



For Immediate Release

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**Member of The Bowery Mission's COVID Response Team, Now Retired,
Bicycles Across the United States to Raise Money for The Bowery Mission**

Chuck Monts, who recently retired from The Bowery Mission at 62 years of age, after serving New Yorkers experiencing homelessness during the COVID pandemic, will embark on a cross-country bicycling trip, "Bike for the Mission," setting off from The Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles, CA on Saturday, June 5 at 7:00am, and ending at The Bowery Mission on the Lower East Side of Manhattan on July 31.

Monts aims to raise \$100,000 for The Bowery Mission, which provides transformational services and critical care to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and hunger.

For an avid bicyclist, this will be the most ambitious trip that Monts has attempted. At age 18 in 1978, he and a friend cycled from Philadelphia to San Francisco to raise money for a Hunger Charity and "for the amazing adventure of it as an 18-year-old," raising \$7000 for that ride.

"I've always dreamed of biking the country again for another good cause, and that cause came to be The Bowery Mission in Manhattan, because I was fortunate enough to work there these last couple of years, seeing firsthand the significant services they provide the hungry and homeless and troubled; and working with the amazing staff that serves those in need with such radical hospitality," Monts said.

Monts says that he witnessed The Bowery Mission staff quickly respond to the ever-changing needs and crises in the NYC community during the pandemic, helping to meet critical needs in a time of uncertainty due to COVID-19 and a national racial reckoning.

"When New York City was told to 'stay at home', Chuck served on the team of essential workers that showed up every single day at The Bowery Mission to make sure New Yorkers without a home still had a place of hope," said James Winans, President and CEO of The Bowery Mission. "By taking this journey across the US and raising funds, Chuck is helping to ensure that the Mission's vital services continue in the months to come."

Monts invites others to participate in his fundraiser as "movers" - i.e., walking, jogging, biking, swimming, working out on ellipticals - or by creating their own pages connected to his [Team Fundraiser page on The Bowery Mission website](#).

Monts' cross-country route begins in Los Angeles, CA, and then proceeds through Las Vegas, NV; southern Utah; Denver CO; Lincoln and Omaha, NE; Des Moines, IA; Chicago, IL; Fort Wayne, IN; Mansfield and East Canton, OH; Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Lancaster, PA; Edison, NJ; and NYC.

About The Bowery Mission

The Bowery Mission has served New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and hunger since the 1870s. Last year, The Bowery Mission provided more than 429,500 meals, 104,000 nights of shelter, 27,600 articles of clothing, 67,500 emergency showers and 1,500 onsite medical and optometry exams. Each meal and every service is an invitation to our Residential and Community Programs that help clients make progress toward a transformed life of faith, community, sobriety, sustainable income and independent living. To empower children to thrive and succeed, The Bowery Mission also offers year-round opportunities for enrichment through Mont Lawn City Camp, culminating in summer camp for hundreds of children in the Poconos Region of Pennsylvania. To learn more, visit www.bowery.org.

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