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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OVER 2,300 RIDERS REGISTERED TO PEDAL 350 MILES  
FROM BEAR MOUNTAIN, NY TO BOSTON IN NORTHEAST AIDSRIDE,  
JUNE 20-23, 2002**

**Funds Raised Will Benefit Local HIV/AIDS Organizations – Fenway Community Health  
and The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center**

**June 11, 2002 – New York and Boston** – Over two thousand, three-hundred compassionate and brave people have now registered to participate in Northeast AIDS Ride, an extraordinary journey of kindness and a powerful way for people to put their own sweat and tears into the AIDS crisis. This year's event kicks off in Bear Mountain, New York on June 20 with participants finishing their 350-mile bike ride on June 23 in Boston.

In addition to training for the AIDS Ride, participants are also committed to raising a minimum of \$2,100. Net proceeds will benefit Fenway Community Health Center in Boston and The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in New York. These riders will also create a moving message for the entire world to see and hear, loud and clear: AIDS IS NOT OVER.

“We’re pleased to see so many individuals committed to training for this incredible journey and raising money for HIV/AIDS services. Together we will provide important services such as medical care, HIV testing, HIV education programs and counseling patients with AIDS,” said Stephen Boswell, M.D., Executive Director of Fenway Community Health.

Fenway operates the nation’s first community-based HIV research program. The program has been conducting long-term epidemiological research since 1985 and is one of eight sites in the US that was selected by the National Institutes of Allergies and Infectious Disease to recruit participants for the first clinical trials of an HIV Vaccine. The groundbreaking work that Fenway does has been, and continues to be presented at many international AIDS, HIV, and GLBT health conferences.

“The courage of these AIDSriders is needed now more than ever. One million Americans are now living with HIV and the demand for our services is greater than it has ever been before,” said Richard Burns, Executive Director of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center.

Over the past 7 years, nearly 20,000 people have participated in Northeast AIDSrides and have raised over \$24 million for the beneficiaries. The funds raised from this year’s ride will fund services for people in the greater New York and Boston areas who are affected by HIV and AIDS. Proceeds from the AIDSride will help fund services to tens of thousands of people. Services include counseling, high quality health care, and targeted prevention education. These services — and hundreds more — are enhanced, broadened, and often simply made possible through the funds raised by Northeast AIDSride.

### **About Northeast AIDSride Beneficiaries**

**Fenway Community Health**, in Boston, provides compassionate, affordable, quality health care to those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, as well as people who live and work in the neighborhood and beyond. In addition, to primary medical and mental health services, Fenway provides outpatient substance abuse counseling and detox services, holistic health services, psychiatric and neuropsychological evaluation and treatment, laboratory services, and nutritional counseling.

**The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center**, in New York, has been on the cutting edge of responding to the AIDS epidemic. The Center’s HIV/AIDS-related programs include Project Connect, Youth Enrichment Services, Center Bridge, Project Resolve, the Center’s Mediation Services program, and the Gender Identity Project, serving the unique HIV-related needs of transgender men and women.

For more information, to get involved with AIDSridesUSA or pledge financial support, please call toll-free (800) 825-1000 or visit our website at [www.BeThePeople.com](http://www.BeThePeople.com).

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