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The Annual BRAKING AIDS® Ride kicks off September 23
Cyclists to Complete 3-Day Ride from Boston to NYC to End HIV/AIDS and Homelessness

Boston, MA—Starting September 23, the annual [BRAKING AIDS® Ride](#) will bring together over 150 cycling activists including road crew and thousands of their supporters to raise money and awareness in support of efforts to eradicate HIV/AIDS and homelessness. The cyclists will complete a three-day, 285-mile ride from Boston to NYC. [BRAKING AIDS® Ride](#) benefits [Housing Works](#), a non-profit organization providing [lifesaving services](#) to thousands of people living with HIV who have limited or no financial resources to manage the disease. In just three years, BRAKING AIDS® Ride has raised over three-quarters of a million dollars for Housing Works and the support continues to flourish.

The event's opening ceremonies will take place on **Friday, September 23rd at 6:30am** at **First Church in Dedham, Massachusetts** (670 High Street) and will feature remarks by renowned AIDS activist **Peter Staley** (ACT UP, Treatment Action Group) and **Housing Works President and CEO Charles King**.

"This cycling journey is the embodiment of audacity and dedicated community spirit—qualities which have infused AIDS activism since the early, dark days of the epidemic and continue to do so to this day," said **Mikola De Roo, Housing Works VP of Advocacy Communications & Marketing**, who will be participating in the ride for her fifth year. She is also one of 20 riders who have committed to raising \$20,000 each this year, to support Housing Works' life-saving services and its advocacy campaign focused on ending AIDS as an epidemic in New York State by 2020.

The Ride route brings the cyclists through communities most affected by HIV/AIDS. That is an intentional act of advocacy, a way of combating HIV stigma by making the issue visible in the areas hit hardest by it—by taking the ride, described by many as "a civil-rights march on two wheels," through neighborhoods with the highest incidents of HIV in New England, into community centers, schools, and faith communities where locals, youth especially, can learn about both AIDS and the people committed to fighting it.

Although the goals of the ride and of Housing Works remain the same, the fight to end AIDS is at a pivotal moment. In addition to making real progress in New York State on Governor Cuomo's plan to end AIDS as an epidemic in New York through expanded testing, treatment, and prevention, Housing Works recently joined forces with over 20 organizations around the country to form the **ACT NOW: END AIDS** coalition. This national coalition will work together to end the epidemic in the United States by providing technical assistance to individuals and organizations nationwide who are doing work on the city, state, and regional level to address the specific needs of their communities in terms of policy, budget, outreach, and education.

The closing ceremony will be held at 5:00 pm on Sunday, September 25th, [at Keith D. Cylar Community Health Center](#) on East 9th Street in New York City. As the riders arrive to the roaring welcome of friends, family and Cylar House residents, memorial flags will be hoisted to commemorate those lost in the fight against AIDS. For more information, please visit www.brakingaidsride.org.

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