



Bikes For Kids



November 2013 Newsletter

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BIKES FOR KIDS DISTRIBUTES 15,000TH BICYCLE

We reached another milestone this year. Back in August we delivered our 15,000th bike to a homeless shelter in Hartford. It happened to be a blue Columbia road bike and was one of six delivered to the shelter that day. Our bikes will enable residents to pursue job opportunities farther away from home now with their extra mobility and make it easier to get around town for groceries and various other appointments. Bikes For Kids receives several requests each year for adult bikes. If you have one taking up space in the garage or cellar and you would like to donate it, please contact us.

We've had another very successful year. At the end of October, we have given away just over 1,000 bikes since January 1, and with some other requests coming, plus some bikes that we will give away for Christmas, we should end up donating about 1,200 bikes this year. (A new record!!!!)



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Richard "Dick" Pfeiffer

Dick Pfeiffer, a Cheshire, CT resident, has repaired more than 150 bicycles for Bikes For Kids. Dick grew up in NY State and joined the Navy in 1961 where he proudly served for seven years. He has worked as a mechanical engineer for a number of prominent companies including: Electric Boat, Chesebrough Ponds, Miles Laboratories, Siemens, and Industrial Riggers. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from UNH in Safety and a Master's of Science degree from the University of Illinois. He has attained Board Certified Safety Professional recognition and status. Dick became the Corporate Safety Director for Emhart Corporation. He finished his career being self-employed providing consulting and training to manufacturing and marine clients. Besides bringing awareness to eye protection and being involved in the CT Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Dick has made over 165 platelet donations over the past 25+ years. He and his wife Katie donate produce to the local food pantry every summer and he stays active in many other areas, especially spending time with his son and three beautiful granddaughters. Thank you Dick!



Scout Earns Eagle Badge: Back in the spring, **West Hartford's Patrick Manders** developed a plan to carry out requirements to earn his Eagle Scout standing. Patrick and his dad contacted us with the idea of collecting 100 bicycles, repairing them and sending them along to us at Bikes For Kids. His proposal was extremely well thought out and is a model for others to emulate. We were very proud of his efforts. Patrick ended up collecting almost 200 bikes for his project. Repair day was quite interesting with scouts, family members and bike club members all lending a hand to organize, repair and load bikes onto trucks to bring back to Essex by several of our volunteers. Patrick, you really made a difference in the lives of almost 200 people, most of whom would never have had the means to own a bike of their own, if it wasn't for your efforts. We appreciate your help and support of our program. A bike collection project such as Patrick's is a great way for a Boy or Girl Scout to earn a merit badge and help out a charitable organization at the same time. We would welcome and work with any scout who may be considering a similar project in the future. Please contact Dave Fowler at davefowler05@gmail.com or 860-395-7321 to host a collection.





An Update on Pastor Morris' Efforts in New Haven:

At an August festival we supplied 65 bikes to Pastor Don Morris's parish in New Haven. Among the festivities was a very well-attended basketball tournament featuring neighborhood athletes, a bike giveaway, and a spectacular evening barbeque.

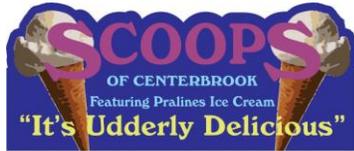


New Collection Box Supporting Bikes For Kids:

Kiducation is a group that collects used clothing and books, sells them in bulk and donates the proceeds to various charitable organizations through collection boxes similar to those used by Goodwill or the Salvation Army. Perhaps you have seen their white boxes with the long yellow pencil on the front in various towns. Through the efforts of Bob Pinette, Bikes For Kids is now the beneficiary of all goods dropped in the box located **alongside of the Colonial IGA in Essex**. You can directly support our efforts by donating all of your unwanted clothing or old books there the next time you get a pile!



+



=147 Bikes

Corporal Russ Gingras of the Essex Police Department successfully hosted a bicycle collection on November 2, at Scoops of Centerbrook. A free ice cream was given to each person that donated a bike. A big thank you goes out to Russ, Scoops, Trooper Kerry Taylor, the Essex Police Union, and all who volunteered or contributed to make this our biggest one day collection ever!



Dave Fowler, president of BFK, was honored in October by Shore Publishing for his outstanding volunteer efforts along the CT shoreline.



A truckload of bikes was donated from the Wolcott Recycling Center and the Police impound lot. Thank you Pete Carey at the Town Garage for helping arrange it and your continued support.



The Episcopal Church Women of CT invited Bikes For Kids to a luncheon and awarded us a grant to continue our efforts. Pictured above is Carol Gardier with Dave and Carol Fowler.



Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Program:



Each year, Essex Savings Bank's Community Investment Program gives back 10% of their after-tax net income to non-profits and community development projects in the communities they serve. Since the inception of the program in 1996, Essex Savings Bank has distributed more than \$3.6 million to the community. Monies are allotted through customer voting when they visit any branch bank. In our first year we are pleased to announce that Bikes For Kids was the ninth highest voted non-profit earning us an invitation to the bank's award ceremony. Thanks to Essex Savings and all who voted for us this year. Customer voting will take place during the month of February and the first two weeks of March again next year. Customers of the Bank may vote for three of their favorite causes and directly affect the allocation of funds. So mark your calendars and don't forget to give us your votes again next year! We appreciate your support!



Pablo Padillo, of East Haven, has helped repair bicycles as well as encourage local youth to participate in a number of long-term bicycle-centered activities keeping kids safe and positively involved in their community. Pictured above are four members of a local scooter club that he has helped develop.



BFK was in attendance at the Bike Walk CT Discover Hartford event and the CT Cycling Festival in September. Several bikes were collected and we were able to network with a variety of bicycle enthusiast representing diverse groups.



In December of 2012, BFK volunteers brought 136 bicycles to the hard hit area of Bell Harbor, Long Island after Superstorm Sandy. Thanks to all!

Interested in Helping Out?

Bikes For Kids is always looking for assistance. Can you pick up or deliver a bike sometime? Would you like to prepare some bikes for distribution? It's easy to have a helmet or accessories drive at your office. *Are you involved in a school or church group, or another organization that could host a bicycle collection to help replenish our inventory?* Do you have grant-writing experience? Do you have bicycles in your garage that are no longer being used? Maybe some of you have biking experience that might lend itself to helping some groups like Pastor Morris's to suggest and to develop activities. Can you photograph an event or write a news article for a local paper? *Do you know of someone in need that would benefit from a bicycle?* Call us for details.

E-mail Dave Fowler: davefowler05@gmail.com and/or Todd Jones at: tmjones@snet.net

If your company has "Matching Funds", please send the form to us. Your generous monetary donations are crucial in keeping our program moving ahead and allow us to purchase repair parts, helmets, and new bicycles when necessary. Checks can be made payable to: Bikes For Kids



Martin Luther King Jr. Volunteer Day:

For the second year in a row employees from Milone and MacBroom, Inc., a civil engineering firm in Cheshire, spent Martin Luther King Jr. Day cleaning and repairing bicycles. This year nearly 20 employees were able to clean and repair 93 bicycles. Thank you to all that helped and to the Essex Fire Department for providing us a warm environment. A special thanks goes out to Nicolle Burnham and Firefighter Aron Schumacher for helping make this day a wonderful success.



**Thank
You,**
(very much)

As the Bikes For Kids organization continues to grow in a positive manner, we want you all to know how appreciative we are of your help. Thank you to our growing number of volunteers and to all that have contributed to Bikes For Kids. Without your enthusiasm and support, we would have a difficult time meeting the ever-growing need to provide bicycles and helmets to needy children and families.



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Look inside to find out about all of our new and exciting adventures during 2013.



- Bikes For Kids continues to provide bicycles & helmets to children and families in need; We will likely exceed 1,200 donated bikes this year!
- Bikes For Kids surpassed **15,000 bicycles** donated since 1989!
- Bikes For Kids is an official 501c3 non-profit charity and all monetary donations are tax deductible!
- Bikes For Kids encourages you to host a bicycle and accessory drive to help keep our inventory up; contact us for details.

Check out our website: www.bikes-for-kids.net

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