

B4K Newsletter

September/October 2018 (vol. 18.5)

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.

Minnesota Outstanding Senior Citizen



On August 30 our leader, Al Sannerud received honors as the 2018 Minnesota Outstanding Senior Citizens Award at the Minnesota State Fair. The well deserved recognition was publicized by an article in the Anoka County UnionHerald. The following is a partial reprinting of that article written by Jonathan Young, reporter for the Herald.

“Al Sannerud, 94, of Ham Lake, was honored as the 2018 Minnesota Outstanding Senior Citizens Award winner at the State Fair Aug. 30. He received a \$1,000 check for his charity, Bikes4Kids.

For what’s believed the first time since the 1960s, an Anoka County senior received the Minnesota Outstanding Senior Citizens Award at the State Fair. The Coon Rapids Senior Center nominated the 94-year-old for his wide-ranging community involvement, including helping launch the nonprofit Bikes4Kids, the Robert and Wilma Burbach Bike Foundation, in 2011.

“He’s just like a rock star,” said Kris Niebler, who nominated Sannerud. “I have nominated people ... for over 26 years. I’ve never had a winner.” Niebler is a program specialist at the Coon Rapids Senior Center. Nominating Sannerud was highly uncharacteristic of her – she hadn’t met him before, and he’s neither a Coon Rapids resident, nor active at the senior center. But people kept telling her she should nominate Sannerud, so she made a point to meet him and was

impressed. “He’s really a legend in town,” she said. “I’ve heard about him for years. ... I just think he’s Ham Lake’s superhero.”

Each of Minnesota’s 87 counties is represented by a man and a woman in the statewide competition for the annual Outstanding Senior Citizens Award, which honors demonstrated commitment to community service. Judy Peterson of Itasca County was the winner among this year’s female contestants.

Eligible applicants are at least 70 years old and are only judged on accomplishments since age 65. Judges consider diversity of accomplishments, how the person has touched the lives of others in the community, quantity of accomplishments, amount of service after age 65, and more.

Even though she could only list Sannerud’s accomplishments since age 65, Niebler found herself attaching additional pages to the application form. “I have never had to add pages in the past,” she said.

Bikes4Kids provides bikes and helmets to children and adults who need them. Volunteers collect bikes and refurbish them at Sannerud’s Ham Lake property. The bikes are distributed through partner organizations.

According to the award application, last year more than 2,200 bikes found new homes thanks to the organization.

“Al’s farm has turned into something similar to a bike factory, where dozens of dedicated volunteers work year-around in barns and sheds that have been converted to workshops, offices and (storage) areas for the 3,000+ bikes that come through the gates each year,” the application states.”

From all of us at Bikes4Kids we extend our hearty congratulations to this remarkable man. It makes us proud to call Al our leader!

2nd Annual Bikes4Kids Legacy Ride

Bikes4Kids is sponsoring our second annual Legacy Bike Ride. The ride is scheduled for Sept. 29 at Elm Creek Park Reserve in Maple Grove. We would also love to have you and your family as participants! Sign-up and additional information about B4K is available on our website: bikes4kidsmn.org

Meet the Volunteers!



This section is set aside as an opportunity for you to acquaint yourself with some of the many volunteers in the Bikes4Kids organization. For this issue our spotlight shines on Les Tvedt.

Les serves on the Board of Directors of Bikes4Kids as our Treasurer. He has served us well in this capacity for the past five years.



for the Bikes4Kids organization. He says that one Sunday at Faith Lutheran Church, Al requested his expertise in finance to help out at B4K. And, of course, we all know how hard it is to turn Al down! He did however, check with some other people from Faith just to be sure. He is happy that he did accept because

he enjoys the rewards of the service work (and he is doing a great job).

Les grew up on a farm south of Byron, Minnesota. He attended the Byron schools, Rochester Junior College and Minnesota State University at Mankato. He is a veteran, having served in the U.S.Navy. Following his military service he worked in Accounting at IDS/Amerprise for 34 years until his retirement. Les says that what he enjoys most about working at B4K is that he has the ability to provide a needed service to the community with a great group of faith based, fun loving, hard working volunteers who care about the need of others (i.e., kids, community and our environment.)

A SPECIAL NEEDS REQUEST

Over the past months, we have received requests from a number of senior citizens for bike transportation that could be used to run errands, provide exercise, etc. The bikes that are needed to assist these seniors are “adult tricycles”. That is, three wheeled “trikes” that would be safe as well as very useful for seniors who do not have the means to purchase their own “trike”. Over the years, very few “trikes” have been donated to B4K that are in a condition that make them reusable. Currently, we have several requests from area seniors for this type of “trike”

that we have not been able to provide. We have, however, been working with an area company who would be able to provide us with this type of new “trike” for \$280, a figure far below the typical retail cost. We are asking the many folks who have a connection to B4K to consider donating \$280 for the express purpose of providing one senior a new, quality “trike”. If the cost is too much for one person, please consider joining with one or more friends, neighbors, family members, etc. to provide one “trike” to a needy senior. If you are interested or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at bikes4kidsmn.org

Why We Do What We Do...

Subject: Re: Adaptive bike from Bikes4Kids
From: Mary Arneson.....
Date: Tue, August 07, 2018 8:39 pm.....
To: cindy.bailey@bikes4kidsmn.org,

Thanks much for arranging to get the adaptive trike to our Twin Cities Adaptive Cycling Program. It fills a gap in our collection, allowing for smaller riders who can still manage to pedal and steer.

It's been several years since we visited your site up in Ham Lake, and we were really impressed with how much your program has grown.

Mary Arneson (volunteer with TCAC)

(FYI... Attached is a picture of an adaptive bike)



Operations Statistics

