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Cross-country bike ride reaches \$50,000 fundraising goal to help whales and the ocean environment

PROVINCETOWN, MA - Cross-country bicyclist Vincent James has reached his goal of raising \$50,000 for the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS), thanks in part to final donations by part-time residents of Truro, who put his quest over the finish line.

James, a part-time resident of Truro himself, began a 4,000-mile ride from Portland, Oregon to Portland, Maine on August 13, as part of a larger Trek-sponsored expedition. He then added another 200+ miles from Maine to Provincetown, Massachusetts, arriving at the Center for Coastal Studies on October 2nd. It was the culmination of a 50-year dream for James, and a chance to support a cause close to his heart: whales and the ocean.

Throughout the journey, supporters followed the progress of the "Coast to Coast for Coastal Studies" ride on social media. At the end, James was joined by CCS friends and staff at the Harbor Hotel, who then rode along for the last few miles before arriving at the Center's Hiebert Marine Laboratory. There, beneath the Center's exhibit of Spinnaker the humpback whale, champagne corks popped as an emotional James remarked about the personal significance of his sojourn.

But James was still about \$3,000 short of his goal. That's when the Truro Part-Time Resident Taxpayers Association (TPRTA) sent out a notice to about 2500 households offering to match \$1,500 in donations. Their contributions put the fundraising efforts over the top.

"When we learned about Vince's goal - and his amazing effort to raise funds for Coastal Studies through a 4,000-mile bike ride - we jumped in immediately to help him fill the \$3,000 gap in his goal," said Regan McCarthy, TPRTA vice president.

"Vincent did the hard work for a great cause and we are thrilled to help him and Coastal Studies.... [Their] work and his feat are amazing, congrats to all involved!" she added.

The ride coincides with the celebration of the Center's 50th anniversary.

“The \$50,000 goal had special meaning to me: 50 years of the Center for Coastal Studies, a 50-year dream of my own, and a \$50,000 goal we ultimately reached together. I wanted this ride to be bigger than a personal accomplishment. Supporting CCS gave every mile a purpose—helping raise awareness for our oceans, whales, and marine conservation. I may have ridden the miles, but everyone who contributed helped us cross the fundraising finish line,” said James.

About the Center for Coastal Studies

Now celebrating its 50th year, the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) in Provincetown, MA is a non-profit organization dedicated to understanding, preserving and protecting marine ecosystems and the coastal environment through applied research, education and public policy initiatives. For more information go to www.coastalstudies.org.

Photo caption: Center for Coastal Studies friends and staff met James at the Harbor Hotel in Provincetown to join him for the final leg of the cross-country ride.