



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](http://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](mailto:mark.burson@bm.com)

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