

2009 Annual Report



Bikes for the World completed its fifth year of operations in 2009, with solid accomplishments and an established identity locally, nationally, and internationally—despite a challenging economy,

Bikes for the World is a recognized brand in the greater Washington DC region—a project of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, partnering with public and private schools, local jurisdictions, and major corporations to collect, store, and ship thousands of bicycles. And the Youth Bicycle Program and other activities at the King Farm site in Rockville, Maryland, became an ever more integrated component of that community.

For further information on donating a bike or sewing machine, sponsoring a bike collection in the United States, or requesting a shipment of bikes, visit bikesfortheworld.org, or write or call:

Bikes for the World Box 34, Vienna VA 22183 Tel 703-740-7856 office@bikesfortheworld.org Bikes for the World has become a nationally recognized leader in the bicycle reuse community, actively consulting with other likeminded groups, sharing experience and tools—like our popular bike collection manager's kit—and placing bicycles provided by sister organizations with qualified programs overseas.

Finally, Bikes for the World is expanding internationally, creating new partnerships—in El Salvador in late 2009 and with funding secured in 2009 for a shipment to Liberia anticipated sometime in 2010—and exploring broader partnerships with established international non-profit programs.

At home, we focused on institutional development. Activities begun in 2009 resulted in hiring an office manager and renting a small office in Vienna, Virginia in early 2010. I've now reclaimed space in my house! We're still looking for a replacement for the Tysons Corner storage site, which we anticipate losing to redevelopment during 2010.

I invite you to read about Bikes for the World 2009 and the lives that were changed—stories that can be multiplied by the thousands. It all starts with the donation of a bicycle that has outlived its usefulness here. Put your old bike to good use! Donate it to Bikes for the World!

Keith Oberg
Director, Bikes for the World

OVERVIEW

- We held 87 collection events sponsored by 80 community organizations in eight states and the District of Columbia, gathering 8,951 second-hand bikes for distribution to partner organizations in six developing countries (Barbados, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama. Ghana, and Uganda), as well as to local programs including Phoenix Bikes in Arlington VA; Bikes for Tykes and Teens in Alexandria VA; and our very own Rockville Youth Bike Project in Rockville MD.
- Over 100 community organizations in all—faith communities, service groups, schools, scout troops, businesses, and county and city jurisdictions—provided bicycles and other items, volunteer time collecting, prepping and loading bicycles, and facilities, contributing to the success of BfW in 2009.

- \$400,000 worth of bicycles, spare parts and accessories, portable sewing machines, wheelchairs, and other equipment went directly to overseas partners.
- For BfW hit a significant milestone in late 2009, shipping its 40,000th bicycle since its founding in January 2005.
- We shipped nearly IOO sewing machines to these countries, plus 67 wheelchairs and many crutches and canes in a shipment to Goodwill Panama.
- Above BfW placed three additional shipments, totaling I,500 bikes, gathered by a sister organization in Chicago (Working Bikes Cooperative), to our overseas partners in Costa Rica and Uganda, along with a new organization in El Salvador.

- In April 2009, we collaborated with Otterbein United Methodist Church, supporting our network's largest single collection event in its five-year history, gathering nearly 400 bikes in the space of four hours (and, along with four other events, more than 700 bikes in total for the weekend).
- BfW consolidated its
 Rockville Youth Bike Project,
 in which we teach pedestrian
 and bicycle safety training, give
 high school students servicelearning opportunities, and let
 kids earn bikes through
 volunteer work at the
 organization.
- •• We operated in positive financial territory for the fifth year in a row.

The total number of bikes originating in BfW's core area was down 13 percent from 2008, when we shipped 10,301 bicycles. DC area shipments decreased from 22 full 40-ft containers to 19. However, the record yearly total in 2008 included a large quantity of bikes held over from 2007, which artificially inflated the figure. 2009 ended with more than 600 bikes held over to be shipped in 2010. And the three additional containershipments, totaling approximately 1,500 bikes sourced through Working Bikes Cooperative meant that our partners enjoyed increased access to supply in spite of the challenging world economic circumstances.

MISSION

Bikes for the World was established to benefit people in developing countries by:

From providing affordable reconditioned bicycles for personal transport to employment, education, health services and other essential activities; and

fostering local capacity to repair, maintain, and market bicycles, employing local people.

The organization also has several secondary missions, most notably to provide community service opportunities for Americans at used-bike collection and container-loading events. Counting collections, loadings, institutional donations, and local drop-off sites, we work with more than IOO community groups, businesses, and other

organizations. In addition, we increase public awareness of the importance of re-using discarded or no-longerneeded bicycles, and we work alongside other international organizations that share a common concern for environmentally-sustainable community development.

As an organization, BfW is volunteer-driven but professionally-led. This makes us streamlined and nimble yet still ensures that our bikes get to their destination-effective organizations overseas—as efficiently as possible. We emphasize transparency and accountability to the public in terms of where our bikes go, the terms of their transfer, and the impact they have on recipients, through our website, regular e-newsletters, and an annual audit under the aegis of our fiscal sponsor.

This transparency extends to a network of similar organizations in North America. Groups in Boston MA, Chicago IL, and across Canada provide a similar service. We communicate regularly with these organizations, to learn from each other, improve our efficiency, and take advantage of our complementary strengths, thereby maximizing benefits to our overseas partners.

That said, there are several points of differentiation between us and those organizations. Most notably,

BfW is the largest of its kind in the country, determined by the number of bikes shipped on an annual basis. We donate all "product," but do not normally donate direct shipping costs (which typically amount to \$3,500 to as high as \$9,000 for a shipment of roughly 450 bikes). This is a deliberate choice in that it ensures partner organizations overseas are invested in the program and have a financial interest in ensuring that bikes make it through the sometimes



problematic customs process in those countries. In addition, this philosophy of shared costs allows BfW to concentrate resources on improving the quality of our process, the selection of appropriate bicycles, and the purchase of tools and spare parts, thereby realizing greater impact and sustainability.

BIKES FOR THE WORLD'S PARTNERS IN 2009

In its fifth year, Bikes for the World donated 8,951 bicycles, a 13 percent decrease from 2008's record IO,30I bicycles shipped. Not surprisingly, in absolute terms, shipments declined to all regions: the Caribbean Basin (which includes Panama, Costa Rica, and Honduras in Central America, and the island nation of Barbados), Africa (which currently includes Ghana and Uganda), and the United States.

Proportionately by region, shipments remained relatively constant from 2008 to 2009. Reflecting Bikes for the World's international focus, 98.6 percent of these bikes

went to six non-profit organization partners in six countries in the two overseas regions: Africa and the Caribbean Basin. Less than two percent remained in the United States. The Caribbean Basin continued to represent the single largest region in terms of overall receipt of BfW bikes: 57.4 percent, a slight increase from 2008's 57.0 percent.

Africa also received a slightly greater proportion of bicycles-41.2 percent in 2009, as compared to 40.6 percent the preceding year. This percentage obscures a dramatic drop in shipments to Ghana, owing to a temporary bottleneck in our Ghanaian partner's ability to channel bicycles. Offsetting this was an increase in shipments to our partner in Uganda (five in 2009, compared to two in 2008), permitting that partner entity to expand its training and distributional capacity. We expect our overall

shipments to Africa to increase in 2010 as our Ghanaian partner returns to normal function.

Specific partners include:

GHANA

Village Bicycle Project **(VBP)**: 1,345 bikes (three container shipments) donated in 2009. BfW's relationship with the Village Bicycle Project (VBP) dates to early 2005, and continues to prosper. VBP, a joint American-Ghanaian initiative headed by former Peace Corps volunteer David Peckham in partnership with Ghanaian trainers Samson Ayine and George Aidoo, provides bicycles, training, and specialized bicycle tools to rural development groups throughout Ghana. The principal focus is on providing bicycles and strengthening bike maintenance and riding skills among rural community development workers, in programs providing education, health, and agricultural



extension services. Many of these programs enjoy the support of Peace Corps volunteers. A secondary focus is to build a country-wide private sector infrastructure to support bicycle usage; to this end, VBP introduces tools at subsidized prices and regularly involves local mechanics in rural training courses.

Bikes for the World is one of several networks supporting VBP. Other donors include Bikes Not Bombs (Boston MA), Working Bikes Cooperative (Chicago IL), and Re-Cycle (United Kingdom). Together these programs have shipped almost IOO containers, holding more than 40,000 bikes, to VBP over the last decade.

David recently wrote Bikes for the World the following:

"VBP would like to shout out a huge THANK YOU to Bikes for the World for the 10,000+

bikes...provided for Ghana since 2005. We are proud and honored to be a part of this informal network of bike collectors, shippers, and bike development programs. We all agree on this—that bicycles improve the lives of many of the impoverished majority of the world's people..."

VBP intends to expand its work into Sierra Leone during 2010, and Bikes for the World hopes to be part of it. For up-to-date info, visit villagebicycleproject.org.

UGANDA

Women Prisoners Support Organisation (WPSO):

2,343 bikes (five shipments). What began in 2007 as a trickle of bicycles donated to this program has turned into a torrent. During 2009, WPSO received the second-highest number of Bikes for the World donations—2,343 bikes (and 23 sewing machines) in five shipments. This is particularly

impressive given the high direct expenses of shipping to this inland African nation, costs which were covered in large part by the recipient institution.

WPSO works closely with the Ugandan Ministry of Justice to prepare women prisoners for re-entry into society, beginning with training and counseling in the months preceding their release and providing direct financial support, as resources permit, afterwards. The bicycle project is a recent and growing initiative promising to increase the overall program's impact. Bikes are sold on credit and at a deep discount to selected exprisoners, and at affordable prices to the general public, to cover program expenses. With proceeds from sales, WPSO plans to buy land and build a center to:

From provide training in bicycle repairs, tailoring, computer,

and other life skills to exprisoners and unemployed youth (both male and female);

- Story support beneficiaries in accessing markets, schools, and health centers;
- partner with other community-based organizations that promote the use of bikes; and
- increase bikes sales to the local population and bike rentals to foreign visitors.

In 2009, WPSO expanded its mission to include male prisoners and ex-prisoners, dropping "Women" from its name and formally re-naming itself the "Prisoners Support Organisation." For further info, visit www.psouganda.org.

BICYCLE BENEFICIARY STORIES

by Irene Nadunga, Director, Women Prisoners Support Organisation

isha Nakibuuka is a smallscale honey producer and seller in Kyebando, a suburb of the Ugandan capital of Kampala, and the proud owner of a blue mountain bike purchased from the Women Prisoners Support Organisation, a Bikes for the World partner organization.

Aisha recently acquired her bike from WPSO, acting on the recommendation of a friend informing her of the good quality and affordability of the used American bicycles available at the agency's center. Her motive for acquiring the bicycle requires some background. In the past, Aisha's work centered around the home, looking after her two daughters, washing clothes, and preparing meals for her family. Housework rarely earned her an income, however, and Aisha began thinking about ways in which she could earn money while continuing to support her family. The opportunity came when she joined a local women's community group and secured training in bee keeping from the Uganda Bee Keepers Association.

With this practical knowledge and the confidence gained, she persuaded her father to lend her the use of two acres of land, and built a small bee colony. She began by selling crude, un-processed honey in bulk. She realized that she could increase her income through processing the honey and packaging it for retail sale, as well as diversifying into other products such as wax candles. But the lack of transportation to market her production held her back.

When I asked her why she needed a bicycle, she replied initially that without a bike, she had problems with her husband, because he never liked it when she arrived home late to prepare food. She added "It was also hard to sell the bottled honey and wax candles due to lack of transport." "I need to deliver pure organic honey to my customers in time," to keep it fresh.

As she said, "I sell some honey crude but to get a better price, you need to sell in small tins or bottles with labels." The processed honey (when all impurities are removed) is sold in small tins clearly labeled, indicating her company and contact details.

She harvests about 85 kgs of honey monthly, with each kilo selling for Shs. 4,000 (about US\$1.50). In addition, using beeswax, she now



makes candles and supplements her income significantly.

With savings, she purchased a blue mountain bike from the WPSO at Shs. 80,000 (\$30). She can now sell both crude and processed honey, as well as candles, to local buyers. The results have been immediate and significant. "Since I bought this bicycle my monthly income has increased from Shs. 250,000 (US\$93.75) to Shs. 380,000 (US\$142.50) through supplying honey and candles." In other words, the first month's increase in income resulting from her acquisition of

a bicycle more than paid for the bicycle; every month thereafter was pure profit. The increase in sales has enabled her to employ her daughters, who specialize in making candles for sale. Aisha noted that the bicycle helps her participate in community meetings and in particular in exchanges with other beekeeping societies to share experiences and spread the word about women's new roles in beekeeping. In this vein, Aisha specifically stated that she will encourage other women beekeepers to purchase and use their own bikes!

PANAMA

Panamanian Association of Goodwill Industries (Goodwill Panama): 2,643 bikes (six shipments) received in 2009.

The largest single recipient of BfW donations remains Goodwill Panama, the flagship of Latin American partners of Goodwill International, which received more than a quarter of 2009 production. Goodwill Panama runs a vocational education, rehabilitation, and employment program for the physically and mentally disabled. The bike effort is now Goodwill Panama's largest such vocational program, in which bikes are reconditioned and sold at affordable prices in low-income communities. Funds generated support vocational training and employment, including the construction and operation of a sewing program using



Don Juan Guillermo (red shirt) and Don Timoteo (blue shirt), from the Costa Rican community of Cuatro Esquinas (Four Corners), in the Los Chiles District close to the border with Nicaragua. They arrived in the capital of San Jose in a pick-up, selling their black beans, and came by FINCA's warehouse with the empty pick-up and a long pole protruding out the back. (FINCA staff had no idea what the pole was for until they started loading the bikes.) The bikes that they carried away are used by the workers in the orange groves and black bean farms of this border district. FINCA has received two containers per year, or approximately 850 bikes annually.

IOO used sewing machines supplied by BfW. In addition, we shipped 67 wheelchairs and many crutches and canes to Goodwill Panama. For further info on Goodwill Panama, visit goodwillpanama.org.

BARBADOS

Pinelands Creative Workshop:

935 bikes (two shipments):

The Pinelands Creative Workshop is a 33-year-old cultural, educational, and community development program in the Pinelands section of Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados. Pinelands runs a bike sales and service workshop for the local community. It trains and employs young people in bike mechanics, generating income to support community service programs ranging from Afro-Caribbean performing arts activities with local youth, to Meals on Wheels for elderly shut-ins.

COSTA RICA

Fundación Integral Campesina (FINCA): 1,400 bikes (three shipments)

For nearly 30 years, FINCA has mobilized savings and provided credit and investment capital for micro-enterprise development in marginal communities of Costa Rica. BfW bicycles are channeled through FINCA's extensive rural network, benefiting FINCA's micro-business owners and workers, especially women and young people. Several Peace Corps volunteers are involved in the FINCA program and with the bicycle initiative, at both the national and community level. In 2009, FINCA also received an additional 500 bikes from the Chicago IL-based Working Bikes Cooperative, a shipment arranged by Bikes for the World. Noteworthy during the year was a visit by a videographer from the U.S. State Department's public diplomacy website,

America.gov, resulting in a story on the Bikes for the World-FINCA Costa Rica collaboration. To see this video, visit america.gov/bikes.html. For further info on FINCA, visit fincacostarica.org.

EL SALVADOR

Salvadoran-American Humanitarian Foundation (SAHF) and Fundación Salvadoreña para la Salud y el Desarrollo Social (Salvadoran Foundation for Health and Social Development — FUSAL): 561 bicycles shipped by Working Bikes Cooperative. SAHF, based in Miami Fl. serves as the U.S. arm of FUSAL, a Salvadoran nonprofit agency with more than 25 years experience providing health and education services to the country's rural poor. A primary means of underwriting these efforts has been to channel in-kind donations of medical and other surplus U.S. goods.

In recent years, FUSAL has implemented Pro-Niño, a program addressing the low achievement and high dropout rate among rural youth, through the provision of school supplies, uniforms, and other donated materials.

In 2009, SAHF approached Bikes for the World seeking bicycles to facilitate school attendance for students living at a significant distance from school, and hence judged at greater risk of abandoning their studies. The gifting of a bicycle sought to simultaneously recognize recipients' scholarship and provide a practical tool for dealing with the often overwhelming pressures to drop out. Subsequent discussions with SAHF and FUSAL moved the project concept from simple donation to one incorporating and promoting local entrepreneurial activity in reconditioning and servicing of bicycles. In the final days

of the year, Bikes for the World arranged for its sister organization, Working Bikes Cooperative, to make an initial shipment of 561 bicycles to FUSAL. Information on the impact of the shipment, and prospects for a long-term relationship, will become available over the course of 2010. For updated info, visit bikesfortheworld.org, www.sahf.org, or www.fusa.com.

GUATEMALA

Servicios Ecuménicos de Formación Cristiana en Centro América (SEFCA): No bikes shipped during 2009

SEFCA's "Eco Bici", a community-owned youth-run bike shop refurbishes and sells used bicycles for local transportation in the Ciudad Peronía neighborhood of Guatemala City. Due to continuing unfavorable conditions imposed by representatives of the Guatemalan government,

no bicycles were shipped in 2009. As of the end of the year, conversations were underway to renew the relationship and send a container-shipment sometime in 2010.

HONDURAS

Art for Humanity: 129 bikes Art for Humanity, an entirely volunteer-based non-profit based in Arlington VA, ships container-loads of donated household items—regularly including bicycles provided or processed by Bikes for the World-to Honduras, for direct distribution to the poor. Self-employment activities are an important component of the Art for Humanity program. BfW bicycles capitalize small sales and service enterprises and provide low-income individuals with transportation to work and school. In addition to providing bicycles to Art for Humanity, Bikes for the World also donates the use of its Northern VA shipping facility for A4H shipments. Art for Humanity stores collected items at scattered sites, including mobile trailers as well as the home of the founder, and brings everything together on loading day at the Bikes for the World site. For further information on Art for Humanity, visit artforhumanity.org.

United States

During 2009, BfW donated 129 bikes—especially children's bikes and road bikes suitable for paved surfaces—through several Washington, DC, metropolitan region programs, including Phoenix Bikes (Arlington, VA), Bikes for Tykes and Teens (Alexandria, VA), and our very own Maryland-based Rockville Youth Bike Project.

Rockville Youth Bike Project
The Rockville Youth Bike
Project completed its third
year in 2009. RYBP has

focused both on supporting the mission of Bikes for the World to ship bikes to developing countries, and building local community through promoting safe bicycling in Rockville.

RYBP operates out of two buildings at the historic King Farm Farmstead in Rockville, a heated cottage containing an office and workshop and an unheated 3,000 square foot barn used for storage of bicycles and parts. Mike McMillion is the director, instructor, and lead mechanic.

During 2009, making effective use of the RYBP location across the street from the Shady Grove Waste Transfer Station, Bikes for the World and RYBP staff and volunteers recovered approximately 1,000 complete bikes, and many wheels, saddles, pedals, and other bicycle parts—weighing more than 18 tons—directly from the Montgomery County (MD) waste stream.



This has had positive social and environmental impacts, on a local and global scale. Reusing materials reduces our local waste stream and reduces energy consumption in manufacturing new product, thereby reducing our society's carbon footprint. And putting unwanted bikes to good use empowers and benefits recipients socially and financially, in the US as well as overseas. The three programmatic pillars of the RYBP are:

Bike and pedestrian safety training in the Rockville public and private

elementary schools, under contract to the City of Rockville, MD. This program goes onsite to elementary schools within the city limits, working with physical education instructors. Students in grades K-2 receive instruction on basic pedestrian safety principles, while those in grades 3-5 get helmet-fitting and a practical application of cycling "rules for the road."

During 2009, RYBP's director/trainer worked with teachers in nine schools, conducting 467 classes withmore than 9,225 students.

Evaluations by the teachers were consistently and over-whelmingly positive. Continued refinement of the curriculum has attracted notice from the state Safe Routes to School program, and inquiries from West Virginia, Arizona and New York.

- The TERRIFIC/ Earn-a-Bike program, in cooperation with the City of Rockville Department of Recreation. Open to all Rockville children in grades I-5, candidates must complete six or more responsible actions, verified by a parent or mentor. Fulfilling the requirements proves that they are "TERRIFIC"— Trustworthy, Earnest, Respectful, Responsible, Involved, Fair, Industrious, and Caring. Awardees earn reconditioned bicycles, new helmets, and new locks, and receive a certificate at a meeting of the Rockville City Council.

RYBP collects and reconditions the bicycles, then fits and awards them to recipients at the King Farm location.

This year saw a slight dip in number of bikes awarded, from 39 in 2008 to 27, but we anticipate expanding the pool of applicants and number of awardees in 2010, doing more outreach and working more closely with county recreation centers.

- Student Service Learning (SSL) activities, assisting the Bikes for the World international program. In cooperation with the Montgomery County Volunteer Office and the Montgomery County Public Schools, RYBP provides "student service learning" opportunities required for state high school graduation. During 2009, RYBP engaged more than 70 students who dedicated more than I,000 hours of qualifying volunteer time. Student volunteers learn a wide variety of basic

mechanical skills and apply problem-solving skills as well. Many come back regularly.

During 2009, the RYBP loaded four containers at King Farm or at a second nearby storage site, adjacent to the Twinbrook Metro Station. These four shipments went to non-profit programs in Barbados, Uganda, Ghana, and Panama. For the 2009 Martin Luther King "National Day of Service," around the time of the presidential inauguration, Bikes for the World worked with more than 40 volunteers—approximately

one third SSL students collecting public donations of more than 70 bikes, and prepping another I50 bikes for eventual shipment. Not all the activities at King Farm involve working on bikes. Community bike rides began on a regular basis in 2009, totaling 15 events. Based on their popularity and success, we plan to double that number in 2010. Most rides are about an hour and involve the pleasant quiet streets and multi-user path systems in the surrounding King Farm neighborhood and Rockville in general.



Other Local Programs

-Phoenix Bikes, Arlington, VA

Phoenix Bikes empowers local youth to become social entrepreneurs through direct participation in a financially and environmentally sustainable non-profit bike shop that serves the community providing affordable bikes and repairs. Programs train youth in bike mechanics, business operations, and social entrepreneurship, as well as offering planned rides. Bikes for the World donated 67 bikes to Phoenix in 2009, and in addition sold several higherend road bikes on consignment to raise funds for general operations.

-Bikes for Tykes and Teens, Alexandria, VA

Sponsored by Heritage Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA, this outreach effort, led by member Charles Jones, has placed more than 500 refurbished bicycles in the hands of needy children in southern Fairfax County, working in tandem with local shelters, the Salvation Army, and other local social service agencies. Originally dependent on individual donations of bicycles, the program now receives the bulk of its bikes from the Fairfax County Police. During 2009, Bikes for the World donated nine 20-inch-wheel BMX-type bicycles to this program.

-Local Christmas Bike Projects, Columbia MD and Potomac MD

Sponsored by Columbia's
St John the Evangelist Catholic
Church and Potomac United
Methodist Church, respectively, these "Christmas bike"
projects gifted refurbished
bicycles, helmets, and locks to
children from low-income
households in the greater
Washington, DC-Baltimore
metropolitan region. Bikes
for the World donated another
25 bikes to these programs,
from of the bikes received at

collections sponsored by the two churches in September.

-Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling

Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB) is an informal network of individual cyclists working to educate the elected officials, staff, and residents of Virginia's largest jurisdiction, Fairfax County, along with state officials and personnel dealing with transportation, on cycling issues. Bikes for the World provided one bicycle—a rusty old road bike—as a candidate for a "ghost bike" to commemorate a cyclist victim of poor traffic conditions in the county.

BIKES FOR THE WORLD BIKE COLLECTIONS

Bikes for the World completed 86 collections during 2009. Collections were hosted by 79 different organizationsschools, churches, synagogues, scout troops, and community groups of all types. At these events, sponsor volunteers "compacted" donated bikes—removing pedals, lowering seats, and turning and rotating handlebars—for efficient storage and packing. The full list of institutional partners appears in Annex 4.

Without these collective and individual volunteer efforts sourcing and prepping bikes, BfW could not function successfully or efficiently. Community sponsors make it possible for individuals to donate their bikes, and the volunteers on-hand reduce the size of each bike to its minimum dimensions, facilitating efficient transport, storage, and eventual packing.

These events brought in approximately 7,000 of the 8,951 bicycles collected and delivered during 2009, averaging close to 100 bikes per collection. Most collec-



tions net fewer; the average is skewed upwards by a few large events, such as Hagerstown, MD's Otterbein United Methodist Church, which on April 25, 2009, set a one-day Bikes for the World record by netting nearly 400 bikes. The number is all the more impressive because Otterbein has averaged more than 200 bikes annually going back to 2005. One would be forgiven for thinking that the supply of used bicycles in western Maryland might be close to exhausted, but that does not appear to be the case.

Standout collection efforts in 2009:

On the same weekend that
Otterbein set its record
individual event total, four
other organizations (Georgetown Day School, the City of
Falls Church Recycling
Office, the Potomac
Rotary/Wootton High School
Interact Club, and the
Knights of Columbus at St
Andrew the Apostle Catholic
Church in Clifton, VA)
collected another 300-plus
bikes, setting new single-day

and weekend records.

It took two days, and the efforts of many volunteers recruited on short notice, to bring these bikes back and placed in storage. Most outstanding was the work of Phil Ruth, who drove a truck both days enabling us to absorb the flood of bikes from the Otterbein collection.

Sustained involvement continues to be a key factor in Bikes for the World's success, and the individuals and community organizations which have contributed over many years deserve recognition.

Two organizations—
the Herndon (VA) Friends
Meeting and St. John the
Evangelist Catholic/St John's
United MethodistPresbyterian (Columbia,
MD)—have consistently
collected bikes for more than a
decade. Both sponsored their
14th annual bike collections in
2009. Over the years, HFM

has brought in nearly 2,000 bikes in all, augmented with more than 200 from the Herndon Police, and these collections have generally taken place in July, owing to manager Paul Murphy's involvement in soccer both spring and fall. Every year I tell Paul he has chosen the hottest weekend of the year to work on bikes—and as many of you know, when 100 or more bikes come in, it gets hot quick!

Work in Columbia, in contrast, began on a IO-degree night in December 1995, picking up bikes one at a time at donors' homes, before settling into a balmy early fall routine of collections at the Inter-Faith Center. Over the years, collection manager Tom McCarthy and the Columbiabased churches have brought in more than I,700 bikes for overseas development.

Among the collection sponsors celebrating their 13th annual

bike collections were Trinity United Methodist Church (Alexandria VA), putting it at more than 1,000 bikes channeled since 1997; St. Mary's Catholic Church (co-sponsoring with Burke Presbyterian and Accotink Unitarian Churches); and the Landon School (Bethesda MD).

The Arlington County
Recycling Office (Arlington
VA) is another long-term
sponsor, dating to 1999
(and before that to 1995

under another County-affiliated program). With two collections annually, an average of 250 bikes came in each year. In 2009, due to fiscal constraints, the County scaled back to one collection bringing in another 90 bikes, for a 15-year total approaching 3,000 bikes.

Other long-term supporters this year include the Cumberland (MD) Rotary, which carried out its 8th annual bike collection in May; the City of Falls Church (VA) Recycling Office, which has sponsored collections twice-yearly since 2000, and the long-term ecumenical partnership of Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church and St Joseph's Catholic Community in Eldersburg MD, which enjoyed another huge year.

Former collection sponsors returned after a hiatus of a year or two — St Paul's Lutheran Church, Lutherville MD; Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Alexandria VA; Pat Jackson and Friends, Newark DE; the Warrenton (VA) Rotary Club; and Glenwood (MD) Middle School.

We welcomed some enthusiastic new partners during the year—a record II Boy Scouts did a bike drive as their community service project required for earning the Eagle rank. Other successful new partners included the Sandy Spring

(MD) Friends School (71 bikes), and Shepherdstown (WV) Elementary School (85 bikes).

Some of our new partners were far away, including Charlottesville, VA's Church of Our Saviour (74 bikes), Petersburg, VA's Appomattox Regional Governor's School (84 bikes, and Cherry Hill, NJ's Bret Hartke Elementary **School** (121 bikes). Topping them all in distance, however, was a special pick-up in western upstate New York, where the Williamsville High School Class of 1969 Reunion Committee sponsored Bikes for the World as its reunion class service project; WHS graduate and Bikes for the World director Keith Oberg brought back 150 bikes donated in conjunction with the event, re-acquainting with classmates in a novel and rewarding way.

Community-sponsored one-day bike collections



remained the major source of bicycle donations, but BfW continued to seek other sources of unwanted bicycles. Several large apartment complexes, their community bike storage rooms choked with abandoned bicycles, contracted with BfW to remove abandoned bikes. The police departments of Arlington County (VA), the Town of Vienna (VA), and the City of Rockville (MD) regularly donated bikes from their burgeoning impound lots.

Perhaps most significantly, BfW was able to increase the number of usable bikes from the Montgomery County (MD) Waste Transfer Station. County staff had previously approached BfW seeking a reliable partner for the largescale flow of unwanted bicycles. By year's end, BfW had removed almost 1,000 bicycles from the County waste stream. For its efforts, Bikes for the World received a small per bike payment out of a dedicated County fund



for waste reduction.

Other channels for donated bicycles during 2009 included local retailers (see list at the end of Annex I), which accepted bike donations on BfW's behalf, and drop-offs at the homes of several volunteers.

These activities did not always generate funding (for example, the police impound lots), but they yield significant program benefits: boosting collection numbers, tapping surplus labor and transport capacity during weekdays, producing a better mix of quality bikes, spreading the word about Bikes for the World, and reducing the number of bikes that enter the general waste stream.

The Sewing Machine Initiative

BfW's portable sewing machine program, which began in 2006 with 82 sewing machines delivered, continued with modest success, reaching its highest volume ever during 2009—IIO sewing machines donated to three partner agencies. During the year, 47 sewing machines went to Goodwill Panama, equipping Goodwill's newly constructed sewing training room (funded by the sale of bikes) and enabling Goodwill to expand the number of low-income individuals receiving training in sewing and tailoring. During the same year, FINCA Costa Rica and Uganda's Women Prisoners Support Organisation received 40 and 23 sewing machines, respectively. We believe that

the overall program has solid potential to grow, and we will redouble our efforts in future years, focusing on these three partner agencies, whose focus is vocational and whose beneficiary population is heavily female.

Building Local Relationships

How BfW signed a lease with IBG Companies, a major local commercial real estate developer, for the use of a heated receiving room for bicycle storage in the Twinbrook neighborhood of Rockville, MD, and occupied the space from November 2008 to July 2009. The heat in that space allowed us to conduct a very successful Martin Luther King Day/ National Day of Service collection and bike prepping event with 40 volunteers, netting 70 additional donated bikes—all on a miserably cold, snowy day. It also complemented our King Farm and

Tysons/McLean storage sites, expanding our "surge capacity" and permitting us to accommodate a record influx of bikes in spring 2009, in particular the 700-plus bikes that came in over the record weekend of April 25-26.

- We signed a partnership agreement with Fitness Resources, a local fitness equipment retailer entering the bicycle market for the first time, in which the company offered a \$50 discount on the purchase of a new Jamis bicycle for customers who bring in a qualifying used bicycle for donation to BfW.
- We collaborated with several area youth projects, effectively acting as a clearinghouse in which we donated bikes more appropriate for domestic use-and sometimes received bikes in return considered more appropriate for overseas-and participated in a joint bike sale to benefit respective youth projects.
- We continued our

relationship with West Group, a major developer in northern Virginia, which provides us with valuable space for the placement of our five storage trailers, making it our principal storage and shipping site. Through this arrangement, West Group makes an in-kind donation valued conservatively at \$5,000/ month, or \$60,000/year.

- We continued our relationship with the City of Rockville, MD, including the third year of a five-year lease agreement for storage and office facilities at the King Farm Farmstead, a partnership providing bicycles to elementary school students who earn them through doing good deeds in the community, and fulfilling the second year of a three-year contract to provide Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Education training services in Rockville elementary schools.
- For a fifth straight year, BfW rescued bikes discarded at the Montgomery County (MD)

Waste Transfer Station in Shady Grove, under an agreement with the County's Recycling and Waste Reduction program. Over the course of the year, BfW took more than 1,000 serviceable bicycles, plus many valuable spare parts including tubes, tires, wheels, saddles, and cranks, out of the waste stream for delivery to local or overseas partners, representing a 20% jump over the approximately 800 bikes rescued in 2008. At an average of more than 30 lbs/bicycle, BfW effectively moved 30,000 lbs from metal recycling to reuse.

- Bikes for the World, along with the U.S. Cycling Hall of Fame, were beneficiaries of the charity fundraising auction of the Cirque du Cyclisme, an annual gathering of vintage bicycle aficionados, netting nearly \$7,000 for BfW. In 2010, we will be the sole beneficiary of the Cirque event.
- ಈ BfW also expanded

relationships with area bicycle shops. Over the course of 2009, 12 Washington-and Baltimore-area retailer sites served as drop-off sites for donations to Bikes for the World; ten others hosted a BfW bike collection. All these shops, and another six, have also been very generous in donated new and used parts and accessories, as well as a number of high-quality bikes that were abandoned in their repair departments. Bike shop collections accounted for an estimated 1,000 used bicycles in 2009, plus extra parts and assistance.

Volunteers are the heart of Bikes for the World. We could not economically receive, prep, load, truck, unload, sort, pack, and ship nearly 9,000 valuable bikes, augmented by spare parts, if we relied solely on paid labor. They deserve all recognition and credit for the organization's accomplishments. Speaking of which...

Public Recognition of Bikes for the World

BfW and its personnel received significant media coverage in 2009, including:

- Go Our National Day of Service event was mentioned in the Washington Post, along with coverage on a German television station and in an Oslo, Norway daily paper (January)
- জৈ "MCDOT News", a segment of the Montgomery County MD website, featured the National Service Day collection event (January)
- Moscie Retailer and Industry
 News (February)
- by 9 News Now, http://www.wusa9.com/news/ living_green_now/story.aspx? storyid=81296&catid=175 (February)
- http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/articles/2009/02/09/

- news/local_news/newsstoryI.txt
 (February)
- For International Student House published an alumni profile of BfW founder Keith Oberg (April)
- Nonprofit Awareness, a blog about social organizations (April)
- bikes.html a two-minute video piece on BfW produced by the US Department of State (June)
- Amherst (NY) Bee, on the occasion of a 40th year reunion service project, of the Williamsville High School Class of 1969 (June)
- Feed Your Good Dog, a blog about nonprofit activity (September)
- To Voice of America produced a video about BfW (November)
- Metro International
 Newspaper

- For regular coverage in smaller daily papers about local collection events, along with mentions in *Spokes*, a regional monthly newspaper about cycling events in the mid-Atlantic region.
- Bikes for the World established a Facebook page and a Twitter account.
 To sign up, visit facebook.com/bikesftworld
- Johns Hopkins University taped a video for release in 2010 on BfW's founder, an alumnus of the university's DC-based School of Advanced International Studies.

GOALS FOR 2010

Bikes for the World has several aims for 2010, specifically:

- Securing long-term storage space in northern Virginia;
- * Leasing office space and hiring a part-time office manager who can handle much

- of the organization's paperwork;
- From Resuming growth trajectory in the number of annual collections, collection sponsors, and bicycles shipped;
- Separating from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and operating as a stand-alone 501(c) (3). The partnership with WABA was a great way for BfW to get started. However, in our five years of operation, we have established enough momentum to function independently. This requires incorporating in the State of Virginia and filing additional paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service to qualify as a nonprofit able to provide donors with a tax deduction.

Annex 1

Acknowledgements

Bikes for the World is grateful to the Washington Area Bicyclist Association for its sustained support and continued sponsorship during 2009, our fifth year of operations.

Bikes for the World also expresses it appreciation to 2009 key volunteers, including steering committee members Craig Annear, Nick Griffin, and Jerry Rogers, as well as Phil Ruth and Rich Robinson, who shouldered a major share of collectionmanaging, truck-driving, and "container load-leading;" steering committee member Hellen Gelband, assisted by George Tyler, who managed numerous collections and edited our annual report and end-of-year letter; steering committee member and webmaster Ben Slade; and professional environmentalists and volunteer truck-drivers
Mark Sajbel and Antonio
Bravo, who stepped in at
critical times to bring
hundreds of bikes back from
distant collections to our
storage sites.

Many thanks to the West Group, the JBG Companies, and the City of Rockville (MD) for the in-kind donation of valuable space for the storing and shipping of bicycles. The three sites one in Northern Virginia and two in suburban Marylandcomplemented nicely, providing greater overall storage capacity and flexibility in handling the oftenunpredictable and sometimes overwhelming inflow of bicycle donations (see discussion on 700-bike weekend, above). Locations on opposite sides of the Potomac River enabled BfW to efficiently cover collections across the increasingly-traffic-congested Washington-Baltimore region.

Finally, thanks as well to The Gardens Retirement Community in Fairfax, VA, for making its 15-foot box truck available from time to time, at no charge, so that we could transport bikes from collections to storage. This complements and augments BfW's commercial rental truck arrangement with Penske, and the director's Toyota Sienna mini-van and eight-ft trailer.

Annex 2

2009 Steering Committee

- · Craig Annear McLean, VA
- Antonio Bravo
 Falls Church, VA
- Hellen Gelband
 Takoma Park, MD
- Nicholas Griffin Washington, DC
- James Kolb
 Washington, DC
- Keith Oberg Arlington, VA

- Gerard Rogers
 Falls Church, VA
- John Shettel Olney, MD
- Ben Slade
 Chevy Chase, MD

Annex 3

Donors

\$10,000+

Anonymous

\$5,000+

International Monetary Fund

\$1,000-\$4,999

Shirley Brownrigg Charitable Trust

Mark Kolva George Kurz Emily Littleton Friends of Liberia

\$500+

Janet Bickel Carol & Jim Branscome William Nickel Saint Claire Seifert Julie Simon & Robert Knoll Joel Wittenberg & Mary Ann Ek

\$100+

Annella Auer, Anonymous, Per Bang-Jensen, Jaia Barrett, D. Bryan Bassett, Carol Bennett, Sarah Bever, Gary Boughan, Priscilla Brindley, Tom Calhoun & Thelma Triche, Ian Chamberlain, Grisell Collazo, Marie Collins, Brian Dietz, Tom Dunlap, Bruce Dwyer, Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Joann Fout, Hellen Gelband, Robert Goo, Carol Goodloe, Brian Green, Gary Gortenburg, Fiona Grant, Scott Gourley, Nicholas Griffin, James Hall, Marcia Harrington, Heidi Henning, Brian & Maria Heyman, Cris Hicks-Usta, Ekizabeth Hilder, Janina Issawi, Maurice Johnston, Therese Kmieciak, James Kolb, Ira Koretsky, Stacey Kowal, Russell Kuba, Langley Hill Friends Meeting, Richard LaRoche, Susan

Levine, Phil Loar, Michael Lunceford, Kent Lupberger & Augusta Molnar, Edward MacLaughlin, Jon McClaren, Evan McDonnell, Theresa Michael, Colin Moffett, Arrielle Monange, Jeanne Morency, Tim Mulligan, Warren & Susan Nelson, Lynnette Nieman, Ting-Yi Oei, Steve Oglethorpe, Mike Palmer, Pat Pancoe, James Porrino, Debby Prigal, Patricia Raber, Rich Reis, Michael Replogle, William Richardson, Lisa Robinson, Richard Robinson, Rita Schenk, Neil Sigmon, Ben & Alix Slade, John Smallwood, Diane Sockwell, Barbara Standard, Michelle Sutton, Patrick Szymanski, Vivek Talvadkar, Dale Theurer, Trudie Thompson, Elizabeth Trangsrud, Lorraine Trexler, Philip True, Scott Tsukuda, Chris van Hasselt, Nichole Washington, Merywen Wigley, Iris Williams.

Annex 4

Collection & Loading Sponsors (83 Total)

Delaware (I)
Pat Jackson and Friends,
Newark.

Maryland (36)

Ann Jackson & Friends, Severna Park; Boy Scout Troop #255 Eagle Community Service Project (Eric Klein); Rockville; Boy Scout Troop #702 Eagle Community Service Project (Thomas Underwood). Clarksville; Boy Scout Troop #903 Eagle Community Service Project (John Standard), Huntingtown; Boy Scout Troop #913 Eagle Community Service Project (Ben Foltin), Potomac; Carroll Creek Rotary Club, Frederick; Congregation Beth El, Bethesda: Crusader Lutheran Church, Rockville; Cumberland Rotary Club; Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel; Earth Day

Silver Spring; Evergreen Cove Holistic Learning Center, Easton: Glenwood Middle School: Hudson Trail Outfitters, Gaithersburg; Hudson Trail Outfitters, Rockville; Knights of Columbus – San Juan Bosco Council #14726 and Bishop McNamara Council #1622, Frederick: Landon School, Bethesda: National Institutes of Health Bicycle Commuter Club, Bethesda; Olney Rotary Club/Sherwood High School, Olney; Otterbein United Methodist Church, Hagerstown; Potomac Rotary Club/T.S. Wootton High School Interact Club, Rockville: Potomac United Methodist Church, Potomac; Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), College Park; Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), Rockville; Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), Timonium, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church/St. John's United Methodist-Presbyterian Church,

Celebration at the Blairs,

Columbia; St. Joseph's Catholic Community/Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church, Eldersburg; St. Paul's Catholic Community, Damascus: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutherville; St. Paul's School, Brooklandville; Sandy Spring Friends School; Stop, Swap and Save, Westminster; Temple Shalom Mitzvah Service Day, Silver Spring; Waldorf Kiwanis Club; Washington Area Bicyclist Association/The Bicycle Place, Silver Spring.

New Jersey (1)

Bret Hartke Elementary School, Cherry Hill.

New York (2)

Calvary Episcopal Church, Williamsville; Williamsville High School Class of 1969.

North Carolina (3)

PAVE Creative Group, Winston-Salem; Family Health International, Durham; Research Triangle Park Rotary Club.

Pennsylvania (2)

Mercersburg Academy; Pennswood Village Social Concerns Committee, Newtown.

Virginia (39)

Appomattox Regional Governor's School, Petersburg VA; Arlington County Recycling Office; Arlington Volunteer Network: Bonzai Sports, Falls Church; Boy Scout Troop #149 Eagle Community Service Project (Sam Palmer), Arlington; Boy Scout Troop #III3 Eagle Community Service Project (Justin Frazier); Fairfax; Boy Scout Troop #1365 Eagle Community Service Project (Paul Gupta), Woodbridge; Boy Scout Troop #1849 Eagle Community Service Project (Ben Rothberg), Springfield; Boy Scout Troop #1978 Eagle Community Service Project (David Secor); Vienna; Boy Scout Troop #1985 Eagle Community Service Project (Pat Cary)/ Fair Lakes League, Fairfax; Burgundy Farm

Country Day School, Alexandria; Burke Presbyterian Church; Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville; Cirque du Cyclisme Leesburg; City of Falls Church Recycling Office; Fairfax County Recycling Office/Herndon High School Students Against Global Abuse, Herndon; Father Julius J. Cilinski Council #10947 Knights of Columbus, Clifton; Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Alexandria; Herndon Friends Meeting; Howard Gardner School, Alexandria: Hudson Trail Outfitters, Arlington; Hudson Trail Outfitters. Fairfax; Jesse Isserow Bar Mitzvah Service Project, Alexandria VA; Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, Lovettsville; Potomac School, McLean; R4 Collection Day (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Reston!): Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), Baileys Crossroads; Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), Fairfax; Reston Town Center Grand Prix; St. Mary's

Catholic Church, Fairfax; St.
Mary's Catholic Church,
Fredericksburg; South Run
Recreational Center,
Springfield; Temple B'nai
Shalom, Fairfax Station;
Trail's End Cycling Company,
Purcellville; Trinity United
Methodist Church,
Alexandria; UnitarianUniversalist Church of
Arlington; Village Skis &
Bikes, Woodbridge; Volunteer
Alexandria Big Event;
Warrenton Rotary Club;

Washington DC (5)

Alice Deal Junior High School; Bar mitzvah service project at Temple Micah (Gideon Blum); Community Relations Departments of the Inter-American Development Bank/International Monetary Fund/World Bank; Georgetown Day School; Junk in the Trunk LLC.

West Virginia (1)

Shepherdstown Elementary School Thanks to the following bike shops for serving as BfW bike donation drop-off sites:

- Bikes of Vienna Vienna, VA
- Bike Rack
 Washington, DC
- Bob's Bike Shop Poolesville, MD
- City BikesWashington, DC
- City Bikes
 Chevy Chase, MD
- Haymarket Bicycles Haymarket, VA
- Oasis Bike Works
 Fairfax, VA
- Pedal Pushers
 Severna Park, MD
- Race Pace Bicycles Ellicott City, MD
- Race Pace Bicycles Columbia, MD
- Race Pace Bicycles Owings Mills, MD
- Pedal Pushers
 Severna Park, MD
- Spokes Etc.
 Vienna, VA
- Spokes Etc., Alexandria, VA
 (Belle View Blvd)

 Village Skis & Bikes Woodbridge, VA

We also want to thank the following businesses for their support:

- Griffin Cycle, Bethesda MD
- Hudson Trail Outfitters, Gaithersburg MD
- Reliable Hauling, Arlington VA



For further information on donating a bike or sewing machine, sponsoring a bike collection in the United States, or requesting a shipment of bikes, visit bikesfortheworld.org, or write or call:

Bikes for the World Box 34, Vienna VA 22183 Tel 703-740-7856 office@bikesfortheworld.org

Annex 5: Bikes for the World Financial Statement for 2009

INCOME		EXPENSE	
Contributions		Administration	
Civic Groups	1,746.00	Advertising	696.53
Corporation/Business	402.35	Bank Charges	217.08
Faith Communities	2,560.00	Computer Programming	865.00
Fundraising – Auction	2,591.67	Mailing Service	820.00
Grants	18,676.00	Mileage Reimbursement	5,381.50
Individuals	22,253.12	Office Rent	600.00
Individuals w/bikes	57,818.45	Postage & Delivery	1,345.06
Restricted	2,500.00	Printing & Copying	1,031.98
Rockville Youth Bike Project	970.00	Rockville Youth Bike Project	217.44
Total Contributions	109,517.59	Supplies	1,930.54
		Telephone & Internet	3,070.62
Interest	102.29	Travel & Conferences	586.33
		Total Administration	16,762.08
Other Revenue			
Bikes	3,944.17	Contract Service	
Consignment Sales	2,200.00	Accounting	642.50
Tee Shirts/MIscellaneous	753.29	Fundraising	65.33
Total Other Revenue	6,897.46	Total Contract Service	707.83
Program		Facilities & Equipment	
Safety Education	8,470.00	Equipment Repairs	60.00
Shipping		Fuel	655.89
Shipping Income	88,296.00	Supplies Out	258.76
Shipping Expense	-70,372.05	Tools Out	1,651.53
Net Shipping	17,923.95	Vehicle Rental	8,224.38
Waste Reduction Contract	6,222.00	Facilities & Equipment - Other	150.00
Total Program	32,615.95	Total Facilities & Equipment	11,000.56
TOTAL INCOME	149,133.29	Program Admin WABA	3,475.23
		Employee Salaries	87,300.00
		Total Salaries & Wages	87,300.00
		TOTAL EXPENSE	189,617.75
		29,903.86	

Bikes for the World

Country Summary—Bikes Shipped

Country	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Totals (#)	Totals (%)
Afghanistan	0	0	0	40	0	40	0.1%
Barbados	448	894	915	1,432	935	4,624	11.4%
Costa Rica	884	890	1,820	1,820	1,400	6,814	16.7%
Gambia	0	240	0	0	0	240	0.6%
Ghana	439	2,728	1,864	3,249	1,345	9,625	23.7%
Guatemala	442	485	451	0	0	1,378	3.4%
Haiti	452	0	0	0	0	452	1.1%
Honduras	57	127	0	263	156	603	1.5%
Namibia	0	428	0	0	0	428	1.1%
Panama	1,781	1,803	2,345	2,360	2,643	10,932	26.9%
Sri Lanka	1,309	0	0	0	0	1,309	3.2%
Uganda	0	0	456	936	2,343	3,735	9.2%
USA	II	71	71	164	129	446	1.1%
Other	0	31	0	37	0	68	0.2%
Totals (#)	5,823	7,697	7,922	10,301	8,951	40,694	
Totals (%)	14%	19%	19%	25%	22%	100%	100.0%