

# B4K Newsletter

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This newsletter is published with the intended purpose of providing information for all volunteers, suppliers and known supporters of Bikes4Kids. To subscribe or unsubscribe please contact B4K at 763-234-4790.



## In the Spotlight

This section is set aside as an opportunity for you to acquaint yourself with some of the many volunteers in the B4Kids organization. For this issue our spotlight shines on Edward (Ed) Nieman our Secretary on the Bikes4Kids Board of Directors. In

his own words, here is his story:



*“I grew up as a farm boy from Iowa. I graduated from Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary in Iowa and just celebrated my 50th year of ordination into the Lutheran ministry. In 2010 I retired from serving as pastor in 15*

*churches and five communities in rural North Dakota and Minnesota.*

*In April of 2011 I was invited to join several other Coon Rapids Kiwanis and Faith Lutheran Church members for a meeting at the Red Ox Café to talk about forming a bike repair organization. It seemed like a great group of guys to work with and something I could possibly do. I was looking for volunteer things to do as a recently retired person. I have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for 32 years but enjoy doing something different.*

*I became a part of the leadership of Bikes4Kids and have served as secretary since that initial meeting. I had not worked much with bikes before but soon picked up some skills and have been one of the mechanics at least one day a week. Kiwanis is all about helping kids and this is a great way to put that into action.*

*I continue my work with bikes and with the people involved because of the positive feedback and the chance to meet so many new people as the organization grows. And of course having grown up on that Iowa farm, I feel right at home in the horse and cow barn that we have made into a great shop work area.”*

## A History of Bikes4Kids

Pastor Ed Nieman had just written an article on the history of Bikes4Kids and it seems appropriate to include this story following his spotlight profile. This is a great history for all Bikes4Kids supporters.

### Bikes4Kids On the Move

By Ed Nieman

The repair and gifting of bikes began with the Kiwanis organization. After several years of Coon Rapids Kiwanis members repairing bikes in a garage for a Christmas give-a-way to Toys for Joy of the Christmas Committee at the Anoka County Armory, it was decided to form a separate organization.

Bikes4Kids began with a meeting on April 20, 2011 at the Red Ox Café in Ham Lake convened by Al Sannerud. Present were nine present and former Kiwanis members. These were avid bikers and/or avid supporters of non-profits and people in need.

170 bikes had been received from Micheal's Bikes of St. Paul and put on Al's farm. The original mission statement was “Bob Burbach's Bikes for Kids collects and refurbishes used bicycles to redistribute to needy people.” The official name recorded with the state as a 501 © (3) non-profit organization was Robert and Wilma Burbach Bike Foundation of MN, Inc. Bob had been an avid biker and had collected bikes and sent them overseas to CEBU, Philippines.

The purpose of Bikes4Kids included that each bike is repaired, inspected, and given away with a helmet, lock, and safety instructions. The recipients

are selected by county social services and other institutions.

Early on Trailhead Bike Shop became a partner by providing training, tools, and donating bikes. Later Pioneer and Ramsey bike shops also donated bikes. Recycle Centers, police departments, and individuals have become sources of bike donations.

Shop space began in Al's horse barn and has expanded into his cow barn. Workdays began as Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00-12:00 but have expanded to everyday of the week and into afternoon and some evening hours.

The first give-a-way of repaired bikes was in December of 2011 with 116 bikes to the Christmas Committee at the Anoka Armory, 29 bikes to Faith Lutheran Church Giving Tree, 75 bikes to North Anoka County, and 9 bikes to Free-To-Be. In January of 2012 the need began to expand from children's bikes to adult bikes. 10 adult bikes were needed at the Red Owl building, YMCA, and District 11. The 2012 goal of 200 bikes to be given away per year was set. In 2013 the Christmas give-a-ways totaled 126 bikes and the total give-a-ways for the year was 309 bikes. In 2014 bikes donated to us totaled 1463 and bikes repaired totaled 409 and 330 bikes were given or sold to other organizations.

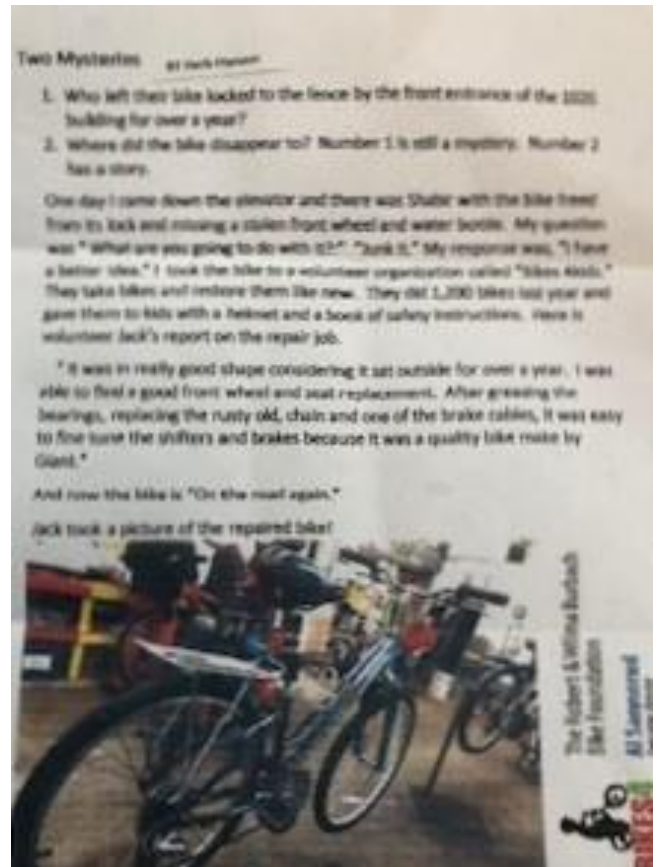
In 2015 there were 2198 bikes donated to us with 513 repaired and 558 delivered and 1500 donated to other organizations. In 2016 there were 2,367 bikes donated to us with 667 repaired and delivered and 984 donated unrepaired. In 2017 there were 2,400 bikes donated to us and 1,018 repaired and delivered. We celebrated reaching the 1,000 bike mark with an event in the Shop on December 27<sup>th</sup>. In 2018 there were 4,205 bikes donated to us with 1,203 repaired and 1,141 delivered.

Our budget has increased from \$3,786 income and \$2,871 expenses in 2012 to \$90,421.07 income and \$77,112.27 expenses in 2018.

In 2016 a 5 year plan was begun to work on a goal of moving off the Sannerud farm. It would be great if we could find 20,000 square feet of space to buy.

## We get Mail...

We get letters and responses from the large population of people that we serve. Here is a great sample and fits well with the story from Ed Nieman



# Operations Statistics

(Statistics provided by Cindy Bailey)

