

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pedaling Against AIDS

Atlantic City, NJ—Dozens of bicyclists from all around New Jersey were pedaling to raise awareness about AIDS during the sixth annual New Jersey Ride Against AIDS. The scenic 250-mile ride, the length of New Jersey, began in the mountainous terrain in High Point and ended after long, flat stretches in Cape May—all in three days, Friday, September 28 through Sunday, September 30, 2007.

Pamela Paraison, hailing from Millville, NJ, is an extraordinary young woman who has embraced this almost forgotten cause—the fight against AIDS. A first-time rider, she courageously committed to riding and finishing the New Jersey Ride Against AIDS—no easy mission, no more worthwhile cause.

For Paraison, it is the often overlooked innocent children, women and healthcare professionals who contract AIDS for whom she expresses her greatest concern. Among the 50 United States, New Jersey has the *highest* estimated proportion of women living with AIDS and the *third largest* proportion of children living with HIV/AIDS (N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services and Division of HIV/AIDS Services).

“My goal is to attend John Hopkins and do my graduate work in either AIDS counseling or AIDS research,” says Paraison, a 2001 Millville High School graduate and a 2006 Stockton graduate who majored in biochemistry. “I have always been pro-active and socially conscience about important issues such as AIDS, and I want to make a difference in today’s world.”

Paraison garnered the \$1,500 sponsorship required for the NJRAA fundraiser from friends, family, co-workers and the generosity of many *Third Friday* participants (on the third Friday of every month, Millville’s downtown arts district stays open late and is bustling with hundreds of people).

Over \$277,000 has been raised by the NJRAA since 2002. 100% of the money raised is donated to nine New Jersey AIDS non-profit organizations including the South Jersey AIDS Alliance (SJAA) serving Cumberland, Cape May and Atlantic counties.

South Jersey AIDS Alliance’s mission is to be a caring, compassionate multi-service regional organization providing direct services to support and assist persons living with HIV/AIDS, their families and caregivers. To learn more about SJAA’s services, go to its website at www.southjerseyaidsalliance.org or call 800-281-AIDS.

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