francisco AIDS Foundation CEO Joe Hollendorfer. “Because of awareness and funds raised by AIDS/LifeCycle participants, San Francisco AIDS Foundation is able to provide 25,000 clients with services that prevent new infections and promote the health of those living with HIV, all free of charge.”

Despite remarkable progress that has been made since the disease was first discovered in 1981, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is far from over. Currently there are 1.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS nationwide and an estimated 37,600 will become infected this year.

AIDS/LifeCycle sponsors include Gilead Sciences, FedEx, Wells Fargo, United Airlines, and Mytesi. The official bike sponsor is Cannondale.

To follow the journey during the week of the ride through pictures, stories and videos, visit aidslifecycle.org.

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CONTACT

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ABOUT AIDS/LIFECYCLE

AIDS/LifeCycle is a fully-supported, seven-day bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. It's a life-changing ride—not a race—through some of California's most beautiful countryside. AIDS/LifeCycle is co-produced by the Los Angeles LGBT Center and San Francisco AIDS Foundation and is designed to advance their shared interest to reduce new HIV infections and improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS.

ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES LGBT CENTER

Since 1969 the Los Angeles LGBT Center has cared for, championed and celebrated LGBT individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond. Today the Center's more than 600 employees provide services for more LGBT people than any other organization in the world, offering programs, services and global advocacy that span four broad categories: Health, Social Services and Housing, Culture and Education, Leadership and Advocacy. We are an unstoppable force in the fight against bigotry and the struggle to build a better world; a world in which LGBT people can be healthy, equal and complete members of society. [Learn more at lalgbtcenter.org](http://lalgbtcenter.org).

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION

San Francisco AIDS Foundation works to eliminate new HIV transmissions and extend the longevity of people living with HIV through a network of direct programs and supportive services. Each year, more than 25,000 people look to San Francisco AIDS Foundation for access to sexual health, substance & behavioral health, engagement & retention and social support services. Policy and public education initiatives are a critical part of supporting community health and wellness and San Francisco AIDS Foundation advocates at all levels of government. [Learn more at safaf.org](http://safaf.org).

Fact Sheet

WHAT

More than 3,000 people (including cyclists and volunteer roadies) are participating in AIDS/LifeCycle 2018, a seven-day, 545-mile bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles to raise money for San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the HIV/AIDS-related services of the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Historically, AIDS/LifeCycle has raised more than \$251 million, making it the largest fundraiser for HIV and AIDS in the world.

WHEN

Sunday, June 3 – Saturday, June 9, 2018

Opening Ceremony & Ride Out: 6 a.m. at Cow Palace in Daly City

Finish Line Crossing in front of City Hall in downtown Los Angeles at 10 a.m.

Finish Line Festival at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles beginning at 11 a.m.

WHERE

DAY 1**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

Start: Opening Ceremony, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City
End: Harvey West Park, 326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz

1

DAY 2**MONDAY, JUNE 4**

Start: Harvey West Park, 326 Evergreen St., Santa Cruz
End: San Lorenzo County Park, 1160 Broadway, King City

2

DAY 3**TUESDAY, JUNE 5**

Start: San Lorenzo County Park, 1160 Broadway, King City
End: Mid-State Fairgrounds, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles

3

DAY 4**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6**

Start: Mid-State Fairgrounds, 2198 Riverside Ave., Paso Robles
End: Preisker Park, 2301 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria

4

DAY 5**THURSDAY, JUNE 7**

Start: Preisker Park, 2301 Preisker Lane, Santa Maria
End: Ryon Memorial Park, 124 W. Walnut Ave., Lompoc

5

DAY 6**FRIDAY, JUNE 8**

Start: Ryon Memorial Park, 124 W. Walnut Ave., Lompoc
End: San Buenaventura State Beach, 901 San Pedro St., Ventura

6

DAY 7**SATURDAY, JUNE 9**

Start: San Buenaventura State Beach, 901 San Pedro St., Ventura
End: City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., Los Angeles with Finish Line Festival at Grand Park, 200 N. Grand Ave.

7

*The route opens at various times each day, but cyclists are on the road by 7 a.m.

WHY

To raise critically needed funds for HIV/AIDS-related services provided by the Los Angeles LGBT Center and San Francisco AIDS Foundation and to raise awareness that AIDS is still devastating our society, particularly the LGBT community and communities of color in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and throughout California.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 aidslifecycle.org  facebook.com/aidslifecycle  [@aidslifecycle](https://aidslifecycle)  [#aidslifecycle](#)

Fact Sheet

HISTORY

\$251,000,000+

Total funds raised through 2017

61,000+

Total participants

2018 PARTICIPANTS

2,300+

Cyclists

650

Roadies

19

Youngest participant

90

Oldest participant

43

States represented

16

Countries represented*

*Australia, Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, U.S. Virgin Islands

TRAVEL ROUTE

545

Total number of miles

95

Permits required

45

Towns

8

Counties

3,410

Calories burned each day
(on average for a 170-pound cyclist)

FOOD

44,600

Eggs

18,800

Gallons of water

11,000

Clif Bars

6,000

Breakfast pastries

3,880

Pounds of bananas

2,100

Pounds of pasta

810

Gallons of
Peet's Coffee

660

Gallons of milk

20

Lunches served per
minute (on average, at
lunchtime)

3.3

Tons of vegetables

2.2

Tons of oatmeal

2.2

Tons of chicken

SUPPLIES

16,000

packets of "butt balm"

7,000

trash can liners

1,500

tents

1,641

toilets

HIV/AIDS Facts

IN SAN FRANCISCO

- San Francisco has an estimated 16,010 people living with HIV.
- Of the total number of San Franciscans living with HIV, 9,347 were living with AIDS at the end of 2016. AIDS is a late stage of HIV disease defined by a low count of CD4 cells.
- Gay and bisexual men of all ages and ethnicities continue to bear the brunt of the disease: Nearly 89% of people living with HIV in San Francisco are among gay and bisexual men and 79% of new HIV diagnoses are among gay and bisexual men.
- More than a quarter (27%) of people living with HIV have not achieved viral suppression, a level of the virus so low that it is undetectable and nearly impossible to transmit. More than a third (39%) are not retained in care.
- Black communities are disproportionately represented among new HIV diagnoses: While Black San Franciscans are only 6% of city's population, they represented 15% of new HIV diagnoses in 2016.
- Of all new HIV diagnoses, transgender people represent almost 3% of new cases. 42% of new diagnoses among transgender people occurred in those 18-29 years old.
- The Latino community represents 28% of all new diagnoses.
- Deaths from AIDS-related causes have declined dramatically as a result of effective treatment and adherence. In 2016, 165 people died from AIDS-related causes. Since the beginning of the epidemic, the city has lost 21,237 people to the disease. At its peak in 1992, the city lost 2,331 people.

IN LOS ANGELES

- More than 60,400 people are living with HIV in Los Angeles County, of which 14% of them don't even know they are HIV-positive. A majority of the people living with HIV in the county are male (87%) and/or Latino (43%).
- 84% of new diagnoses were among gay and bisexual men.
- 66% of new diagnoses were among people between the ages of 20-39.
- 52% of new diagnoses were among Latinos.
- Black communities are roughly three times more likely to test positive for HIV compared to Caucasians.
- The Hollywood-Wilshire district in Los Angeles, which includes the city of West Hollywood, has the highest rate of people living with HIV in the county.

IN CALIFORNIA

- More than 128,000 people are living with HIV.
- Beginning in 2011, about 5,000 people are diagnosed with HIV each year.
- 77% of all HIV/AIDS cases occur among gay or bisexual men. However, since 2011, there has been a steady increase in the number of HIV diagnoses among transgender people.
- Black communities account for nearly 18% of those living with HIV or AIDS.
- Latinos account for over 34% of those living with HIV or AIDS—a percentage that has grown since 2011.
- Nearly two-thirds of all Californians living with HIV reside in Los Angeles County or the San Francisco Bay Area.

HIV/AIDS Facts

IN THE UNITED STATES

- More than 1.2 million people are living with HIV.
- Almost 1 in 7 (15%) of those who contract HIV is not aware of their status.
- While gay and bisexual men account for the majority of all new HIV diagnoses, Black gay and bi men are disproportionately affected, accounting for 39% of new diagnoses.
- Black communities comprise only 12% of the total U.S. population yet account for an estimated 44% of new HIV infections nationally in 2016. They also accounted for 43% of everyone living with HIV in the U.S. and 52% of AIDS-related deaths in 2015.

IN THE WORLD

- Approximately 37 million people are living with HIV.
- Since the beginning of the epidemic, almost 78 million people have contracted HIV and about 35 million people have died of AIDS-related causes, including 1 million in 2016.
- The number of new HIV diagnoses has decreased from 2.5 million in 2009 to 1.8 million in 2016.
- 9% of new HIV diagnoses occur in people under age 15.
- Deaths of people in Africa accounted for 61% of the world's AIDS-related deaths in 2015.
- Around 56% of people—some 20.9 million people—living with HIV had access to antiretroviral therapy by June 2017.

SOURCES

amFAR Statistics: Worldwide; Bay Area Census, 2010; California Department of Public Health 2016 HIV Surveillance Report; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV Among African Americans; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV Among Gay and Bisexual Men; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention HIV in the United States: At a Glance; Los Angeles County Department of Public Health 2015 Annual HIV/STD Surveillance Report; San Francisco Department of Public Health 2016 Epidemiology Annual Report; UNAIDS Fact Sheet.

HIV/AIDS-Related Fact Sheet

The Los Angeles LGBT Center has been a leader in battling AIDS and caring for those who are living with HIV since the earliest days of the pandemic. Today, the millions of dollars raised annually by AIDS/LifeCycle participants support these vital Center services:

MEDICAL CARE

The Center's Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic offers people living with HIV comprehensive free or low-cost primary and specialty medical care. About 3,100 people receive care at the clinic each year, with 42% of them identifying as Hispanic or Latino.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Center's staff of mental health professionals offers one-on-one and group therapy to help people struggling with HIV overcome substance abuse and addiction, adhere to difficult HIV drug regimens, improve self-esteem, get through the trauma of a new HIV diagnosis, and manage other issues they may be facing. The program serves more than 2,300 people each year.

PHARMACY

The Center's full-service pharmacy provides help for patients who struggle to afford costly medications. For patients without private insurance, medications are supported by the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), Medi-Cal, and Medicare, as well as AIDS/LifeCycle fundraising dollars.

HIV TESTING

One out of seven people nationwide who are HIV-positive don't know it. The Center is working to lower that percentage by offering free HIV testing in Hollywood and in West Hollywood, where we also test for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. The Center tests 1,900 people for HIV each month. The tests are among the most advanced available and can detect HIV as early as seven days after exposure.

HIV PREVENTION

The Center works to reduce the spread of HIV through a myriad of education and prevention services, including the bold F*ck W/out Fear campaign to raise awareness for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as a safe and effective tool to prevent HIV infection; WeHoLife.org, a website featuring a variety of entertaining HIV prevention videos and links to resources at the Center to reduce the risk of infection for those who live or work in West Hollywood; and Positive Images, a "live better program" for people living with HIV.

HIV RESEARCH

The Center's HIV research is aligned with the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, focusing on intervening at every stage of HIV infection: testing high-risk populations, linking newly diagnosed people to HIV care, retaining them in care, starting them on HIV medications as soon as possible, supporting and increasing adherence to their antiretroviral medications, and ultimately reducing their HIV viral load to undetectable levels. This comprehensive approach is a complex but promising strategy for reducing "community viral load" and ultimately ending HIV/AIDS as an epidemic in the U.S.

HIV/AIDS-Related Services

The Center's HIV/AIDS services are comprehensive. The Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic provides HIV and STD testing, medical care, and case management services; Mental Health Services provides people with HIV mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment; our youth programs provide homeless youth with shelter, food, and support that decrease their risk for HIV transmission; LifeWorks offers mentoring, support groups, and sexual education to youth at risk but still at home; Senior Services offers support for older people living with HIV; and in all of our 20+ programs those most at risk for HIV infection stay healthy because of targeted prevention/education programs. Finally, the Center staff advances funding and policies important to all those living with HIV, in California and nationally. Collectively, the Center provides more than 42,000 client visits a month among our seven facilities, and HIV and sexual health will remain one of our top priorities until this epidemic is over.

The Center is committed in the next 12 months to:

- Providing 35,000 HIV and STD tests.
- Providing STD treatment to at least 10,000 people.
- Providing ongoing medical care and case management to 2,900 HIV patients in the Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic.
- Serving as a leader in L.A. County's target reduction of 10% in the HIV infection rate before the end of 2018.

HOW WE USE AIDS/LIFECYCLE FUNDS

\$50,000 underwrites the cost of comprehensive HIV wraparound services by a case management team for 3 months for 135 patients.

\$35,000 funds an HIV Counselor for 1,200 clients per year.

\$25,000 covers 5 months of mental health therapy for 28 patients.

\$15,000 provides comprehensive sexual health services, including HIV and STI tests, treatment, education, and counseling to 100 clients.

\$10,000 covers 3 months of psychosocial case management for 300 patients.

\$7,500 provides a nurse for one month to administer STI screening and treatments for 400 clients.

\$5,000 covers a full year of laboratory testing for 11 patients.

\$1,000 covers a full year of medical supply costs for 40 patients.

\$1,000 funds one client receiving Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP).

\$250 provides Rapid HIV Antibody tests to 20 clients.

\$180 provides HIV prevention counseling sessions to 20 teenagers.

\$150 provides comprehensive HIV/STI testing to 1 client.

\$30 covers the treatment medication for 1 client infected with an STI.

\$10 buys 114 condoms that the Health Education and Prevention Program will distribute.



SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION

HIV/AIDS-Related Fact Sheet

San Francisco AIDS Foundation serves populations most impacted by HIV and AIDS through education, advocacy, and free direct local services. Funds raised by AIDS/LifeCycle participants support these five interconnected program areas:

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Gay and bisexual men, transgender and gender non-binary people, and other communities affected by HIV can receive judgement-free HIV testing, STI screening and STI treatment. Our mobile testing efforts successfully engage communities most impacted by health disparities. We also provide pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and our navigation and benefits team reduces barriers to PrEP through same-day access, insurance and benefits enrollment and ongoing client support.

SUBSTANCE & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Substance use is one of the many factors impacting HIV risk, and people living with HIV who inject drugs have the lowest viral suppression rate of any transmission category. Our substance and behavioral health services are based on the principles of harm reduction. In addition to providing sterile injection supplies and disposal opportunities, we work in partnership with clients who use crystal meth, cocaine, heroin, alcohol and other drugs to help them create the goals that make sense in their lives through counseling and treatment.

ENGAGEMENT & RETENTION SERVICES

A critical component of our work is ensuring people living with HIV have access to health care services, housing and public benefits. Through these services, we are helping people achieve viral suppression, ensuring better health outcomes, and preventing new transmissions.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

We cannot end the HIV epidemic in San Francisco until all communities have equal access to health care, housing, education, and social support. Our teams provide social support, health education, housing advocacy, and case management services in safe and supportive spaces that center Black and Latinx communities, transgender and gender non-binary people, and long-term HIV survivors over age 50.

POLICY & PUBLIC EDUCATION

We champion evidence-based HIV/AIDS policy at the local, state and federal levels, fighting every day to protect the human rights of people at risk for and living with HIV. Our public education initiatives brought news and information about viral suppression, long-term survivors, HIV stigma, PrEP and sexual health to audiences across the globe.

SFAF.ORG

HIV/AIDS-Related Services

San Francisco AIDS Foundation works to eliminate new HIV transmissions and extend the longevity of people living with HIV through a network of direct programs and supportive services. Each year, more than 25,000 people look to San Francisco AIDS Foundation for access to sexual health, substance & behavioral health, engagement & retention, and social support services. Policy and public education initiatives are a critical part of supporting community health and wellness and San Francisco AIDS Foundation advocates at all levels of government.

Our work is guided by three ambitious, interconnected goals:

Goal 1. Build healthier communities by fostering personal resilience and social support.

Goal 2. Reduce new HIV diagnoses in San Francisco to fewer than 100 per year in San Francisco by 2019.

Goal 3. Ensure that at least 80% of all HIV-positive San Franciscans are virally suppressed in order to improve their health and lifespan.

HOW WE USE AIDS/LIFECYCLE FUNDS

\$10,000 provides substance use counseling services for more than 250 clients in one month.

\$5,000 provides our sexual health team with the supplies needed to offer HIV and STI screenings for 560 people.

\$3,000 provides over 15,000 sterile syringes to prevent transmission of HIV and hepatitis C.

\$2,000 fuels our mobile testing unit for over one year, allowing us to reach diverse communities across San Francisco.

\$1,000 funds one weekend-long seminar where people recently diagnosed with HIV can learn more about living healthily with HIV.

\$500 enables 50 long-term survivors who lived through the early years of the HIV epidemic to connect with and learn from each other.

\$250 enables 20 trans and gender non-binary clients to meet weekly and build meaningful connections.

\$100 provides 10 gay, bi and queer Black men with 1-on-1 counseling support services for one month.

\$25 helps one client cover out of pocket healthcare costs.

AIDS/LifeCycle™

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2018
MEDIA AMBASSADORS



To arrange an interview with a
Media Ambassador, please contact

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Media Ambassadors



JEN BALKUS CYCLIST
SEATTLE, WA

“Eleven years ago, my first AIDS/LifeCycle forever changed my life. The week was filled with so much love, support, encouragement, and hope—a tangible reminder that we do have the power to end AIDS.”

As an epidemiologist and assistant professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health, Jen has been dedicated to global HIV/AIDS prevention for more than a decade. Her research team evaluated a new, cutting-edge HIV prevention tool for women: a vaginal ring which, similar to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), has been proven to reduce the risk of HIV transmission.



NOELLE CHALMERS ROADIE
LONG BEACH, CA

“HIV and AIDS affects everyone. I want to see an end to AIDS in my lifetime, but our work is far from over.”

Noelle began her nursing career more than 25 years ago, caring for patients living with HIV and AIDS. Although nearly all of them have died due to AIDS-related complications, she vividly remembers the rejection and shame they encountered from their families. As a first-time AIDS/LifeCycle participant, Noelle hopes to break the stigma surrounding the disease and to honor her patients.



VAUGHN FRISBY CYCLIST
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“As a person of color living with HIV, I want to show the diversity and inclusivity of AIDS/LifeCycle—and that HIV doesn’t discriminate.”

People of color are disproportionately affected by HIV. Without intervention, 1 in 2 Black gay and bisexual men—and 1 in 4 Latino gay and bisexual men—are at risk of being diagnosed with HIV during their lifetimes. These are reasons enough for first-time participant Vaughn and his family (his mother is a volunteer Roadie) to support the vital services of San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Media Ambassadors



JUAN GOMEZ CYCLIST

AGUA DULCE, CA

“After many years of cycling as a hobby, I learned about a magnificent ride empowering me to help others affected by HIV and AIDS. I’m doing my part to destigmatize HIV and AIDS, especially within the Latino community.”

Juan’s uncle became ill during the mid-1990s at the peak of the AIDS crisis. Fearing shame and ridicule from the Latino community, his Uncle Jorge kept his illness a secret from everyone. Remembering how helpless he felt as he witnessed his uncle die from AIDS-related complications, Juan wants to give hope—by riding for the fifth time—to those living with the disease.



ISABEAU HANSEN CYCLIST

PASADENA, CA

“The LGBTQ community has lost—and continues to lose—too much from HIV and AIDS. I’m riding to end stigma. Stigma stops people from coming out, from loving, and from seeking life-saving medication.”

Growing up in a queer family, Isabeau’s life has never been short of endless love and support from the LGBTQ community. She was raised by a lesbian couple and a gay couple. When she was a teenager, one of her fathers died of AIDS-related complications and, years later, her other father’s best friend also passed away due to the disease. Isabeau, a first-time participant, is riding in their memory.



GAVIN JAMES CYCLIST

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“I ride because I am living proof that HIV is treatable. For anyone who feels despair over an HIV diagnosis, I want you to know there’s hope.”

In 1995 Gavin’s father died from AIDS-related complications. Five years later, Gavin himself was diagnosed with HIV and turned to drugs to cope with his depression. His downward spiral continued for a decade until he decided to take control of his health and seek medical treatment. Within a year, his viral count reached an undetectable level, and he continues to thrive.

Media Ambassadors



LARRY JAMIESON ROADIE
NYACK, NY

“At one point in my life, I needed something to get me out of my rut. I wanted to start giving back. One of my friends suggested I get involved in AIDS/LifeCycle, and it changed my life.”

Larry recalls how AIDS ravaged his hometown of New York when he was younger. He lost many friends to the disease, and in 2005 his husband died from AIDS-related complications. As a member of the volunteer motorcycle safety team—who help keep the cyclists safe along the 545-mile route—Larry greets, assists, and thanks thousands of cyclists for their unwavering support every day during the weeklong ride.



ALEX LAU CYCLIST
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“In the past, I was caught up with the busyness of my own world. Living in San Francisco, I’ve come to meet many people who have been affected by the epidemic. HIV and AIDS is not just an LGBT issue—it’s everyone’s issue.”

As a volunteer at San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the organization’s health clinic known as Strut, Alex believes in supporting communities disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS. This is his first time as an AIDS/LifeCycle participant, and already, he has met many people whom he describes as “amazing, kind, and selfless” for actively fighting to end AIDS.



BOBBEE MOOREMON ROADIE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

“As a transgender woman living with HIV, I want to put a face to a segment of the LGBT community that is at high-risk of becoming exposed to the disease.”

Bobbee has been living with HIV for more than six years, and this is her third year as a volunteer Roadie for AIDS/LifeCycle. As an activist for more than a decade, she works for HIV/AIDS education, outreach, research, and advocacy that is focused on the trans community.

Media Ambassadors



ADAN RAMOS CYCLIST

LONG BEACH, CA

“As a 22-year-old, I want to inspire other young people to help end AIDS. There are many sacrifices to make when committing to do AIDS/LifeCycle, but if I can do it, then anyone—regardless of age—can do it, too.”

As someone who works in an HIV clinic, Adan has observed firsthand how HIV and AIDS disproportionately affects communities of color, particularly African-Americans and Latinos. He believes people of color pay attention and take action to pressing issues, such as the fight to end AIDS, when one of their own speaks out.



TRICIA RUSSELL CYCLIST

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

“I am speaking out on behalf of those within the transgender community who are too afraid to do so out of fear and rejection.”

Tricia feels obligated to speak up for transgender people, particularly trans women of color who are at high risk of HIV transmission. A seasoned speaker and activist, and vocal member of the trans community, Tricia is a force to be reckoned with among her peers, her workplace, and along the 545-mile AIDS/LifeCycle route.



ANDRES SALAZAR MILANO CYCLIST

LOS ANGELES, CA

“As a person living with HIV, I want to remind people that our battle against the disease is far from over. Organizations like the Los Angeles LGBT Center and San Francisco AIDS Foundation truly save lives.”

Andres is grateful to be alive. When he was diagnosed with HIV, his health insurance suddenly was not renewed, and he found himself desperate to find medical treatment while living and working in Central and South America. A friend suggested that he move to Los Angeles in order to receive care from the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Andres has been a Center client for less than six months, and, already, his viral load has reached an undetectable level.

Media Ambassadors



ADRIAN VARGAS CYCLIST
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

"There is so much stigma, prejudice, and misinformation about HIV and AIDS. As a person living with HIV, I want those in the same situation as I'm in to know we have the power to live."

Adrian says his world turned upside down when he tested positive for HIV in 2016. Feeling hopeless, he sought help from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and spoke with compassionate counselors and caregivers. He walked into the organization with so many questions, and he walked out invigorated and more knowledgeable about the disease.



ANDREW VO CYCLIST
WESTMINSTER, CA

"I am honored to participate in an event that educates the world about HIV/AIDS as well as the LGBT community disproportionately affected by the disease. As an active Army captain, the ride has empowered me to come out and inspire others in the military to lead a life free from discrimination and stigmatization."

While studying to become a dentist, Andrew learned only about the science of HIV and had never met someone living with the virus until he participated in his first ride in 2015. Andrew is now co-captain of Team Outserve, comprised mainly of U.S. military personnel united to help end AIDS. This year, the 24-member team hail from nearly all branches of the military including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines.



WENDY WALKER CYCLIST
MCKINNEY, TX

"We need to have constructive conversations with our families about protecting ourselves and getting tested regularly. I ride so that many may live."

Wendy, a first-time participant, is riding in memory of her brother Danny who died from AIDS-related complications in 2005. Her family was unprepared for his diagnosis and didn't know where to seek help. Through the selfless assistance of a local nonprofit organization, Wendy's brother was able to live with dignity, and she wants other families to know they will never be alone in the fight against the disease.