



Dear Family and Friends,

Fund Raising Summary and Thank You!

I want to reach out to all of you and give you my heartfelt thanks for helping with our ongoing quest to support The Seeing Eye, Inc. Your contributions and moral support are so important to me as I leverage my own gifts to the foundation many times over through your continued generosity! This year we combined to raise just shy of \$16,000.

So far, in the three years since my brother John’s passing, in his name, I have run a 100-mile race in Zion Utah, rode across New York State from Manhattan to Buffalo, and rode from our nation’s capital to Pittsburgh. These three events have netted over \$44,000 in direct support to The Seeing Eye. Many of you have followed all of my craziness and have supported my fundraising throughout the last three years. I am so proud to have such compassionate, loving and generous people in my life!

Trip Report for 2021 – Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA

This year, I enlisted a small group of good friends and biked from Washington, DC to Pittsburgh, PA. On August 29th, Bill Ude, Dave DuBois, Jay Ratto, and Victor Fassano saddled up with me and started our ride from Vienna, VA to Pittsburgh. Our trip traversed the length of the historic C&O canal, one of the earliest east west transit routes in the United States before train travel. The canal runs from Washington, DC to Cumberland, MD. At Cumberland, we headed north and west along the equally famous and historic Allegany Passage - also known as the GAP trail. This was an important rail route to Pittsburgh in the industrial revolution in the 1800 and 1900s.

We rode well with only a few incidents (we all survived with no major breakdowns!) and enjoyed the week with all it threw at us! Hurricane Ida turned our five-day ride into a four-day transit. We were able to pick up some of the lost miles on the third day of the ride but ended up missing 50 miles of the C&O- could have been much worse! That was a huge storm! Stats for the ride are 340.21 miles in 4 days. 30 miles were paved and the rest were gravel and quite a bit of mud. We climbed a total of 6,598 ft and averaged a whopping 13.5 mph. Gravel is slow!

We did lots of talking about my brother John, Hero the dog, and The Seeing Eye. It was a wonderful way to remember my brother and to support others through The Seeing Eye.

I love all of you who have followed us and wished us luck. I’m sending a huge thank you to so many who have helped me in my ongoing effort to support The Seeing Eye.

Some trip highlights in photos



Our Pre-Ride in DC and a miraculous meeting in the first mile of a Seeing Eye Puppy in Training compliments of Jordan from New Jersey! Great karma for the trip.



And, we are off on the trip! Leaving my high school buddy's house in Vienna Virginia. Thanks for the hospitality, Jay!



Incredible history on the very isolated banks of the Potomac River.



Harpers Ferry, our only foray into West Virginia. Most of the trip was in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania



Climbing out of
Cumberland



Beautiful way to
travel!



Early burger stop
in Frostburg on a
100 mile day.



Many cool rail trail tunnels along the way



At the Continental Divide. Its downhill from here!



Into Pittsburgh we head!



Trails End!