



SNAPSHOT 2021



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2021 Impact



A Message From Taylor

At Bikes for the World, we are a community of people helping others and the past year has solidified our commitment to this mission. This was a year filled with challenges such as scarcity of bikes and associated parts, volunteer availability, not to mention general chaos and unpredictability in international shipping. While we could have hung our heads and grumbled about these hurdles, our phenomenal network of Bikes for the World supporters rose to the challenge and played a key role in ensuring that bikes were still getting into the hands of those who needed them most.

As we look back on 2021, our performance and stats appear impressive, but the numbers didn't tell the full tale. We started out cautiously optimistic hoping for a return to normal operations, although that never came to pass.

Even with readily available Covid vaccines, it would take most of the year before all of the Bikes for the World family, from our youngest volunteers to the most experienced collection managers, would be fully vaccinated.

Worldwide disruptions to the supply chain worsened throughout the year, making it hard to find parts and supplies. Scheduling shipments increasingly became a challenge. The demand from our partners was higher than ever with more people turning to bikes as healthy, cost-effective and sustainable means of transport during a prolonged period of uncertainty. Through it all, we learned new lessons, found new ways for our bikes to make an impact and established new connections. With a little patience and a lot of planning we turned our initial slow roll in 2021 into a smashing success as the numbers below show!



Volunteers

The Gang's All Here!

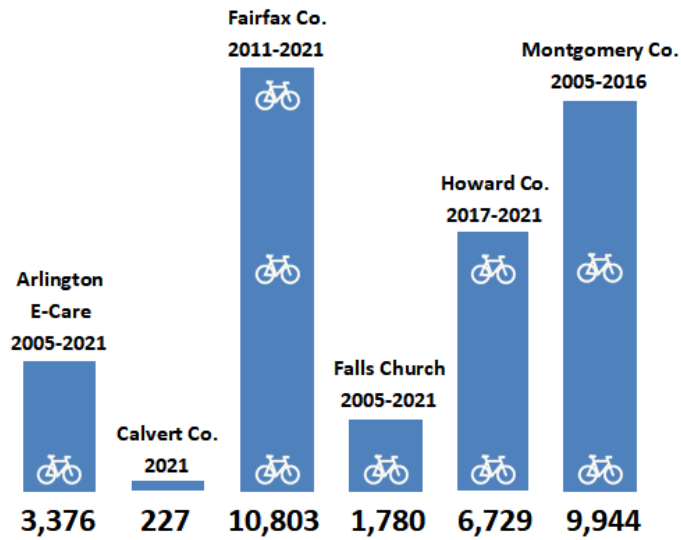
The most rewarding part of 2021 was bringing back our volunteers. As we took turns rolling up our sleeves for the vaccine, we unrolled our volunteer program cautiously. We moved from solo volunteer opportunities, to family pods, to finally welcoming back full groups, like Stone Ridge's Social Action Crew.

By re-engaging our core community, we expanded collection sites to include those typically managed by volunteers. This increased our visibility and provided more convenient drop off locations for our donors. These community-driven donation sites helped push the volume of donated bikes more inline with a typical year, which enabled us to better support our struggling partners.

However, emerging Covid variants and the rolling efficacy of vaccines made us pause in the warehouse. We restructured our volunteer program to allow for more student service learning opportunities and still welcome larger groups in the enclosed space. This involved fully staffing all volunteer sessions and working closely with individuals so that they could perform even the most intricate shop tasks. These changes allowed for more volunteers in a safer environment and also provided a more rewarding experience for everyone. Win-Win-Win!!



Recycle Centers



BIKES RESCUED FROM WASTE STREAM

To maintain our supply of bikes and meet the growing needs of our existing partners, we continued to rely on our relationship with recycle centers, including adding several new sites in Western and Southern Maryland. Our diverse source of donated bikes has allowed us to not only weather the pandemic, but enabled us to grow the program even as our number of collection locations was negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Our leading partnership with Fairfax County recycling has added over **10,000 bikes** to our program over the life of the relationship. This initiative has kept nearly **150 tons** of waste out of landfills and has provided Bikes for the World enough bikes to fill nearly **20 shipping containers!**

Since our founding, over 20% of the total bikes donated have come from recycle centers. In the last two years that percentage has doubled each year. This source also accounts for a significant portion of our spare parts supplied to rural mechanics used to keep our donated bikes serving their communities for the long haul. During the pandemic, when parts were in short supply, these rescued parts continued to keep those shops stocked, bikes rolling, and mechanics working.

Bike Shop Hubs

'21 SHOP PARTNERS

Annapolis Velo
Arrow Bicycle
The Bicycle Escape
Big Wheel Bikes
Bike Doctor— Frederick
Bikenetic
Bike Stop
Bikes @ Vienna
City Bikes
Conte's Bike Shop
Griffin Cycle
JRABS
Mt. Airy Bicycles
Newtown Bicycle Shop
Pedal Pushers
Proteus Bicycles
Pulaski Bikes
Race Pace Bicycles
REI Co-Op
Spokes, Etc.
Trek Bicycle
Wheel Base Bikes

 **2,063**
BIKES IN 2021

14,834



7,755



4,990



3,038



2,762



1,824



Leading shop partners over the years



Making Significant Contributions

Our diverse source of donated bikes is directly related to our overall consistency and certainly contributed to our resilience over the past two challenging years. Our reliable partnerships with local bike shops have given our donors more opportunities to donate bikes closer to home. The benefit to Bikes for the World is immeasurable.

Over 48,000 bikes have been donated through our bike shop connections since 2005. We rely on this source of bikes, especially over the winter season, to help us meet

the needs of our partners around the world even as our collection events decrease. Shop-donated bikes are also what keeps our volunteer activities going throughout the year.

For us, working with students is one of the highlights of our program. Students learn about bikes, the value of recycling, the importance of volunteering, all while extending a helping hand across the miles to increase jobs, provide better access to water, mobilize healthcare, create pathways to graduation and so much more.

The past two years we have been able to expand the number of bikes donated locally back into the community to aid those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Many of these bikes come to us via our partnership with local shops and the expanded efforts of shops has boosted our stock of bikes earmarked to stay local. In 2021 we worked with several community social service organizations to provide bikes, locks and helmets to Afghan refugees who have settled in the area and can benefit from a bike to get to work or school.

Special Shop Recognition

Spokes Etc.

Among our roster of local bike shop partners, two long term relationships stand out and deserve special recognition. Spokes Etc. has served as a drop off point since our founding, welcoming bike donations at all of their locations in Northern Virginia. For the last two decades they always made room in their crowded shops to hold bikes for us and occasionally helped transport them to one location for easier pick up.

During their busy holiday season, they have worked with generous customers who regularly purchased new bikes to be donated specifically to our projects. Some have ended up in Kenya, Uganda, and in our Bikes for Education project in the Philippines.

Spokes has generously worked with our youth volunteer managers to help promote their collection events. They routinely supported scouts to help generate even more bikes for their Eagle projects and ultimately our partners around the world. Through individual drop offs and collection collaborations, **Spokes has contributed nearly 9,000 bikes to our efforts, the equivalent of 18 containers.**



Race Pace Bicycle

A true champion for bikes in the greater Baltimore area, Race Pace has been a Bikes for the World shop partner since the very beginning.

From tabling sustainability events like Howard County Greenfest to acting as liaison with local businesses and police departments to accept large volume donations, every member of the Race Pace family played a vital role in our success. **Race Pace mechanics even stepped up to help repair 200 donated bikes to Baltimore city youth through a collective effort supported by BfW.**

Race Pace also took their humanitarian contribution a step further to ensure that we met our goal of a \$10 contribution per bike. **Of the 5,000 bikes donated through Race Pace shops 100% of them hit this target, with Race Pace donating much of the \$50,000 collected over the last 17 years.**

We commend both Race Pace and Spokes for their commitment not only to our project over the years, but for the significant contributions they made in our communities as well.



Moving Bikes



Bulk Pick ups

The biggest challenge of 2021 was navigating the myriad of new hurdles in the international container shipping world to get our donated bikes to partner programs where demand was reaching new highs every day. In order to keep our supply of bikes steady and our shipping schedule on-target, we really had to lean on our broad network of drop off locations. From bike shops, to recycling centers, or even condos and businesses that may donate bikes in bulk, these larger volume sources of bikes ensure operational efficiency and keep our volunteers busy.

Being able to count on these sources, like the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek, helps us plan for the year, which has been incredibly important during 2021 when scheduling shipments became increasingly more challenging because of supply chain and international shipping issues.

We often found ourselves juggling bikes in the warehouse and stacking them in the trucks to move and store bikes as we continued to battle rolling changes and canceled bookings. We definitely became more creative in our stacking techniques and often deployed more than one truck to a location to ensure removal of bikes. We all chipped in to help move bikes throughout the year, with Glenn topping the heap with a record 99 bikes on board the truck and trailer.





Learn Work Develop

We have a new partner! Learn Work Develop is a nonprofit organization in Rwanda and our second supported project in this country. To kick off 2021 we shipped our first container to aid their efforts uplifting women and children.

LWD offers educational and vocational training programs to help prepare and connect young people to career opportunities. They also work closely with young women to ensure they have the resources to stay in school and graduate. LWD offers a path to success, opening doors that once closed on dreams for a better tomorrow.

The bike project offers vocational training in terms of mechanical skills and business administration. The bikes themselves provide reliable, affordable transportation for education or personal errands. More importantly the revenue from bike sales augments grant funding from the United Nations Development Program aimed towards serving teenage mothers in the Rwamagana District with pre- and post-natal support and education.





Supporting Small Business

For small entrepreneurs in Costa Rica, bikes equal bucks. We partner with FINCA Costa Rica to help support their empresas de crédito (ECs) which are created in rural communities to help contribute to the social and economic development of its inhabitants. These credit communities strengthen and empower its co-op members to help create and grow small businesses that uplift their families, their neighbors, and the entire EC.

Because of the pandemic, many EC members experienced financial hardships that have continued into 2021. Of the workers affected, about half of them saw a decrease in their salaries and/or hours. This in turn impacted the income put back into their communities. Demand for bikes and sewing machines among the ECs was higher than ever in 2021 as we saw home-based enterprises take on more legitimacy while bikes afforded individuals with the opportunity to expand their employment horizons as the pandemic continued to impact traditional job sectors.

In 2021 Bikes for the World diverted one third of our donated bikes to support this transformative program. This in turn provided a foundation for financial stability to over 70 communities and thousands of EC members.



MARY DUBYUA

In January 2021 Mary graduated from nursing school, transferred to a new city and got a job at the hospital. Then the pandemic hit. She found herself in the middle of a health crisis in a position to make a life saving impact on her community.

But her job also put her in a dangerous situation. Her new commute required that she use public transportation which increased her risk of contracting and spreading coronavirus. Her co-worker, who had worked through the Ebola outbreak, suggested getting a bicycle. Mary connected with VBP and was soon riding safely and efficiently to work.

Health Workers

Internationally the demand for bicycles among healthcare workers continues to grow in rural communities. In Sierra Leone, our partner Village Bicycle Project, identified this need in 2020 and made it a priority to ensure front line workers in the medical field have the bikes they need to get to work and complete home health visits.



This team of doctors and nurses use their bikes to commute to work at the hospital, to complete home visits, to deliver vaccines to communities and to continue to monitor basic care and checkups families need to stay healthy.

TAMBA GEMISSON

Tamba is a state registered nurse working at Saint John hospital in Lunsar Sierra Leone. Tamba makes less than \$100 a month and cannot afford to pay for transportation. During the Covid outbreak he was happy to have safe, reliable transportation so that he could get to work and help save lives.



Philippines



Resupply– 501 Bikes Delivered

Bikes for the Philippines invested in a long term vision for growth that saw the program shift gears to provide repaired bikes to educators, healthcare workers and essential service employees in 2020. With the arrival of another container in 2021, they were able to expand the program. They also worked within the community to identify bike commuters who were using incomplete or unsafe bikes and swapped them out with bikes delivered from Bikes for the World.

Since our events were paused here at home, we decided to donate our famed blue Giant bike. This bike helped bring attention to our mission at events and was used in many school related activities where students got first hand experience with our volunteer opportunities without leaving their classrooms. This bike is now helping Melissa (second photo from left) commute to work in the Philippines.