

The Celebration of 10 Years of Operation Progress

Operation Progress (OP) is a non-profit foundation established by LAPD Southeast Division Gang officers 10 years ago to help good kids get out of bad places. OP wants to reward students who have stayed out of gangs while living in gang-infested, disadvantaged neighborhoods. OP gives students the opportunity to attend college where they lack the resources. Operation Progress provides chosen students with mentoring, support, and educational scholarships.

The Goal

Operation Progress's 2010 goal is to raise \$250,000, so it can provide more educational scholarships to scholastically motivated kids living in terrible situations and inspire these students to reach their full, untapped potential.

The Mission

Operation Progress has entered the world's toughest, international bicycle race, "Race Across America" (RAAM); a non-stop, 24-hours a day, continuous trans-continental race. Former LAPD Police Officer Kristina Ripatti, who was shot in the line of duty and consequently paralyzed, will be the Team Captain using a hand-cycle and riding with her team members in this 3000 mile-relay race through 14 states. The race will start in Oceanside, California, June 12, 2010, and will finish in Annapolis, Maryland. (3000 miles) in 216 hours or nine days.

The Team consists of four cyclists: Kristina Ripatti (Team Captain); world class Ultra-endurance cyclist Russ Loomis, Nancy Guth, and Mark Burson as Team Leader

The Opportunity

We need you, your friends, your co-workers, and family members to be part of our Operation Progress Team. You can participate in this premier, ultra cycling event by volunteering to be a member of the support crew, help raise money for the race effort, provide supplies and equipment, and/or donating to the cause. We need your help for this worthy endeavor.

The Source for More Information

To inquire or offer help please contact:

*Mark Burson
mark.burson@bm.com
805.390.1767*

www.raceacrossamerica.org

Donate to the team online through Operation Progress at: www.operationprogress.org



From Tim and Kristina Ripatti Pearce,

Hello Everyone,

We hope this note finds you well as we kick off another New Year. On top of all the other commitments in our lives, Kristina and I have decided to take on another amazing project, and we invite you to come and share the journey with us. For the last several years, we have supported Operation Progress a 501c-3 public charity started ten years ago by LAPD gang officers working in the Watts community. These officers with Operation Progress have been helping good kids trapped in bad neighborhoods find ways to lead successful and productive lives by continuing their education. Since Operation Progress started, 35 students have gone on to college because of the scholarships funded through the organization.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Operation Progress, the organization has decided to enter a four-man relay team into the 2010 Race Across America, the nation's longest running, transcontinental bicycle race. Kristina has agreed to captain the team and race alongside three other able-bodied cyclists on her hand cycle! The challenge is to ride 3,000 miles, across 14 states within the official time of 216 hours. The team will cycle round-the-clock in relay fashion in what some call the world's toughest endurance event.

Our real motivation can be found in the mission of Operation Progress -- helping good kids get out of bad places through education. RAAM gives us a tremendous platform to take that message nationally and hopefully grow support for this most noble cause of Operation Progress.

We are still looking for a "few good men and women" to crew. If this sounds like something you might like to do, please give me a call. You can also help by spreading the word and sending the attached flyer to your friends and family. And we are of course looking for any help to cover the cost of the race. Any amount you give will help send deserving kids to college.

To make a tax-deductible donation to "Team/Operation Progress," please visit the website at:

<http://www.operationprogress.org>; its PayPal friendly. Operation Progress's tax ID# is 33-0975838. For more information on the race visit: www.raceacrossamerica.org.

Thank you so much for the support you have given us in the past and for all of your prayers and good wishes and thank you in advance, Tim and Kristina-Ripatti Pearce.

More information, please contact: Team Leader - **Mark Burson** 805.390.1767 mark.burson@bm.com

Team Captain - **Kristina Ripatti** pearcekrystina@yahoo.com

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