

# Biography: Kim Callahan

A Life Pedaled with Passion and Purpose

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Born with saltwater in her veins and a free-range spirit, Kim Callahan split her childhood between the coastal shores of New Jersey and Florida, where the thrill of her first bike ride ignited a lifelong love affair with freedom and motion. Now 72, she's traded ocean breezes for the windswept badlands of North Dakota, where she's carved a retirement as vibrant as the rust-colored cliffs of the Maah Daah Hey Trail—a place she calls “God’s power made visible.”



A self-described “poor-but-unaware” kid of her generation, Kim’s journey veered from beachside rambles to academia. She earned a B.S. from Eastern New Mexico University, an M.S. from Utah State University, and—after raising three active sons in Havre, Montana, and building a thriving audiology practice in Dickinson, North Dakota—a clinical doctorate from Arizona School of Health Sciences. Along the way, mentors saw her potential before she did, propelling her through doubts and into a 30-year career as the founder of Heart River Hearing.

But it’s her second act that truly dazzles. After retiring, Kim traded hearing aids for handlebars, joining Dakota Cyclery in Medora, a gateway to the rugged Maah Daah Hey Trail. Nestled beside Theodore Roosevelt National Park, this 150-mile singletrack serpent has become her sanctuary. “I’m not a great mountain biker,” she laughs, “but I’ve ridden every mile of it for five straight years.” The trail humbles her with bruises and broken bones, yet rewards her with adrenaline, endorphins, and awe for landscapes where bison and wild horses roam.

For Kim, cycling is more than sport—it’s a bridge between lifetimes. The Maah Daah Hey echoes the vastness of her childhood ocean, a reminder of nature’s grandeur and her own resilience. When she’s not guiding riders or fixing bikes, she’s savoring life’s simplest joys: her two grandsons, the pride of her three sons, and the quiet satisfaction of a career built on listening—to both patients and the whispering badlands.

As her oldest son declared after a call from the trail: “Mom, you scored the best retirement gig!” For Kim Callahan, it’s not just a gig—it’s a testament to a life pedaled with curiosity, grit, and an unshakable belief that the best adventures begin when you stop conquering and start feeling the ground beneath you.

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