

May 2022



Riding For Home



Carl Nagy-Koechlin (right) and Josh Nagy (left) ride for home.

I'm Cycling from Coast to Coast, 3,600 miles, Riding For Home.

On May 30th, my 18-year-old son Josh and I will set out on a cross-country bicycle adventure from Anacortes, Washington to our home in Boston. Over the subsequent 8 weeks we will ride through Washington, Idaho, Montana, (and then more Montana!), North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, New York State, and finally Massachusetts – 3,600 miles in all.

We plan to cross the Rockies on or around June 8 over the Logan Pass at Glacier National Park provided that - wait for it – the snow has been cleared by then!

For this 61-year-old, this trip falls somewhere on the continuum between challenging and ill-advised. On the other hand, compared to Just A Start's housing development, housing services, financial coaching, and workforce training work, it will be pretty straightforward: Eat. Sleep. Ride. Repeat. Follow our journey [here](#).

My passion for cycling is matched by my passionate belief that everybody deserves both a stable home and access to economic opportunity. I'm blessed to work at Just A Start, which for 54 years has been dedicated to building homes, careers and futures. I'm also blessed that my son and riding companion shares those same convictions.

We're combining these passions by making our ride a fundraiser for the Rindge Commons capital campaign. Just A Start will break ground on the project shortly after Josh and I set out. The 70,000 square foot project across from Alewife Station - with its 24 affordable apartments, state-of-the-art workforce training space, space for Just A Start's housing and financial opportunity programs, and pre-k classrooms for 60 children – will be an **economic mobility hub**. I hope our efforts – and those of the many people working on the project in my absence – will inspire you to support this exciting project and campaign. You can do so via this link: <https://justastart.org/donate/>

And as Josh and I pedal home, Just A Start won't miss a beat. There's too much important work to do and too much capable leadership in the organization for it to be any other way. Gerry Zipser, our Director of Housing, will step in as Acting Executive Director, where she will be supported by our terrific board and Leadership Team, just as I am every day.

So, all I have to worry about is scaling the Cascades and Rockies, battling headwinds, fixing flats, and finding level ground on which to pitch our tent!

Carl Nagy-Koechlin



Our mission is to promote equity by creating access to stable housing and building pathways to economic opportunity.



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