

Bikes4Kids Newsletter

May/June 2017

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.

Morning Break Tours Bikes4Kids

On Thursday, April 27th nineteen women toured the Bikes4Kids facility in Ham Lake. The women were members of the “Morning Break” group at Faith



Lutheran Church that meets every other Thursday morning. Their agenda usually includes a human-interest topic on area activities.

The Bikes4Kids facility is part of Al and Betty Sannerud’s farm and they were excellent hosts for the Morning Break group. In addition to Al and



Betty, four members of B4K served as tour guides for the event. They were John Gillis, Byron Dokken Lowell Kutches and Les Tvedt.

The Morning Break group was very impressed with their visit and highly appreciative of the friendliness and knowledge of the tour hosts and guides. Here are some of their comments:

- Very impressed with the cleanliness and orderliness of the operation.
- Accuracy of the inventory for bikes and parts.

- Everyone seemed to know their job and showed a great deal of enthusiasm in their work.
- Workers were very friendly and were very proud of the organization.

The ladies were very impressed with the condition of the final product. They had a wonderful time and came away very pleased with their free Bikes4Kids bags.

In the Spotlight



Our featured volunteer who gets the spotlight in this issue is Dave Hauschild. Dave has been a volunteer



for Bikes4Kids since 2011. Dave states that he was attracted to B4K because he was an active recreational bike rider and he knew that he had an interest in the overall mission. He had been considering volunteer opportunities since he had recently retired.

Dave’s background is as varied as his talents. He grew up in North Dakota. After graduation from high school he attended and graduated from seminary. He served as a Lutheran clergy person for eight years but then spent the remainder of his working career in various positions in the moving industry. His last twelve years he worked as an international moving specialist. Dave has been married to his wife Lois for 48 years. Dave says that Lois never complains about laundering his very soiled mechanics clothes. Dave and Lois have two children. Their daughter lives in Elk River and the son is in California. They are also very proud of their grandchildren. Their granddaughter is serving her country in the US Air Force and the grandson is a high school junior.

(Dave Hauschild, continued)

Dave says that he really enjoys working at B4K. There are a couple important reasons that keeps him volunteering “*First, I believe that every kid/person who wants a bike should have a bike, but not ‘just’ a bike. I believe that the person who receives a bike as a donation deserves to receive a bike as safe, as efficient, and as attractive as someone else’s bike that happened to be purchased at a store. Human dignity mandates this. So I want to help make this happen. Secondly (a close second), what keeps me at B4K is the camaraderie that I have with Al and the permission that I have from Betty to help myself to as much as I want from her rhubarb patch”*

Well, I guess that you just never know what motivates people but if it works, it works! We thank you Dave for your dedication and contributions to B4K!

were then directed to us mechanics for safety checks and seat adjustments although many slipped by. We did as many as we could. Unfortunately, the bikes were all gone before the line finished.

One of my first parents (middle eastern ethnicity?) placed his thumb and index finger close together so that I could see and at the same time said to me, "leeette English." We communicated through the child. In another situation, I needed to utilize a Spanish language translator as the adult, in this case an uncle, knew no English. We got the job done.

Hasan was my favorite. I am guessing East African heritage. No language issue there. He was the elder brother helping a younger brother and younger sister get bikes. As I worked on these Bikes, we conversed and I found out: he is officially a senior at Blaine High School; he was on the soccer team; he does not attend classes in Blaine; he is instead taking college level courses at Anoka Ramsey and he will attend the University of Minnesota next fall as a second-year student studying computer science.

Bottom line, it was a rewarding experience. We can't save the world but we can make a difference.”

Why We Do What We Do...

We get letters and responses from the large population of people that we serve. Here are more stories and responses from very satisfied customers:

Bike Giveaway at Fridley

This event, sponsored by Allina Health, featured an opportunity for kids from the Hayes Elementary School in Fridley. The bikes that were given away were provided by our organization of Bikes4Kids and an organization named Free Bikes 4 Kidz. Several hundred bikes were given away. Here is an observation by one of our own bike mechanics (Dave Hauschild) who had his hands full that day:

“On April 22, Bob, Mike and I were a three-person mechanic crew at a bike give-a-way of several hundred bikes. "Free Bikes 4 Kidz" was the sponsor and we provided an additional 25 bikes and 3 mechanics. The location was Hayes Elementary in Fridley. To say the least, the mechanic component of the day was challenging, but that is another story.

The volume of the need for bicycles is staggering. Even before the official start, parking was limited and a long line snaked outside. Once inside, it looked like a mini "United Nations". I told Al it was pretty clear to me that I wasn't in Ham Lake any more. Hundreds of people waited patiently to obtain a "used" bike for their child (a "used" bike!) They

Cindy Bailey recently made us aware of another happy bike recipient. Cindy was contacted by Diane Lorenz from Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services. She had requested a three-wheeled bike for one of her clients. These are her words: “*A few weeks ago, my coworker and I picked up a 3-wheeled bike from your organization for one of my clients. The 3-wheeled bike we obtained for your organization is PERFECT for my client!!!! He loves it and his family is extremely grateful to you and your team. It was a very emotional day for us as we delivered this bike to him and he and his family were beaming with*



smiles and so very grateful to receive this great gift. My client can now ride in his neighborhood with his siblings and his friends (with supervision)

The client's mother has written a 'Thank You' note to your organization. It is in Spanish so with the assistance of an interpreter, the note will be translated in English for you. I

will send this in the mail along with a couple of pictures of my client with his new bike. Thank you for your very generous gift for my client and for the work you do for kids in our community.”

Why We Do What We Do...Continued

We do get lots of letters from happy bike recipients. Here is an assortment of some recent responses:

Jenna writes: *"I've been wishing that I could have a nice bike of my own for quite a while and I finally got one. Thanks..."*

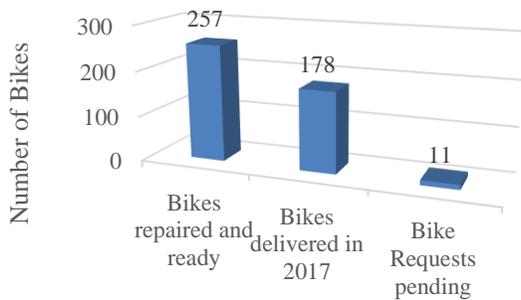
Dora writes (twice): *"Thank you for Bike. I love it and will ride it as much as I can. Thank you so much..."*

Eliezer Crawford writes *"Thank you for my new bike!"*

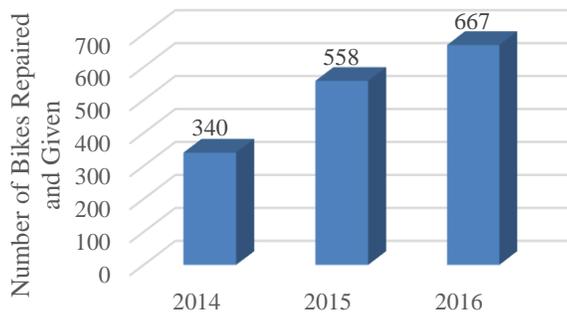
Rudie writes: *"My name is Rudie and thanks for the bike. I like it a lot...good choice! Thanks again, I've been wanting a bike! It's neat!"*

Operations Statistics

Bike Status for 2017



Bikes Repaired by Year*



* note: figures do not include Bikes for Gambia