

B4K Newsletter

October - December 2019 (vol. 19.5)

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.



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 Gary Nerson.



Gary is on the Board of Directors and serves as its Secretary. He is very active in the marketing and promotional activities of B4K, such as providing leadership to our Legacy Ride sponsorships. You will also find him in many “behind the scenes” meetings – helping with other marketing activities and long range planning for the organization.

And, whenever possible, he helps out transporting bikes, both donated and finished goods.

Gary is a U.S. Army veteran and served during the war in Vietnam in the infantry and Military Advisory Command. His education and work experience make him very qualified in many ways for the many needs of B4K. He holds a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology. His work history has included technical marketing and sales. Prior to his retirement he was owner of the Judd Supply Company; an electrical wholesale distributor located in Coon Rapids. (As an interesting note, the building that he built for his company now houses the operations of Feed My Starving Children.)

He has always been a ready volunteer where help is required. He is a very active member of Faith Lutheran Church where he has been a teacher for Sunday School, served on various committees, was Building Committee chairperson for the new sanctuary and served as a most capable President of the Faith congregation.

Gary has been active in B4K for the past three years. He sees so much good from the work being done and enjoys the dedication and enthusiasm from all volunteers – mechanics, bike cleaners, drivers, other helpers and administration. He thinks that he can be an essential contributor in many areas of B4K – specifically in community outreach, solicitations, and enhancing the focus of meeting discussions. He is excited to be helping B4K move to the next level!

New Volunteer Association Membership for Bikes4Kids Provides Benefits

Bikes4Kids has recently joined with the Anoka County RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program). This is part of a national volunteer organization called the Corporation for National & Community Service. The purpose of this national association is to encourage more volunteer service.

Anoka county RSVP connects people age 55 and over who want to volunteer with non-profit and social service agencies in Anoka County who need volunteers responding to critical community needs. These agencies are referred to as “stations” of RSVP of which B4K is now designated.

As a volunteer of B4K (and now through their association with RSVP), you are now eligible for benefits such as insurance and some transportation allowance as described below:

Insurance:

As a RSVP member, you are eligible for three kinds of supplemental insurance coverage: personal accident, personal liability, and an excess auto liability (covering volunteer positions in which driving is part of the role). These are not substitutes for any insurance you may now carry and apply only while performing during the volunteer job. Coverage is effective upon enrollment in RSVP at no cost to the volunteer. Coverage is effective as long as the volunteer maintains an active status-reporting volunteer hours within a 3-month period of time.

Transportation Allowance (optional)

To enable RSVP volunteers on fixed incomes to continue volunteering, RSVP provides a transportation allowance. Volunteers who volunteer a minimum of two (2) hours at a time are eligible to request mileage reimbursement. Reimbursement is allowed only for mileage incurred from a volunteer’s home to a volunteer station and return by the most direct route. RSVP cannot reimburse mileage for delivering meals, errands, or transporting clients for a station. Volunteers will be reimbursed at 37.5 cents per mile up to a maximum of \$3.75, i.e. up to 10 miles per day for each volunteer experience. Bus fares and the Anoka County Traveler (*continued page 2*)

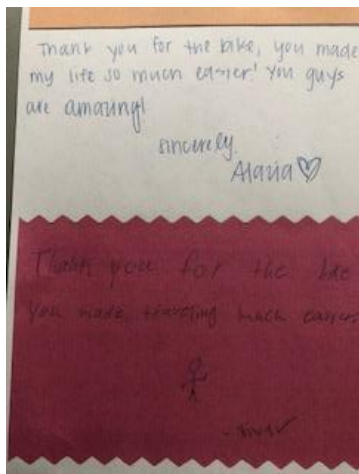
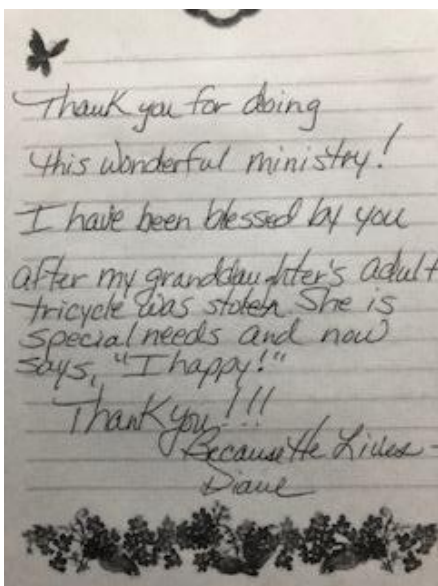
RSVP continued...

are reimbursed at cost. Any requests for transportation reimbursement must be submitted in the quarter in which they occur.

For additional information concerning this benefit program please contact a member of the leadership committee.

We Get Mail...

The many bikes that are given result in more than smiles from our happy customers. Here are a couple responses for you to enjoy.



Christmas Bikes

Bikes for Kids once again participated in the annual Toys for Joy event held at the Anoka Armory.



Many happy children went home with big smiles on their faces on this brisk December day.

Bikes4Kids donated one hundred and eight bikes which were given to needy people in our area. The bikes are shown in the picture below. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers who made this event possible.



Bikes for The Gambia

Many of you know that for all the bicycles collected, many of them get designated for shipping to a country in Africa called The Gambia. Information from the Google Wikipedia follows:



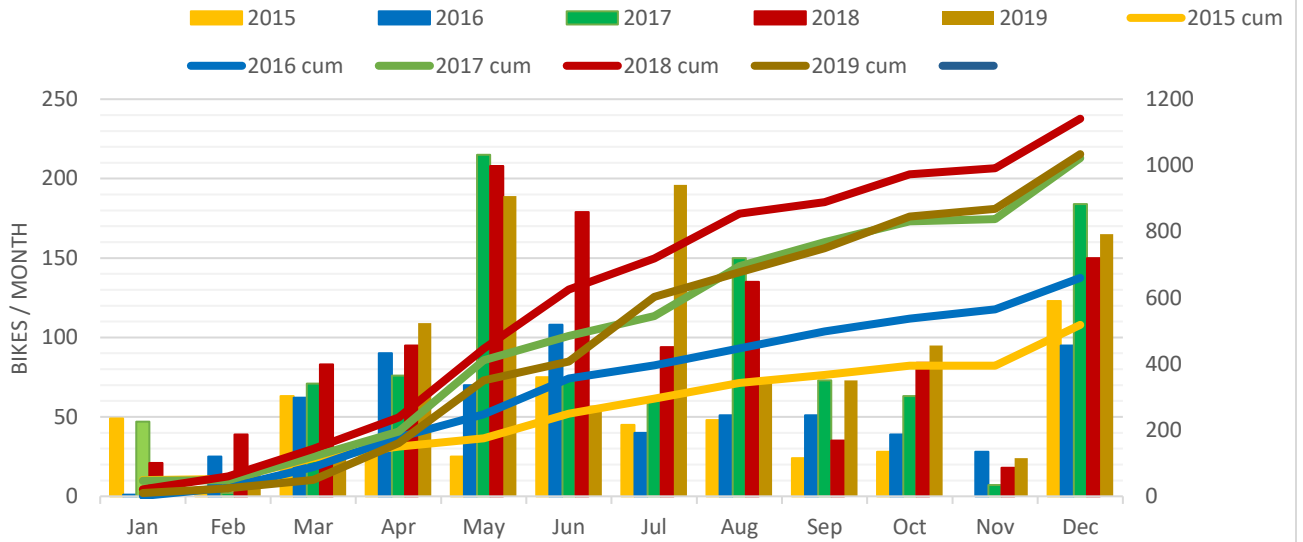
*“The Gambia, officially the **Republic of The Gambia**, is a country in Western Africa that is almost entirely surrounded by Senegal with the exception of its western coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa. The Gambia is situated on both sides of the lower reaches of the Gambia River, the nation's namesake, which flows through the center of The Gambia and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. It has an area of 10,689 square miles with a population of 1,857,181 as of the April 2013 census. The Gambia's economy is dominated by farming, fishing and, especially, tourism. In 2015, 48.6% of the population lived in poverty. In rural areas, poverty is even more widespread, at almost 70%”*

It is to this remote location that Bikes4Kids sends hundreds of bikes primarily through a partnership with Pateh Baldeh who lives just up the road in Isanti. Pateh will load a container with bikes and ship them to The Gambia. Here are some pictures of very happy recipients on the Gambia side of the world:



Operations Statistics

Bike Delivery Statistics 2015- 2019



Bike Repair Statistics 2015 - 2019

