

B4K Newsletter

October - December 2021 (vol. 21.4)

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.



Spotlight on Volunteers Meet John Kosciolek



John Kosciolek has been a volunteer with Bikes4Kids since 2017. He currently serves as one of our trusty bike mechanics, a job for which he is most certainly qualified. He has been a great asset to our repair crew and is partially responsible for our organization achieving a high level of excellent bikes that are of outstanding quality and safe for the recipients.

John is originally from Northeast Minneapolis. He graduated from Dunwoody Industrial Institute in electronics and digital systems. His entire career was spent with Medtronic working in various roles including manufacturing, reliability, design, and test systems. He says that he really enjoyed both the work and the company. As an added point of interest, he was recently the recipient of one of their devices that is instrumental in keeping John functioning. John has been married to the love of his life for 38 years, raised two children and now have a four year old grandson. He loves being a grandparent.

John has always been attracted to bikes which made Bikes4Kids a great choice for him for volunteer work. He did a lot of bike riding and the required maintenance during his life so he knew that B4K could benefit from his knowledge of bike repair. He was just 17 when he rode the first of many "Ironman" bike rides of 100 miles in one day. Since then he has ridden over 100,000 miles while commuting to and from work. He competes in velodrome races, four day tours, riding in HPV world championships (winning two gold medals) and organizing other Medtronic employees in weekly lunch time rides.

John says that for him *"the social aspect of work is very important, and I needed to find that social*

activity in my retirement". And he is very glad that he found it based on a recommendation from another B4K volunteer, Byron Dokken. He found a place where he could spend time with volunteers that place and equal importance in bicycles and he can use his mechanical skills and feel good about filling an important need to the community. He likes that every volunteer is so enthusiastic about what they do. He says that *"so much gets done by people getting just a "thank you" from a bike recipient. For many people receiving a B4K bike made with love is better than getting a bike from a big box store. Where can you find dedication and enthusiasm like that? I don't have to look elsewhere because it's all right here. Bikes4Kids is a perfect fit for me"*.

New Security System for Bikes4Kids



Bikes4Kids has recently installed a new security system in the Ham Lake bike operation. Volunteers need to be aware of this new addition and be sure that they receive proper instructions on how to operate it. The system will be set at the end of each day. People arriving first need to stop in the shop to disarm the system.

In Memorium

We at Bikes4Kids are saddened by the loss of volunteer Richard Lindeman who suddenly passed away on January 25, 2022. Rich was a loving person who was very devoted and committed to serving other people in need. Rich served others throughout his life as pastor, chaplain, teacher and friend. At Bikes4Kids he was willing to do whatever was required to help with the mission. He will be sorely missed.



Thoughts from Julie

Executive Director for
Bikes4Kids

The loss of one of our founders and our B4K's host, Al Sannerud. The continuation of a global pandemic. The never-ending supply chain issues. We can all agree that 2021 was not without its many challenges and sorrows, and these affected our operations at Bikes4Kids.

Yet 2021 also had its positive moments. We celebrated 10 years of giving bikes to kids and people in need! We have truly grown since that first year when 125 bikes were given away. Our crew repaired and cleaned a record 1209 bikes this past year! Some of our mechanics and cleaners worked very hard at the end of the year—and even came in extra days—to make sure we didn't fall short of the goal. Of course, that just means they want to stretch even higher and have set 1500 as the bike goal for 2022!

Luckily for us, we have a number of new volunteers to help us get there. At the end of the year, 43 dedicated volunteers logged 7509 hours of work! I know that number under-represents the number of hours that are truly worked (that's a hint to record your hours please!), but it does show the hard work and dedication of the people we are so fortunate to work beside.

Almost 5500 bikes were donated to us last year (5490 to be exact). In addition to the nearly 1000 bikes that we distributed to kids and people in need, we set aside 2052 bikes for our partners in Africa and another 753 for Recovery Bikes. While the remaining bikes are used for parts and then sent to recycling, it is good to know that at least 12 dumpsters full of bikes were used for parts and kept out of landfills!

Bikes4Kids benefited from all of that metal recycling last year to the tune of almost \$6000. That

money helps us buy parts, helmets and locks. We had one of our best years financially last year—over \$61,000 in donations, over \$10,000 in sponsorships (including the Legacy Ride), and nearly \$3000 in the sale of specialty bikes and parts.

We have a challenging bike goal, but we have dedicated people to help us reach it. We are currently in a good financial position to meet our 2022 goals, but of course we will need to be working on continuing, and even increasing, our donations and sponsorships throughout 2022 and beyond as B4K grows. We have a wonderful Board of Directors to help lead us through whatever 2022 brings. And of course, we have our volunteers, our partners and our friends.

So we begin 2022 on a high note, but we know there is a lot of work to be done. We will work throughout the coming year to make sure we are communicating with you and supporting you. We need to continue to identify new donors and raise the funds necessary to continue our work. Most importantly, we need to have fun! So no matter what the new year brings to us, it's good to know we have each other!

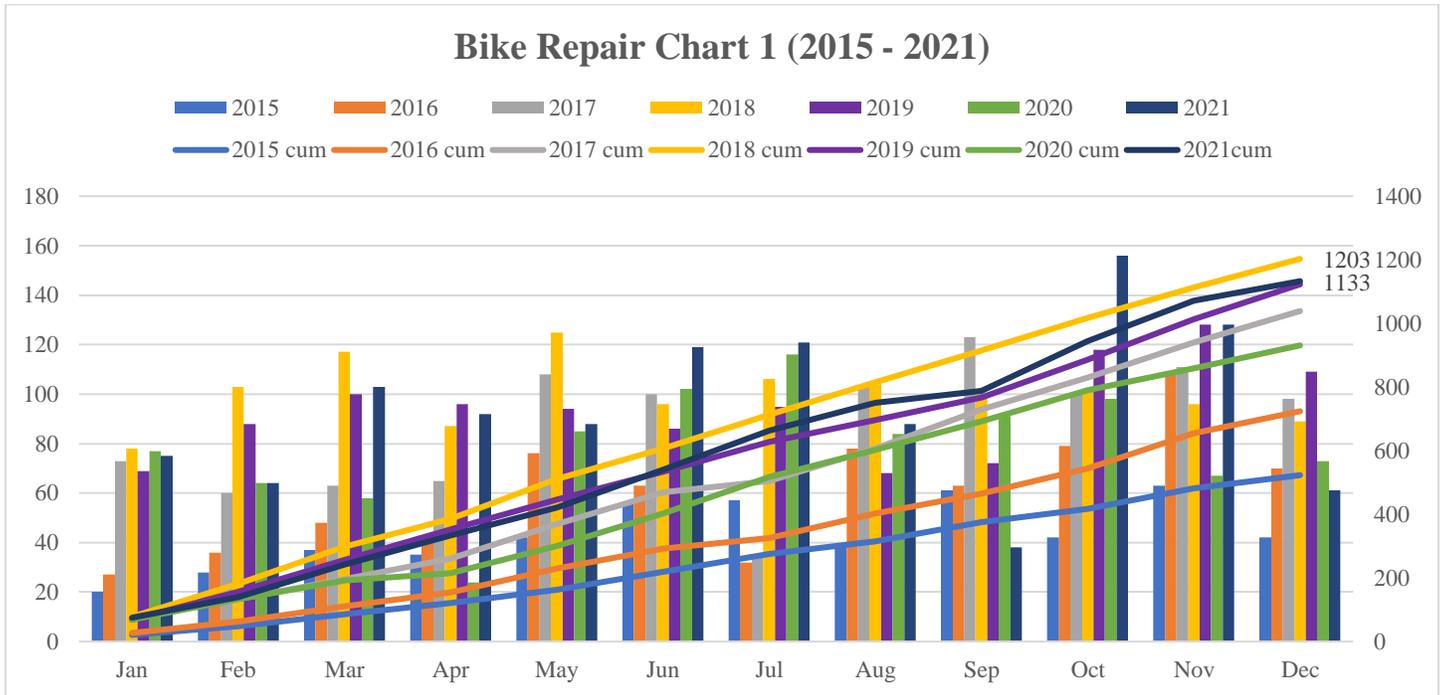
Volunteers Wanted

The Bikes4Kids organization is always looking for people who are looking for the opportunity to serve others. Whatever your skill level you are welcome to join our team! The various jobs include something that will satisfy your desire to help kids and people in need. Some of the jobs include:

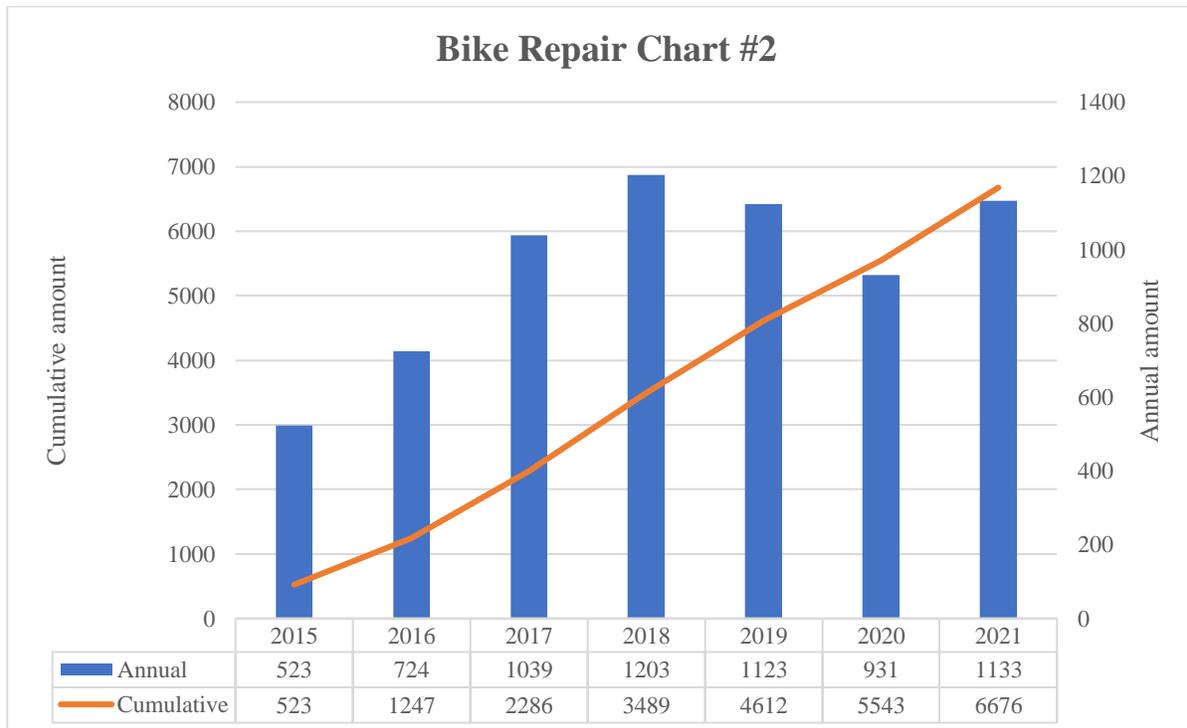
- Bike preparation (cleaning and parting)
 - Driving (picking up and delivering bikes)
 - Mechanical bike repair (replacing parts and performing safety checks)
 - Inventory control
 - Facility maintenance
 - Administration (keeping records on orders and pick-up needs)
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For the Record – Statistics

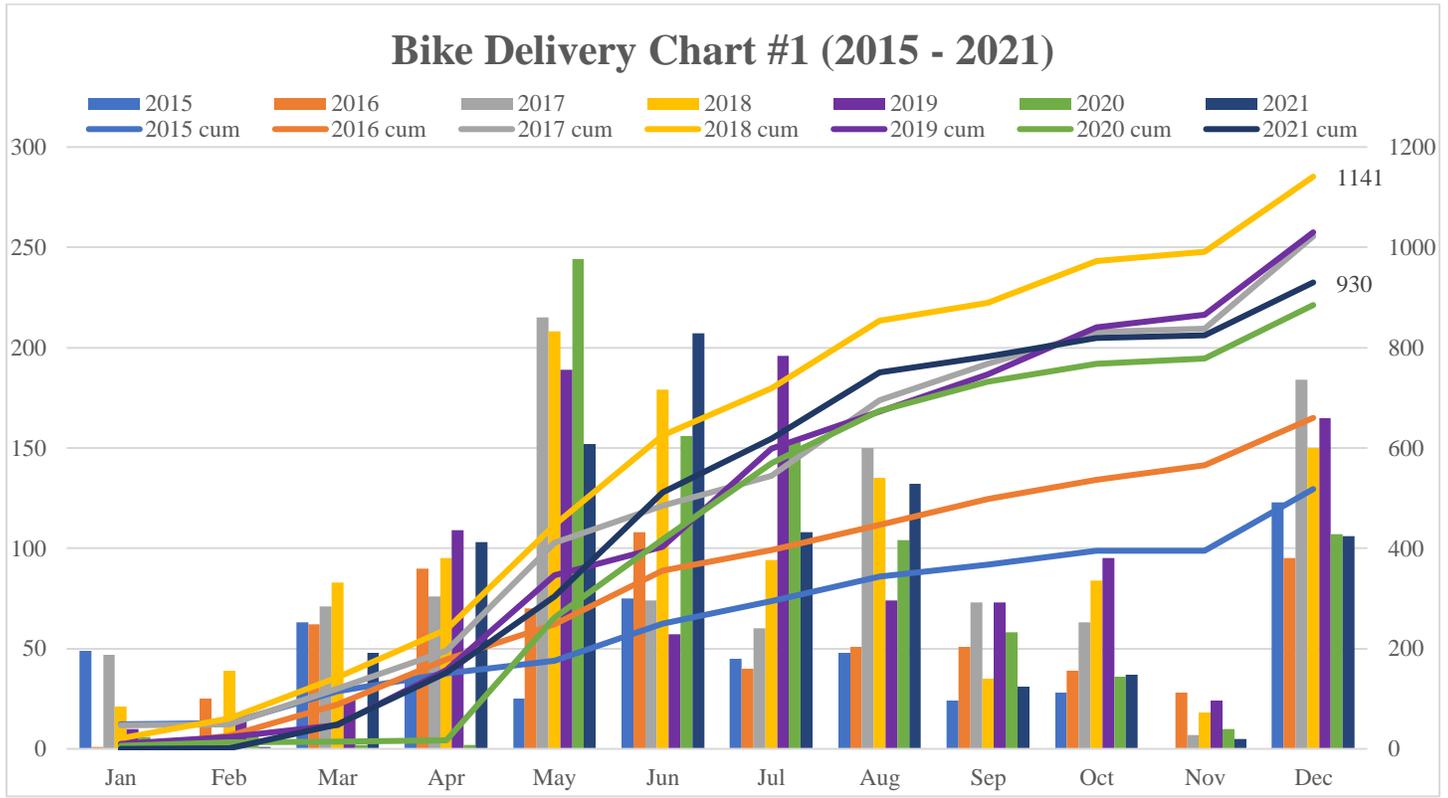
Bike repair chart #1 will show you the number of bikes repaired during the seven year period. The comparisons can be seen on a monthly basis (axis is on the left) and on a cumulative basis (axis is on the right). Note that 2018 was a banner year for repairs with 1,208 bikes repaired. The decrease in subsequent years can primarily be attributed to COVID and its impact on personnel and material availability. Note also that we are now recovering (2021 total of 1,133 repaired bikes).



Bike Repair chart #2 shows the annualized growth over a seven year period. The cumulative amount is on the left axis and the annual amount is shown on the right axis. Note again how we have recovered over the past two years. The total repaired bikes during the seven year period is 6,676.



Bike delivery chart #1 will show you the number of bikes delivered to recipients during the seven year period. The comparisons can be seen on a monthly basis (axis is on the left) and on a cumulative basis (axis is on the right). Note that 2018 was a banner year for repairs with 1,141 bikes delivered. The decrease in subsequent years can primarily be attributed to COVID and its impact on personnel and material availability.



Bike Deliver chart #2 shows the annualized growth over a seven year period. The cumulative amount is on the left axis and the annual amount is shown on the right axis. Note again how we have recovered over the past two years. The total bikes delivered to recipients during the seven year period is 6,186.

