

B4K Newsletter

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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 Memoriam

On June 28, 2021 those of us in Bikes4Kids, his family, and the community lost a special friend. It is very difficult to put in words all that will describe this loving husband, father, and friend. The following is an article published by the ABC newspapers and does an excellent job of describing this wonderful man. The article is re-printed with permission from ABC Newspapers.

‘One of a Kind’

Anoka County residents, family remember Al Sannerud



Those who knew Al Sannerud remember him as a kind, generous man who would always lend a helping hand, no matter the project or reason. But Anoka resident Dave Bonthius has a particular phrase he thinks suits Sannerud best: one of a kind. “I know the term ‘one of a kind’ is maybe overused, but if it’s ever appropriate to use, it’s for him,” Bonthius said.

Sannerud was a staple in the local community. He volunteered with numerous charitable causes in addition to creating a few of his own. He was named the Minnesota Outstanding Senior Citizen at the Minnesota State Fair in 2018 when he was 94, based on his accomplishments since turning 65. The recognition application stated Sannerud “has worn dozens (maybe hundreds!) of volunteer hats over the years.” To name just a few of those

“One of a Kind” continued from page 1

many hats, there was the Blaine-Ham Lake Rotary, Cars for Neighbors, Bikes 4 Kids, Faith Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, Faith’s Global Missions Committee, the Democratic Party and the Children’s Shelter of Cebu.

“Around this area, anyone that’s really involved with the Anoka County area, chances are pretty good they’re going to know this guy,” Bonthius said. At Faith Lutheran Church, Sannerud helped form a men’s group called FROGS — Faith Retired Old Guys. In 2000, Sannerud co-founded Free to Be, now known as Cars for Neighbors, a nonprofit that provides restored cars to those in need. With a few Coon Rapids Kiwanis members in 2011, Sannerud helped form Bikes 4 Kids, a nonprofit with a similar mission as Cars for Neighbors: to give kids refurbished bikes and helmets. Sannerud used his farm in Ham Lake to store the bikes. Bikes 4 Kids gets bike donations from local shops, recycling centers, individuals, and police departments.

“He was a people person that was passionate about helping people in need,” his daughter, Sue Savarese, said. “You can tell from the organizations that he helped found. ... He was kind of the business mind behind a lot of these organizations.” He got more involved after retirement, but he was still active before then, Savarese said. Sannerud started his own accounting practice — Lake Accounting, now known as Sannerud, Savarese & Associates — in Ham Lake when he was 50. Savarese works there now as a CPA and a managing partner. He started the firm, Savarese said, to work with small and family-owned businesses. Sannerud was never bored, Savarese said. Whether he was working on the farm, riding on the tractor with the grandkids, volunteering or helping new organizations get started, Sannerud always had something on his plate. “There was always something he was passionate about,” Savarese said. She credits her father with helping Ham Lake grow from a township to a city in 1974.

Sannerud could convince anyone to help him out in his volunteering, too, Bonthius said. “I called him the ‘gentle arm twister,’” Bonthius said. “He could get people to do anything. We’d tease him about it. We’d say, ‘Al, you twist arms so gently we don’t even know it, but you always get us to do stuff.’” Another playful nickname for Sannerud? *The Energizer Bunny*. “Even into his 90s, he didn’t slow down,” Bonthius said. “You could always go to Al with a project and get support of one kind or another.”

Since Sannerud’s death in late June, Savarese has received an outpouring of positive Facebook comments about her dad. One of her favorites said Savarese was “an amazing example of what later life in Christ is all about. When you finish working, your life doesn’t end,” Savarese said. “You still have so much to give in your later life, in your retirement. Being Christ-centered, you’re doing as Jesus said to feed the hungry and ... take care of those who are not as fortunate as we are.” Sannerud had a clear purpose in life: to give to others. “Having a purpose in your life is what leads to a long life,” Savarese said. In a final act of generosity, Sannerud donated his body to the Anatomy Bequest Program at the University of Minnesota.

Al Sannerud was preceded in death by his parents Christian and Margaret, son Daniel, granddaughter Kristin and sister Lois. He is survived by his wife Margaret; brothers Curtis, Eugene (Sharon), G. Peder (Sandy); children Robert (Kim), Paul (Peggy), Susan (Timothy), James (Mary); grandchildren Erin (Carsten), Eric (Rachel), Kevin, Bryn, David, Kiri, Haakon; and great-grandchildren Keegan and Paxton. A memorial service for Sannerud will be held 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 6, at Faith Lutheran Church, 11115 Hanson Blvd. NW in Coon Rapids. Visitation begins at 9 a.m.

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Fulfilling the mission for Bikes4Kids *Some of our many beneficiaries of our mission:*

"Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres" who serves persons with developmental disabilities, mental health diagnosis, and persons with elderly or medical care needs to support them living in the community.

"Center for Catholic Studies Habiger Institute" The Latino Scholars program is a scholarship and faith formation program aimed at building future faith-filled Christian leaders eager to give back to their communities. Our program is built on four pillars of rigorous academics, strong community, servant leadership and faith formation.

"Northside Residents Redevelopment Council" NRRC is a non-profit neighborhood organization which has been serving the Near North and Willard-Hay neighborhoods since 1969. NRRC's primary goal is to bring about positive social changes, to foster self-determination, and empower residents to serve as a vehicle for active community involvement. We aim to improve the quality of life in North Minneapolis through an active, informed and self-sufficient citizenry.

Nystrom & Assoc. -Helping people with Mental illness improve quality of life.

TRIO Upward Bound (Brooklyn Park)

This is a pre-college program that serves low-income high school students. The focus is on preparing for life after high school encouraging emotional, physical, and academic wellness. During this summer the program will have 20 students. They have requested 20 bikes for their program.

Project for Pride in Living

PPL builds the hope, assets and self-reliance of individuals and families who have lower incomes by providing transformative affordable housing and career readiness services,

Family Wise Services

Familywise has been keeping children safe and helping families lead stable, healthy and productive lives since 1976. They educate, empower and enrich families who are struggling with poverty, substance abuse, mental health issues, homelessness and domestic violence.

Isanti/Cambridge Fall hayride and food drive

An annual event in the Isanti and Cambridge communities.

Fraser

To make a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of children, teens, adults and families with special needs. They accomplish this by providing education, healthcare and housing services.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

They serve the broader twin cities and suburbs with completely free access to hiking and biking trails, educational programming and family-focused events. This summer they are piloting a 12-member youth internship crew made up of students primarily for Como and Washington Tech High School. One day each week is devoted to providing opportunities to experience a variety of outdoor recreation. They need bikes to support the program.

Seward Montessori Mpls, Public School

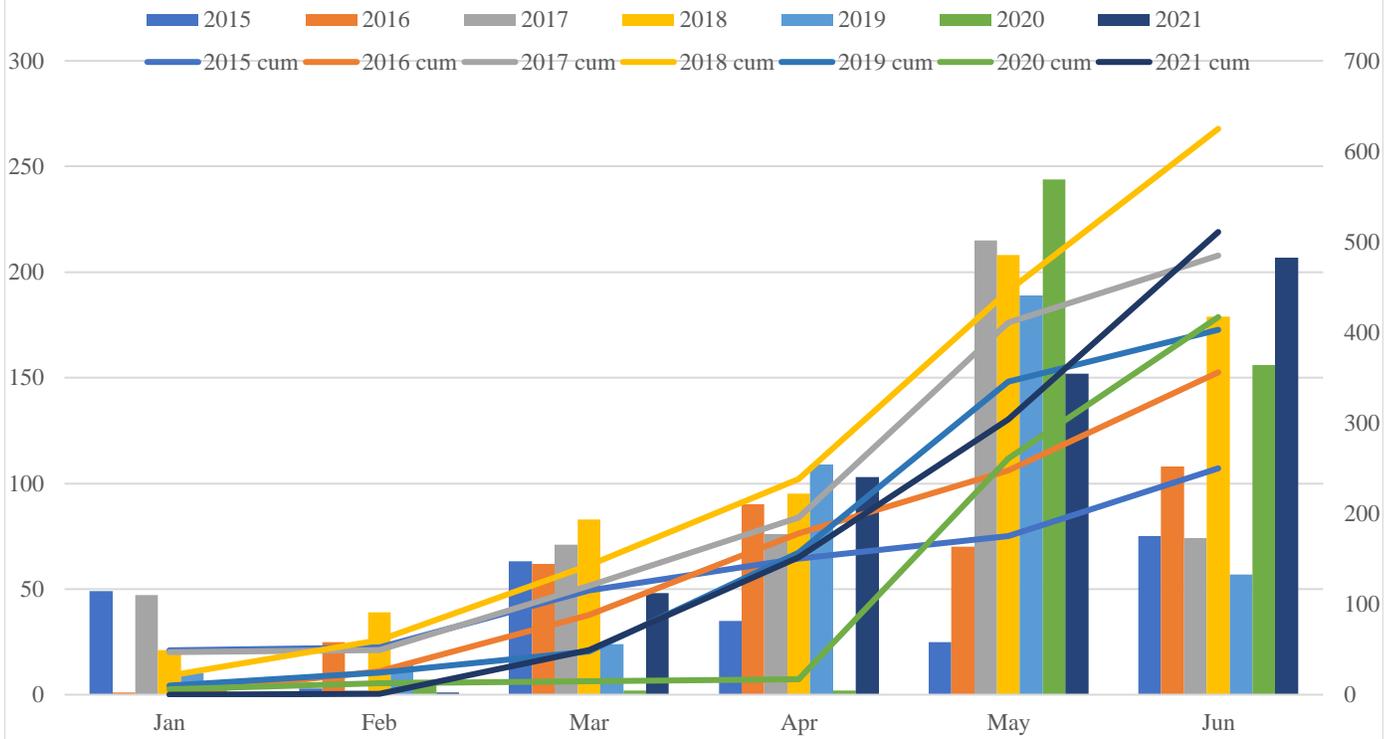
They strive to normalize bike transportation for inner-city kids. They do this by teaching bike riding skills in school as well as maintenance skills. They teach kids how to ride safely in an urban environment, how to maintain their bikes and (for those who need it) provide them with a bicycle. The student body (a Minneapolis K-8 public school is made up of a population with over 60% free and reduced rate lunch eligible and over 60% minority.

Community University Health Care Center

CUHCC is a community clinic serving all patients of every race, color, age, ethnicity, and language.

Operations Statistics

Bike Delivery Statistics 2015 - 2021



Bike Repair Statistics 2015 - 2021

