Mr. Short,

Hello! I sent some information about an annual event of EHCA (Erie Homes for Children and Adults) a few years back, but unfortunately didn’t really connect with any of your members in our local region, although you were really helpful in getting some names and email addresses to me. I may have been just too close to the date of the event. I thought I would email you again, and also some people in our area of the world, although I think your Ohio and New York officers/directors aren’t super close to Erie, PA. I thought you might be interested in adding some information to your journal, the Sidecarist – since our event is really all about the sidecar enthusiasts that have made it possible for people with disabilities to ride (and now some trike owners, too).

The staff of EHCA focus on **possibilities**instead of disabiliites, which is how the Victory Ride began. Two groups of friends and staff wanted to help a couple of our residents have a chance to ride in the summer of 2013. Neither group knew about the other, and somehow both rides occurred within a week of each other. EHCA volunteers thought this was more than coincidence, and realized that many other residents may want to ride. The Victory Ride began in 2014, and more residents ride each year, thanks to EHCA staff, volunteers, and local motorcyclists who want to keep growing this great event. Last year, five sidecar owners/operators helped more than 30 people to ride, on a short route near the location of our after-party. It is difficult to explain how fantastic it feels to see the smiles of our residents when they return from a ride – **I know how I felt the first time I rode a motorcycle, and I think it is like that every single time for them.**

Founded 105 years ago, EHCA is a private, non-profit organization withresidential and community programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. **Our mission is to assist people with disabilities to live rich andfulfilling lives.**Our vision is that each person with a disability should have theopportunity to make choices, to contribute to his or her own daily lifestyle, to obtain the best education/training available and to enjoy a home-likeatmosphere with quality caregivers. “Small victories every day” is a motto at EHCA, which is how the event got its name.

**EHCA residents now have a chance to ride each year at the Victory Ride, and we hope you can join them on August 26, 2017.**We would really like more and more sidecar drivers to become a part of the event!Usually the first ride goes out at 10am, and all the rides are completed before noon. Our sidecar drivers and a guest are welcome to stay and enjoy the after-party that includes excellent food and this year, a live band! Please feel free to contact me for information at this email address, or my direct line 814-315-1803 – and if you want to share this information with friends, please do that too!

Thanks for taking the time to read through all this, and I hope you and your families and friends have a great holiday weekend. Maybe you’ll even get to ride!

Sincerely,

**Karyn Langdon**

*Development Specialist*

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