

The Bicycle Experience

By Jessica Leigh McClain

When I stumbled upon the Fuller Center Bike Adventure website almost two years ago, I had no idea of the profound effect that it would have on my life. As the communications and media specialist for the cross-country summer trip, I have been allowed to accompany the adventure in order to document everything: the cycling, the laughs, the home-building, the camaraderie, and the passion that overtakes us all as we work daily to reach our goals.



1st bike support team arrives to get set up at the Kellogg Middle School where they stayed for 3 nights in 2016 during their trip to the Silver Valley

the most cost-efficient way to cycle across the country. However, upon seeing the work of the Fuller Center firsthand through our build days, rider's eyes are opened to the needs of this world, and the resulting actions are astounding. I have seen past participants find new covenant partners in order to transform their cities. I have seen college majors be changed in order to foster a career that makes a difference for those who need it. I have seen tears shed at the sheer emotion that accompanies a build day as we work alongside homeowners. Countless stories have been told, listened to, and passed along as the Bike Adventure allows the nation to become more enlightened of the differences that unite us all, and the steps that we have to take to continue building a global community in which poverty housing is no longer a concern.

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“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”-Ephesians 4:32

The Fuller Center Bike Adventure began in 2008 as an annual fundraiser for the Fuller Center for Housing. Cyclists may join for the entire cross-country trip, or for any of the scheduled weeklong segments. Regardless of a particular rider's time on the trip, they are each responsible for raising \$1 for every mile they will be riding with us. This makes the Bike Adventure the largest annual fundraiser for the organization!

This trip, however, is not just about fundraising, cycling, or seeing the country. While all of these are wonderful, I have come to realize that the Fuller Center Bike Adventure acts as more of a catalyst in motivating participants to recognize their role in helping others who are in need. Many riders register simply because it is



2016 Adventurer's start finding projects to work on at John "Boy's" future home in Osburn. One of the first things will be tearing off the flat roof and walls of the room on this side where some are standing. This was where the whole ceiling was falling in and the floor was warped.

The Bicycle Experience, continued

Personally, I feel immeasurably blessed to have encountered such incredible people with such big hearts during our time here in Kellogg. Working with the Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing has only reconfirmed my faith in our mission. There is excellent work taking place here, and I cannot express my gratitude at your allowing us to be a part of it for a weekend. Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Oyee!



Five other churches helped provide meals for these bikers. The St. Rita's Catholic Daughters offered their welcoming dinner. The LDS Relief Society took them lunch at the work site, and 3 churches, The Seventh Day Adventist, American Lutheran, and The Christian Life Center provided the final breakfast pictured above. The donations of lodging and food allowed them to donate pledged funds to our project.

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Call for Volunteers: Bicycle Adventurers Event

We need help to host the 2024 Bicycle Adventurers on May 30th and 31st. With up to 36 cyclists ranging in ages from late teens to 70s expected to participate, we need your help to ensure the success of this event. Here are the areas where we need volunteers:

Accommodations: Help organize lodging arrangements for participants, ensuring they have access to showers. The Adventurers carry their own bedding, so only need a place to be able to spread out their sleeping bags. Ideally, showers will be on-site, or nearby.

Meals: Two meals a day will need to be prepared for the cyclists, ensuring they are well-fed and energized as they work on Fuller Center Projects.

Project Coordination: Coordinate projects or tasks for the cyclists to complete during their stay, such as repairs, painting, or other community improvement initiatives.

Logistics Support & Transportation: Provide logistical support during the event, including transportation, setup, and coordination of activities. Anyone with a van or bus is strongly encouraged to reach out so the adventurers can make the most of their time here working on projects.

General Assistance: Help with various tasks as needed to ensure the smooth running of the event.

If you or your church is are interested in hosting, preparing food, or any other task, please reach out to Tahnee at 208-512-9869 & leave a message. We welcome volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, so don't hesitate to reach out and get involved!





Heath and Marty from Rock on Recon Construction company did a GREAT job and charged us an incredibly fair price to install the foam insulation at Brian's trailer. We are getting so close to having this project complete, and thank them for their assistance getting this task accomplished.



Ken Fairchild and Don work to clean up the shed at John Boy's house where extra building materials are stored.



Fuller Center President Bob Whitman and Treasurer Tami Atkins present Lion's President Brad Kitchen and Treasurer Audrey Wadsworth a check for \$1,000. The money will help fund the replacement of the floor in the Pinehurst Lion's Community building. The Lions allow the Fuller Center to hold their monthly and yearly meetings at the facility.



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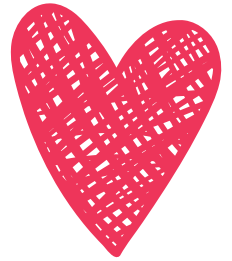
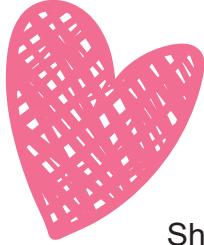
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The Fuller Center is looking to hire a new accountant -

if you are interested in providing these services, please fill out the form at: <https://shorturl.at/qtzN4>
and we will be in touch to set up an interview.

Annual Retreat to Take Place March 8 and 9

The annual retreat dinner will take place Friday, March 8th - 6pm, at the Pinehurst Lion's Club. Fuller Homeowners, Board and Committee members are all invited and asked to bring a dish to share. Additional food will be catered and available to those who attend.

The Board Retreat will take place the following day, March 9th, also at the Lions Club at 9 am. Board Members are asked to attend to discuss the upcoming year's plans, budgets and more.

Here's Help for SVFCH...

I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.

- Here is my pledge for \$ _____ per month for one year.
- Here is my gift of \$ _____.
- I have a house and/or land to donate.
- I can make a no-interest loan for \$ _____. Please call about working out the details.
- I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

Name _____ Phone _____

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Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. • P.O. Box 338, Smeltonville, ID 83868 • 208-682-3240

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Upcoming Events

March 8th — Annual Retreat Potluck, 6pm Pinehurst Lions Hall (see page 5 for more info)

March 9th — Board Retreat, 9am Pinehurst Lions Hall

March 12th — Board and Committee meetings, 5:30 PM, Pinehurst Lions Hall, Pinehurst

April 2nd — Newsletter mailing workshop at St. Rita's in Kellogg 9:00 AM.

Wish List

Specific Needs:

- Construction Supervisors – need not do the labor.
- Construction volunteers to work with the Supervisor.
- PR Chair
- Ad payment bookkeeper
- And others –

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