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## Biking adventure

**BIKING**, from page 1

For Anderson, one of the most appealing parts of the trip is the fact that he will make stops in Pennsylvania, Kansas and Colorado to work at Habitat sites. Although Bike and Build is not directly affiliated with Habitat for Humanity, it still funds many of their projects and other affordable housing options.

Other than this "great philanthropic component," Anderson's passion for biking – a main reason he joined this venture – sparked while studying abroad in Italy.

"I went with two Austrian friends on a bike trip from Venice to the southern tip (of Italy)," he said. "I then realized cycling is probably my newfound favorite way of traveling!"

Although Anderson's trip through Italy was "only" 1,000 miles, and the cycling which Rabin and Anderson will do this summer will probably total several times that number, Anderson was "looking for an excuse to do a sort of large-scale bike trip."

"What if I could transfer this to my own country?" he thought after enjoying his bike ride abroad.

Although Rabin and Anderson's trips must be separate, the two have known each other since seventh grade. "I have him to thank," said Anderson.

In addition to raising money to build low-income housing, Rabin and Anderson also wish to raise awareness in the community.

"I've been totally inspired by this trip," said Anderson. "I want to keep affordable housing on the list of important issues worthy of philanthropy."

He added that it is important for people living in affluent communities like Wayland and other suburbs to keep an open mind to a range of charities.

"So often we forget about projects that are close to home," Anderson said. "Habitat is the best known organization that does this sort of grassroots work involving amateur volunteers."

In the meantime, both young men are busy training on stationary bikes until it gets warm out again.

"I think it's kind of cool that two Wayland kids are all of a sudden going on this wild trip!" said Rabin.

Anderson also seems pretty excited with what he referred to as the "coolest aspect" of this trip – a free bike from the manufacturer to accompany him across the country after he raises \$2,000.

The chance to bike from coast to coast, see the the country, help out at Habitat sites, raise money for a great cause *and* earn a free bike just to sweeten the deal sounds like the opportunity of a lifetime.

If you would like to contribute to Alex Rabin or Doug Anderson's fund-raising efforts, visit "[www.habitatbike.org](http://www.habitatbike.org)" or "[www.bikeandbuild.org](http://www.bikeandbuild.org)" and click on donate.