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FLYER

Building sustainable communities by educating youth and promoting bicycling

RIDE IT LIKE YOU EARNED IT!

Where the Rubber Hits the Road

RACHEL & ADDY: Building Bikes & Confidence

Nine-year-old twins Rachel and Addy started coming to Bike Works last year for the All-Girls Earn-a-Bike class, following in the footsteps of their older sister, Emma. After completing the eight-week course and earning bikes, the twins continued to attend during drop-in hours and Saturday rides.

At first, Rachel and Addy stood out because they were young, quiet girls in a classroom often dominated by boisterous older boys. But their age, size, and gender didn't stop them from coming, week after week, building their mechanic skills as well as their confidence. Now what stands out about the twins is their enthusiasm for learning and their ability to light up the classroom! Watching Addy overhaul a headset with a seventeen-year-old newcomer or having Rachel take out the steel recycling bin (which can weigh as much as she does) is as empowering as it is entertaining.

Recently, they joined us for our Intro to Bike Touring Camp, which included three days of bike riding on the Kitsap Peninsula. On this trip, we had a chance to see more of the twins' individual personalities. We were surprised to learn that quiet Addy talks (loudly) to her sister in her sleep and that shy-seeming Rachel can, in fact, be very rebellious!

These sisters are the new generation of Street Burners – girls who choose to spend their Saturdays wrenching on bikes and fixing flat tires for their dads, “but I wouldn't recommend doing it in the kitchen,” jokes Addy. We want more girls to be able to say, “I don't worry about my bike breaking down because I know I can fix it,” as Rachel announced in front of a large crowd at the last Bike Works Auction. “In the All-Girls bike class, I learned that girls are just as good as boys at fixing bikes.” When all youth – girls and boys alike – from all backgrounds thrive in this environment and want to keep coming back, we know we are doing something right. In 2010, we served 295 students in our youth programs and partnerships, 54% of whom were youth of color and 49% of whom were girls.



Rachel and Addy show off the bike Rachel just earned through our Earn-a-Bike program

PARTNERSHIPS: UGottaGetABike

At Bike Works, we run all of our programs, our shop, and our administration in a very small remodeled house. The size of our space limits the number of youth we are able to serve on-site. In addition, we recognize that in certain cases, some families may have a hard time getting to our location. To address these challenges, and make sure we are reaching the youth who most need us, Bike Works partners with schools and nonprofits to offer custom programs to children and teens that may not be able to participate in on-site programming.

This June, we piloted a one-day, low-barrier program called UGottaGetABike at two local schools: Cleveland High School and Aki Kurose Middle School. The goal of this program is to get low-income youth (those on free or reduced lunch subsidies) onto bicycles. On rainy Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, we met the participants at their respective schools. After adjusting bike seats and fitting helmets, the youth learned how to fix a flat and get a chain back on. Then we spent most of the afternoon on safety skills lessons and a bike rodeo. The students rode around their school parking lots, practicing hand signals and sharing the road. A favorite part of the bike rodeo was when program staff held up signs with pictures on them. Students had to look behind them, practice staying in a straight line, and shout out “Bus!” or “Cow!” resulting in much hilarity. After proving they could cycle safely, students took home free helmets and “new” bicycles – refurbished by youth in our Earn-a-Bike and Drop-In Community Service programs. The participants were so excited about their new wheels that every one of them rode home!

In 2010, Bike Works served 183 youth through community partnerships and will increase that number over the next few years. After successful pilot programs at Aki Kurose Middle School and Cleveland High School this spring, we look forward to running four of these unique new partnerships with other schools and youth-serving organizations around Southeast Seattle this fall.



Cleveland High School students in the very first UGottaGetABike program

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Program Highlights

EARN A BIKE:

Kids, Bikes, & Sweat Equity

Earn-a-Bike classes and twice-weekly Community Service Drop-In Repair start up every September here at Bike Works, and this year is no exception. Returning youth are excited to get back to wrenching and our new class of students is equally eager to jump in and learn about the world of bikes. This year, students will refurbish bikes to be given away to low-income youth who don't already have bikes through a new partnership program. Both the youth who are fixing the bikes and those who are receiving them feel empowered to know that young people are at both ends of this spectrum. It's inspiring to see the youth of South Seattle doing it for themselves . . . and for each other! Last year, 67 youth participated in our Earn-a-Bike classes, and 81 came during our drop-in hours. Together they logged 1,890 hours of community service and helped Bike Works repair and donate 148 bikes to youth in need.

Adult & Volunteer Programs

Max moved to Seattle to teach literacy in Seattle schools through AmeriCorps. As part of his commitment, Max also needed to volunteer with a local nonprofit. Bike Works was a natural fit. Max loves bikes and depends on his bike for transportation, so he wanted to learn more about how to keep his own bike running properly. Coming to his first Volunteer Repair Party (VRP), Max immediately felt at home in the friendly, social atmosphere. Though a beginner at bike repair, his welcoming demeanor made him a natural mentor for other new volunteers. Over the next two years, Max regularly attended VRP and took every opportunity to develop his skills and share them. He built bikes for friends, took our pilot Wheel-Building class, gave time to our recycling programs during the week, and served as the volunteer co-instructor for our Adult Basics Class. This summer, Coyote Central School called looking for a last-minute instructor for their bike repair camp. They wondered did we know an experienced teacher, with bike repair chops and the smarts to be able to throw together an entire class – from curriculum and supplies list to finished product and happy kids – with only four days to prepare? We sure did! Max was such a success that the school is hiring him again this fall. We are excited that Max can use the skills and confidence he gained as a Bike Works volunteer to serve his community. Every year, close to 400 adult volunteers give almost 4,000 hours to Bike Works, improving their skills in bike mechanics and finding a welcoming community.

“ I didn't just get a bike.
I also learned how to fix one,
which was very exciting. –Patrick, age 10 ”

Recycle & Reuse Program

Every year, the thousands of bikes we rescue from the landfill head back into the community through our shop, programs, and creative partnerships. Bike Works delivers bicycles and parts to businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs who use them in their trade. We also partner with nonprofits to put bikes into the hands of people who need them, both here and abroad. An example of one of the local organizations that we work with is Cycling Forward, a program that offers homeless and street-involved young adults the opportunity to build, maintain, and own bicycles – the 40 bikes distributed through that program since it started last fall came from us. Last year, thanks to your bicycle donations, we processed 2,533 used bicycles, saving 41 tons of waste, and providing transportation to thousands of people!

SUMMER CAMPS: Leadership Camp

Summer kicked off with our Leadership Bike Touring Camp! Our youngest camper was fourteen and heads to high school in the fall. The oldest graduated a few weeks before camp began. Some of these youth started at Bike Works this year and some spent most of their childhood here. Regardless of their age or experience, everyone took turns leading – cooking meals, running activities, and facilitating discussions – and each trained to be junior camp instructors. From a trip to Grand Coulee Dam to riding along desert highways with gorgeous vistas, the trip was full of fun and inspiration, too! “The cliffs were absolutely majestic,” said one youth. “They will stay with me for a long time.” Three participants interned in our camps this summer and one joined Bike Works staff as an AmeriCorps member in September! We hope that this inspiring group of Bike Works leaders learned more about themselves, each other, and the world in a way that makes them understand their importance – now and in the future.

Community Bike Shop

When we get requests for bike rentals, as we did from a customer named Allen who was in Seattle for the summer, we suggest buying one of our affordable used bikes. Allen did just that, and used his “urbanized mountain bike” for the whole season for quite a bit less than it would have cost to rent. At the end of the summer, Allen donated the bike back to us, wanting to support our “great organization and the nicest shop staff [he'd] ever met!” Our shop sells refurbished used bikes and provides friendly repair service to the community, while raising money to support our programs. Each year, we serve thousands of customers and sell over a thousand refurbished bikes.

A Huge THANK YOU to our 2010 Donors

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Build bikes at weekly Volunteer Repair Parties

Volunteer at our events

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DONATE BIKES AND BIKE PARTS!

Road Bikes

Mountain Bikes

Kids Bikes

2010 Annual Report to our Community

Educating Youth!

- **294 youth served** in our Earn-a-Bike classes, drop-in hours, camps, and community partnerships
- **1,890 hours of community service** logged by youth
- **54%** of youth were **youth of color**
- **46%** of youth **received scholarships** to cover class fees

Promoting Bicycling!

- **268 families served** at our annual Kid's Bike Swap
- **90 free activities offered**, including neighborhood rides, mountain biking, BMX trick riding, track racing, safety rodeos, and community events
- **8,985 miles ridden** by youth on Bike Works rides
- **3,985 hours of community service** logged by 381 adult volunteers

Recycling Bicycles!

- Over **6,000 customers served** in our community bike shop
- **2,533 bikes donated** to Bike Works
- **97% (2,373 bikes) returned to the community** (6% recycled), including:
 - 163 bikes donated to nonprofits
 - 1,255 bikes sold through our shop
 - 364 bikes distributed to youth in our programs and Kids Bike Swap event
 - 591 bikes sent to villages abroad

“ Before this bike trip, I had never ridden up any hill before, but now I am conquering every hill that comes my way. Thanks for showing me how to do the impossible. ”

—Kayla, age 13

Financial Report Fiscal Year Ending 12/31/2010

REVENUE

Earned Income from Shop & Programs	343,105	52%
Foundations	61,238	9%
Corporate Sponsorship & Matching	38,263	6%
Individual Contributions	98,616	15%
Special Events / Auction	118,595	18%

Total Revenue **\$659,817** **100%**

EXPENSES

Programming	409,069	67%
Administration	120,844	20%
Fundraising & Special Events	80,557	13%

Total Expenses **\$610,470** **100%**



Volunteer mechanics fix up a bike to be traded at our annual Kids' Bike Swap © Marcellina Tylee