

B4K Newsletter

May-September 2019 (vol. 19.4)

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.

Editorial Announcement

I am starting this newsletter off with an apology for delaying recent publication and I am announcing change that will impact future issues. Publication frequency will change from bimonthly to quarterly effective with the next issue.



In the Spotlight

All our Volunteers!

This section is set aside as an opportunity for you to acquaint yourself with some of the many volunteers in the B4Kids organization. Over the past seven years of operation, the B4K organization has welcomed hundreds of volunteers who have provided support to this great mission. We could not do this great work without their efforts. They have volunteered hundreds of hours performing service in functions such as:

- *Picking up bikes throughout the metro area.*
- *Cleaning bikes in preparation for repair*
- *Repairing the bikes.*
- *Preparing bikes for shipment to Gambia.*
- *Storing bikes during the various stages of receiving, preparation, repair and delivery.*
- *Maintaining the storage and repair facilities.*
- *Soliciting funds throughout the metro area.*
- *Coordinating requests for bikes.*
- *Maintaining the repair inventory*
- *Maintaining the records used to track inventory and requests.*
- *And... many other functions.*

We are very thankful for your help and support through the years where, since 2015, over 4,000 bikes have been repaired and delivered locally to kids and people in need. This does not include the thousands of bikes have been sent to Africa through our B4K partners.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

A History of Bikes4Kids

In the last issue of the Bikes4Kids Newsletter, Pastor Ed Nieman provided an article on the history of Bikes4Kids. This story is an addition to that history as provided by one of the original volunteers: Byron Dokken.

“I was one of the hand full of guys that met at the Red Ox cafe in Ham Lake, Mn. in 2011 to form a 501 ©(3) tax exempt non profit organization. Our Mission was and is to collect and refurbish used and serviceable bicycles and give them to kids and people in need. That year we gave away over 100 bikes and in 2018 the number of bikes repaired and given away totaled over 1100! This kind of growth was possible only through committed volunteers who donated their time and talents to see a child get their first bike or an adult able to bike to work or school. Every Monday through Thursday 9:am to 1:pm our volunteers appear to work on bikes. These volunteers have been enriched by working together to make someone’s life (child or adult) a little bit better. Our all-volunteer staff gets their reward when we receive thank you notes from these excited and thankful kids. Here are a few examples:

- This from Raisi “*Dear bike guys, Thank you.*”
- This one from Shaniah: “*Thank you for the bike I really like it*”
- And from Sandie “*Thank you for the pink bicycle.*”

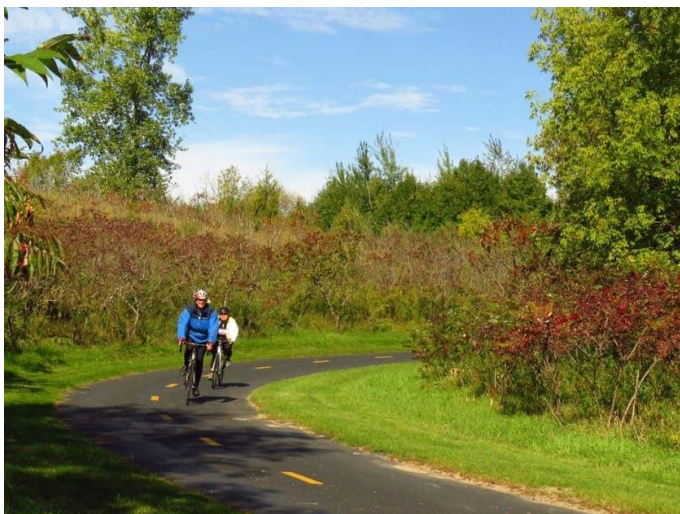
We at B4K have become a community who enjoy working together to provide bikes to those who could not otherwise afford one. If you are a person who is looking to make a difference, and have fun doing it, we need you.”

The B4K Legacy Ride 2019

It was a beautiful day in September for the annual B4k Legacy Ride. Forty-eight riders joined in this event held at Elm Creek Park Reserve in Maple Grove. The temperature was in the high 40s with a light breeze. The ride brought in over \$6,500 that will be used to support operations. Pictures are worth more than words so here are some selected from the many that were sent in:



Mechanics were on hand for safety inspections and repairs.



A view of the beautiful scenery along the route.



Just look at the smiles!



The end of a great day!

We get Mail...

We get letters and responses from the large population of people that we serve. This one was sent to Cindy Bailey, our B4K Operations Coordinator:

*Hi Cindy,
I am sending a thank you card with pictures from the bike raffle, but I thought you might want the photos digitally. They are attached. If you want to use the photos for publicity, I will need to get special photo release forms and have parents/guardians sign them. I just wanted to show you and your volunteers how happy you made our students.*

Thank you so much. Our students were over the moon. They felt so special. Even those who didn't get a bike were having fun and excited for those who did get a bike.

You are a great group of volunteers.

I did post information on Hall's website about the event and contributors including Bikes4Kids. There was a clip on the channel 4 (I think) news that lasted about 15 seconds and they mentioned the bike give away but didn't mention contributors. Please let me know if there is anything more we can do for you.

*Best,
Janet Parker
Media Specialist
Minneapolis Public Schools
[Elizabeth Hall International School](#)*

And this one:

Hello Ernie and Cindy,

I just want to say thank you so much for the lives you touch through Bikes 4 Kids.

You brought a huge smile to the faces of the boys and their parents. Outdoor activities are much more fun because of the bikes. I am so grateful for this partnership!

With much appreciation, Godwin Saporu

This is from our contact for Gambia bikes: Pateh Baldeh

These are some of the latest students to receive bikes from us. Thanks again for all you do.

Pateh Baldeh



From the YMCA in New Hope:

Hi Cindy,

I just wanted to pass on a couple photos of bikes that were given to some of our young people this summer.

Thank you so much for giving them the opportunity to have a sense of freedom. They are very grateful!



Operations Statistics

