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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**. . . AND MILES TO GO BEFORE WE SLEEP**  
**Local Blind Cyclist Joins Riders From Across California To Raise  
Awareness About Sight Loss**

San Diego, CA – August 8, 2005

On Sunday, August 14, at approximately 4 p.m., more than 50 cyclists, including Roseanne Young, an avid blind rider from San Diego will complete the last leg of an epic journey. It's not the Tour De France, but these dedicated riders put the pedal to the asphalt for a special cause—to help raise awareness about sight loss. The 1st Cycling for Sight ride will take place over the weekend.

Roseanne, who lost her sight at the age of 6 due to complications from surgery to remove a bone tumor, will be a part of one of the two tandem teams with blind members participating in the ride. Prior to her time as a student at Braille Institute's San Diego Center, she had never taken part in a serious ride. But after meeting her current riding partner, Steve Gordon, who was volunteering as a sighted teacher at the Institute and had been cycling for more than 20 years, she was inspired. "I decided to start training with Steve, and once I did, I realized how much I actually loved riding," she said. "Then I started thinking how great it would be to ride for charity." After a couple of years, the duo decided to challenge themselves by riding more than 800 miles from Vancouver, Canada, to Crescent City, California, in August of 2001. "I was so excited when I heard about the opportunity to ride in the Cycling for Sight event because it will benefit Braille Institute, a place that is very dear to me," she said. "I hope this event continues to grow year after year, and I look forward to starting a blind cycling group for people in San Diego to help them train for next year's ride."

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Beginning at Braille Institute's Santa Barbara Center on Friday, August 12, at 9 a.m., the riders will journey south along the beautiful California coastline from Santa Barbara to Malibu and then on to Huntington Beach. The ride will conclude more than 200 miles later at Braille Institute's San Diego Center, but not before the long-suffering participants are joined at the Glider Port on Torrey Pines Street at 4 p.m., by 15 local blind and visually impaired children riding tandem bikes, who will join in the last leg of the race in a show of support and encouragement. A finish line celebration will take place at the center upon their arrival at approximately 5 p.m.

The purpose of this special event is to raise awareness about blindness and the various retinal diseases that affect more than 9 million Americans across the country. The groups of cyclists also will include a blind tandem team from Utah.

The proceeds will benefit both Braille Institute of America and The Foundation Fighting Blindness. The riders will include several employees from Braille Institute and the Pfizer Corporation, who have contributed money to the event.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Courtney Goines, Media Relations Manager, please contact her at (323) 663-1111, Ext. 3176, or by email:

Braille Institute is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate blindness and severe sight loss as a barrier to a fulfilling life. Through educational training, programs and services, Braille Institute helps tens of thousands of people each year regain and maintain their independence. Thanks to generous donations, Braille Institute services are available free of charge. More information can be found at [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org).

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