

Phoenix woman cycling to Panama for cop charity

By Michael Ferraresi
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Phoenix marked the starting gate. More than 3,000 self-propelled miles down the road, Panama City will mark the finish line.

Britney Brimhall started her five-month cycling journey in November, leaving the Valley on her bike with the goal of raising \$50,000 for a local non-profit which raises money for families of slain or injured public safety officers.

Brimhall, a former Phoenix police officer turned computer game developer, hopes to reach Panama by March.

She has raised more than \$3,000, though her goal is to generate more donations for the 100 Club of Arizona, according to 100 Club spokeswoman Rachel St. Moritz.

The Phoenix-based 100 Club provides financial assistance to the families of public safety officers and firefighters if they are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty.

Brimhall's adventure, which she titled Hero's Quest, includes a fellow adventurer from Scottsdale. She and her friend are in southern Mexico, pacing their way to Central America.

"We are embarking on a real life heroic quest that will require courage and bravery," Brimhall wrote in her trip blog before pedaling out of the Valley.

"Our goal is to raise money for those who have harnessed these character traits on a daily basis," she said.

In her latest blog entry, Brimhall wrote

3,500-mile quest

» Phoenix resident Britney Brimhall set out, on bicycle, in November from the Valley with the hope of reaching Panama in March.

» She has raised more than \$3,000 for the 100 Club of Arizona, and hopes to raise more money as she travels from southern Mexico through Central America.

» Follow Brimhall's progress in her travel blog at www.crazyguyonabike.com/doc/hq8.

» For more information about the 100 Club or how to donate, go to www.100club.org.

Sunday that she was in Chiapas state, close to the Mexican border with Guatemala.

Faced with major winds, poor directions from Mexican police officers, and a badly sprained hand, Brimhall said she was preparing this week to climb to nearly 12,000 miles above sea level — the highest elevation of the journey, so far — through San Cristobal de Las Casas.

"It has become a test of ourselves against the forces of nature and a test of our ability to make good decisions and work as a team," she wrote.

Brimhall joined the Phoenix Police Department in 2006 but left to focus on her side job of creating fictional tales for computer games. The former ASU cyclist also works as a bicycle security officer for a local company.

