



POSITIVETRACTION

Volume 3: June 2006



THE HERO EDITION

This edition of POSITIVETRACTION celebrates the HIV+ participants of AIDS/LifeCycle 5!

This year a record **158 Positive Pedalers**-- Cyclists and Roadies, participated in **AIDS/LifeCycle 5**, as part of 1,840 cyclists and 400 roadies who rode 585 miles over 7 days and raised an impressive \$8 million for the HIV/AIDS services of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.



Positive Pedalers were out and visible for all 7 days of the Ride; through our numbers, our visibility and resolve, we conveyed the message that HIV can not and will not define who we are. We wore t-shirts and baseball caps in camp or working as roadies that said the



simple statement: **i'm positive** which was a strong yet subtle message felt across the 2,000-person ride community.

Gabriel Rocha spoke to the community on Day 2 of personal struggles with being positive in Mexico and finding help and refuge in the United States. **Scott Campbell** gave a strong and heartfelt speech to the community on Day 3; part of what he said follows:

"Who are the Positive Pedalers? We are riders. We are roadies. We are the staff of the LA Gay & Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Who happen to be living with HIV and AIDS. We're your friends, your family and your loved ones. We're courage, strength and spirit held together with determination and a whole lot of spandex. We are the positive face of HIV. We are dedicated to expanding and enhancing public awareness of HIV and AIDS and empowering HIV-positive people to live more meaningful and dignified lives".

And during Opening Ceremonies Chris Cole, the Executive Director of AIDS/LifeCycle, courageously told the community that he was HIV+. Chris' strength and resolve in coming forward resonated throughout the hall and was returned with a great upwelling of support that continued through the next 7 days, to Closing Ceremonies.

Chris' brave message and the tremendously positive reception he received was a powerful refute to the stigma of HIV that is still a formidable presence within each of us and with others who are not HIV+.



INTERESTED IN BEING MORE INVOLVED WITH POSITIVE PEDALERS? WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOME GOOD, HARDWORKING PEOPLE TO JOIN THE POSPED BOARD. Contact duncan-david@sbcglobal.net!

The following pages are a photo journal of the seven days of AIDS/LifeCycle 5. As more photos become available, another edition of **POSITIVETRACTION** will be sent out. **PosPeds from ALC 5: good photos would be greatly appreciated! Send to duncan-david@sbcglobal.net.**

Opening Ceremonies:



Ride Out and Day 1:



Days 2-6:



Day 7 and Closing Ceremonies:

