2019 Snapshot

Transforming Communities Through Empowerment

Bikes for the World
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A Message From Our Executive Director:

When we work together towards a common goal of community betterment and empowerment, so much can be achieved. The successes of the past year are testament to the power of strong community connections that we’ve forged here locally in the Bikes for the World neighborhood. Combined with like-minded community-focused partners in urban and rural areas around the world, the impact of donated bikes has never been greater!

Thanks to a committed network of community partners that have grown in tandem with Bikes for the World’s expansion, we have been able to help our partners realize their own community-focused goals and expand upon their successes. Take for example our new Rotary-supported project in South Africa that grew out of a seed planted by the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek or a new environmental conservation-oriented program in Rwanda. If it hadn’t been for the unwavering support and encouragement of local partners, donors, and YOU we wouldn’t have had the resources or confidence to forge ahead with new endeavors such as these.

Building strong communities locally and abroad is the cornerstone of Bikes for the World’s goal of improving lives through access to a bike. Whether that means helping students getting to school or being exposed to the health benefits of an active lifestyle, getting farmers to their fields, providing a reliable means of access to employment or even helping endangered crane populations in Rwanda flourish, we can’t do it without the helping hands, minds and hearts of our local volunteers and civic partners!

Taylor Jones
Executive Director
These Junior Kindergarten students of Flint Hill School in Virginia may be little, but their idea on how they could help others went BIG! Their recycling journey began at the I-95 Landfill where they saw a pile of discarded bikes. Curious, they traced them to the Bikes for the World warehouse where they learned bikes could help people in need for essential purposes, such as transporting food, water and medicine. Going a step further, they took that message back with them and convinced their school to host a collection where they received over 100 bikes. Working alongside fourth grade buddies, they prepped and loaded the bikes for our next shipment to Madagascar.

Fairfax County Dept. of Public Works and Environmental Services Solid Waste Management Program has donated over 5,000 bikes from two locations, including the I-95 Landfill. They have equipped both locations with clearly defined donation areas specifically for Bikes for the World. We collect nearly one quarter of our annual bikes from waste transfer stations in MD and VA. This effort supports our warehouse service projects. In 2019 we collaborated with 98 groups like Flint Hill.
The Rotary Club of Carroll Creek has taken the act of simply collecting old bikes and transformed it into a rewarding hands-on Rotary project. Pulling together groups within the community including Rotaractors and Interactors, the RCCC quantified their success in 2019 by donating its 5,000th bike.

They also helped forge a partnership with the Rotary Club of Empangeni in South Africa to bring us an exciting new partner to close the year. By working together and bringing the strength of Rotary to our program we are able to expand our model to impact even more lives around the world. This connection will help us identify more individuals in need over a greater area in South Africa.
Village Bicycle Project aims to empower communities by strengthening bicycle culture. Programs combine quality subsidized bicycles with hands-on maintenance training for new owners. Village bike mechanics receive detailed training along with specialized bike tools and spare parts. This comprehensive, holistic approach ensures that bikes will be dependable, affordable and sustainable transportation for years to come. Women and girls, who are frequently marginalized, are specifically targeted for inclusion in programs which begin to address the gender inequalities that limit their access to bicycles. Village Bicycle Project operates in both Ghana and Sierra Leone; Bikes for the World supports both projects.

Changing lives for 20 years:

- **127,000** Bikes sent to Ghana & Sierra Leone
- **21,000** Beneficiaries trained in repair skills
- **4,000** Girls & Women learned to ride
- **60,000** Tools distributed to support mechanics
Isata and Rebecca made their first visit to the Village Bicycle Project bike shop to get new bikes and spare parts for their own stores. Both of them are trained as the first two female bicycle mechanics in Sierra Leone. Rebecca was first working with Isata as an apprentice before receiving mechanical training from VBP, allowing the two women to run their own shop and provide the community good quality bicycles including spare parts and professional bicycle services. These two ladies have become the icons of female entrepreneurs as they're still the only two female mechanics in Sierra Leone!

Bicycle mechanics are crucial pillars of small villages across Sierra Leone because their services keep the bikes up and running for students, nurses and farmers whose livelihoods can depend on a functioning bike. Small bike shops are also local hubs for commerce, mechanical knowledge and bike-centered education for women and girls who may otherwise not have access to such programs.
INVESTING IN...

**Education in Asia**

Reynaldo Naque is a student bike beneficiary from Dr. Beato Macayra National High School in Davao Oriental, Philippines. For Reynaldo a bike meant more than just a ride to school, it completely transformed how his classmates saw and treated him.

Naque was born with a spinal deformity which left him hunched over and much smaller than kids his own age. Because he was different, he wasn't accepted among his peers. He was bullied, until he received a bike.

*I made new friends because the other bikers treat me as a friend. Having the bike it's like we're all equal. When I'm not on my bike, I look short, while they're tall. On the bike we look equal.*

—Naque

**Healthcare in Africa**

Josephine Mupeta is a farmer and Community Health Volunteer (CHV) working with Transaid in Zambia. She was trained through a Transaid health program, like the one Bikes for the World supports in Madagascar, to specifically recognize when someone is suffering from malaria. Her motivation is to help save lives in her community. One of the ways Josephine educates her neighbors about the danger signs of malaria is through a catchy song to help young mothers remember what to look for when an infant is sick.

*The bicycle ambulance is the best thing that has happened to this community. I see people going about their daily lives in my community who otherwise wouldn’t be alive today.*

—Josephine

**Business in Central America**

Brauli, his wife Stephanie, and their son Matteo live in Bambu, a small community in Southeast Costa Rica. When not working as a firefighter, Brauli raises tilapia, maintains a plantain farm, and even has a small lychee crop on his two acre lot. Brauli has received bikes, spare parts and tools from BfW to support his work as the community bike mechanic.

*Being provided a complete tool kit to service and repair bikes has really improved the value of what I’m able to offer my community. Access to reliable tools and spare parts has allowed me to earn additional income to augment my work as a firefighter and has allowed my wife and I to build additional rooms in our house as our family has grown.*

—Brauli