

OPINION

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Determined Kent man achieves a major goal

■ PEDAL WITH PETE EFFORT RAISES
\$1 MILLION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

PETE ZEIDNER OF KENT IS A portrait of determination who has attained a formidable goal.

Zeidner has cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder that affects speech and mobility. More than 20 years ago, he began a one-man effort to raise money for researchers studying cerebral palsy. Pedaling a recumbent bicycle, he traversed the state of Ohio to spread the word about his mission.

That led to the creation of Pedal with Pete, a non-profit foundation which drew others to support Zeidner in raising funds for

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medical research.

Pedal with Pete recently celebrated a major milestone: It has raised \$1 million for cerebral palsy since 1993.

That's an incredible achievement for an organization with such modest beginnings. It's also proof that a single individual with determination and a dream can, indeed, make a difference.

The foundation has invested in numerous grants for researchers studying cerebral palsy, and its efforts have helped to advance important research initiatives such as the baclofen pump, which relaxes tight muscles, as well as a deep brain stimulation procedure. Zeidner and his supporters take pride in the fact that 85 percent of the funding raised by Pedal with Pete is used for medical research.

Zeidner was seriously injured in a bicycling accident in 1999 that makes it impossible for him to take to the road as he once did, but he retains a leadership role with Pedal with Pete and devotes himself full-time to the fundraising effort. He has been a rallying force for his organization since its inception, drawing support from those inspired by his example.

Pedal with Pete recently celebrated its fund-raising milestone at an event held in Kent in connection with National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month. With \$1 million to its credit, however, the organization isn't resting on its laurels. Zeidner is looking forward to raising the next million and says he hopes it won't take as long.