

## JAKE'S RIDE APPEAL LETTER – ADULTS

Dear Friends & Family,

I am reaching out to you in the hope that you will support me as I help those suffering from dystonia and/or Parkinson's disease. My efforts will support *Jake's Ride for dystonia and Parkinson's disease*, which will take place on **Sunday, May 1, 2016 in Short Hills, New Jersey**.

Jake's Ride began in 2008, when a community decided to come together to support a local family. Jake Silverman had recently been diagnosed with early onset dystonia at the age of ten and underwent Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgeries. Dystonia's painful muscle spasms had forced Jake out of school and into a wheelchair. Over time, these surgeries significantly restored Jake's quality of life. Jake is now a college sophomore, but while he has made significant progress, his dystonia is not cured.

The Jake's Ride committee and The Michael J. Fox Foundation have teamed up to increase awareness of dystonia and Parkinson's disease, raise funds for medical research and patient treatment, and to ultimately find cures for these disorders. Over the years, thousands have joined together at Jake's Ride. This family-oriented fundraising event has become an annual tradition featuring bike and walking tours, food, entertainment and activities for kids of all ages.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disease. It occurs when certain nerve cells, or neurons, die or become impaired. This leaves people living with PD with difficulty directing or controlling their movements in a natural manner.

Closely related to Parkinson's disease, dystonia is an incurable neurological muscle disorder. While not widely known, dystonia affects an estimated 500,000 people in North America alone - more than muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease and Lou Gehrig's disease combined.

Since Jake's Ride began, donations have exceeded \$2.5 million, funding twenty-three medical research grants and six fellowships. **While also raising awareness for these movement disorders, a generation of young people was taught the power and rewards of giving back.**

You obviously have limitless options for directing your charitable giving, so I really appreciate you considering supporting my efforts to help Jake and his fellow warriors. For more information, or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [www.JakesRide.org](http://www.JakesRide.org).

Yours truly,