

B4K Newsletter

May/June 2018 (vol. 18.3)

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



The honoree of this issue of the Bikes4Kids Newsletter is our leader, Al Sannerud. Being the founder and leader of the B4K organization, it would be expected that the focus would have been on him in the first issue of the newsletter. However, Al being a very humble person with a servant's attitude would not allow it. But recently, Al was honored as a US Army veteran of World War II to go on an "Honor Flight" to our nation's capital and he has given his approval for this story:

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, Al Sannerud boarded a Sun Country flight to Washington D.C. along with 166 other people (half of whom were veterans of World War II and the Korean War). The purpose of this flight and trip called an "Honor Flight" was to honor the veterans for their service to this country and to provide them with the opportunity to see their service memorials. Each veteran must be accompanied by a "Guardian" to serve as a personal assistant for the veteran. This is usually a member or close friend of the family. Al Sannerud's son Bob accompanied him as Guardian.



During the flight to Washington D.C. an announcement was made for "Mail Call". Each veteran then received a packet of mail from friends and family. This was a complete surprise since the mail had been secretly solicited and collected by the Guardians in advance of the trip. They included letters of love and appreciation for the sacrifice and contributions by these veterans to our country.

There was not a dry eye in the airplane as these veterans read their mail.

Upon arrival at Reagan National Airport, they were met by a large crowd of people waving American flags and applauding the arrival of the veterans. The ramps and gate areas were filled with hundreds of cheering people. They then boarded buses for the beginning of a full day of touring. The buses were escorted with police using their emergency lights and sirens. There was no waiting for red lights and other traffic was held up as they passed through the busy streets. The entourage was assured to satisfy a full schedule which included tours of the Air Force Memorial, Military Women's Memorial, Navy Memorial, WWII Memorial, Korea Veteran's Memorial and the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. It also included the Lincoln



Memorial, a bus tour of the Capital and government buildings as well as the White House.

The veteran tour then returned to Arlington Cemetery to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where they watched the changing of the guard and the flag lowering ceremonies.

Following a full day of touring, the veterans were treated to a special dinner at the Columbus Club which included a flag presentation by the White House color guard.

They then boarded the buses for the trip home. The veterans were tired but they all joined in with singing the military songs of the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.

They arrived at Minneapolis at 10:30 pm and were again met with a very large crowd of supporters waving flags and greeting Al and the veterans back home. They were tired but smiles and tears were very noticeable.

Thank you, Al and all veterans, for your service!

Why We Do What We Do...

The North Anoka County Emergency (NACE) Food Shelf and Clothing Closet sent a letter to Bikes4Kids to thank us for supporting their 14th annual empty bowls event which helped them to raise money for the local food shelf.

Spring Lake Park Schools recently sent a thank you that states: "Thank you Bikes4Kids for your generous donation! So many happy children and families! We look forward to our continued partnership! It was signed by Alyssa, Pam, Robert, Jay, Steph and Emily.

Along that same line, during the monthly volunteers meeting, Cindy Bailey reported that we now have over 100 "partners" who throughout the year will request bikes from our organization and distribute them to people in need. The need is great and the work to supply them all, grows right along with it. Here is an actual example provided by Cindy of how these partnerships actually work:

To: Bikes4Kids

Name: Pati Williams

Subject: Bikes 4 our kids

Message:

I am the Program Coordinator for Native Grandparents in South Dakota.

We are trying to get 100 bikes donated for native youth located on the west end of the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota

Cindy then followed up with this message as a response:

Hi Pati,

I am glad we got a chance to talk today.

As we discussed, we are an all-volunteer organization located in Ham Lake MN. We primarily serve the Metro area. We don't have the staff to deliver bikes outside our service area. As it is, we limit requests to 20 bikes to handle the demand. However, we have made partnerships with organizations in the local metro area and even outside our state where they take unrepaired bikes and arrange to have them repaired. Here is a link to a news piece done on "Boys to Men" we talked about. I think you will be inspired by what they do. We are!

Cindy then made the connection between the two organizations to satisfy the original request.

Hi Nate,

Someone contacted us who is the Program Coordinator for Native Grandparents in South Dakota. They are trying to get bikes for native youth located on the west end of the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. I told them about your program and they were intrigued by it. Would you be willing to talk to them about your Boys to Men program and how they could get it started on the reservation?

And so the connection is made and the need is satisfied. Good work Cindy!

Marketing Update!

From Gary Nereson

We hope you enjoy reading this, our current newsletter, and finding out the latest about Bikes4Kids!

We are well on the way to another banner year in providing top-of-the-line refurbished bikes to kids in need. Last year more than 1000 kids received one of our bikes through the 100+ social service agencies we help.

Since our inception, our B4K army of volunteers has collected over 9000 discarded bikes, made the repairable ones "like new," and given them away throughout the Metro Area.

Because of our remarkable success and outreach to the Metro Community, we are on the verge of outgrowing our current facilities, have need of more volunteers (office and shop helpers, callers, cleaners, mechanics, etc.), and we need your donations.

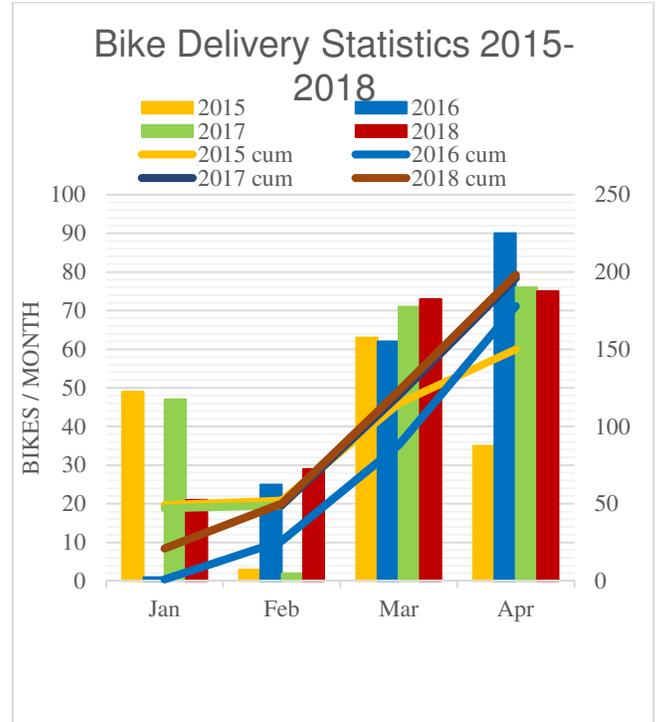
Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated. Besides reading our newsletter, please visit our website www.bikes4kidsmn.org for more information.

Bikes4Kids – a 501c(3) non-profit charitable corporation

Help Needed! Volunteer Opportunities

Al Sannerud recently made an appeal for the need of more volunteers for the following opportunities:

1. A need for 2 volunteers to cover our calendar of events. This job would entail assuring that any planned events will include the necessary resources to meet the needs of the event. Any volunteers are welcome!
2. Bike Movers – to locate and relocate the ongoing inventory of bikes during and following the repair process. No experience necessary.
3. Market Outreach Person: This job would assist the Market Development team with the fund-raising efforts necessary to keep the organization operating.



Operations Statistics

