



# Bikes For Kids



**December 2014 Newsletter**

**P.O. Box 94, Centerbrook, CT 06409**

**Please start using our NEW PHONE NUMBER: 860-388-BIKE(2453)**

**E-mail: [davefowler05@gmail.com](mailto:davefowler05@gmail.com)**

**Our website: [www.bikes-for-kids.net](http://www.bikes-for-kids.net)**

facebook 

**Follow us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/BikesForKidsCT](http://www.facebook.com/BikesForKidsCT)**

## **WE ARE APPROACHING 17,000 DONATED BICYCLES!**

Bikes For Kids had another successful year. We gave away 1,368 bikes and new helmets during 2013 which averages out to roughly 3-4 per day. At our present rate, we are able to donate 1,000+ bikes every nine months to groups and individuals who would most likely not be able to otherwise own one. We will come close to matching the 2013 total by December 31, 2014 and has donated a grand total of 16,700 since 1989!



### **We Now Have a New Wheelhouse in Old Saybrook:**

Thanks to a wonderful offer from Bill Pappas, Bikes For Kids was able, for the first time, to move all of its bikes under one roof in a very suitable facility in Old Saybrook. The "Wheelhouse" now contains almost 600 bikes, most of which are ready for donation and provides plenty of space for 5-6 repair stands. The efficiency of such a place for us is unsurpassed because we no longer have to store bikes in seven sheds, in three towns, or climb over several to get to the ones we need. Bill has covered the lease for us on the Wheelhouse for three years; something that Bikes For Kids would not have been able to do for many years to come. We extend our sincere thanks to Bill for his generous gesture and for his confidence in our mission. See more information about the facility inside the newsletter.

### **In Memory and Appreciation of Bikes For Kids Vice President, Gary Baier**

We are saddened to report that our Vice President, Gary Baier passed away on October 17, 2014. Gary was instrumental in moving our organization toward a 501(c)3 status several years ago and was always ready to help wherever he could in any capacity. We valued Gary's input several times during his time with our organization. We also appreciated his suggestions of possible avenues to pursue as BFK grew and increased its reach to young people in need. Gary was married to his wife, Jen for 30 years and had three daughters, Rachel, Wendy and Jennifer. He was a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1982 and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1988 with degrees in Mechanical Engineering. More recently Gary was a Physics teacher at the Morgan School in Clinton for 7 years. Prior to that he had spent 25 years in the automotive and aerospace industries, working for The Lee Co. and Laminova. He also owned Best Engineering and held a U.S. patent. Gary was a competitive shooter at the Niantic Sportsmen's Club in Niantic and could often be found sailing his boat on Long Island Sound. We will miss Gary greatly as the weeks and months go on.

**Thank you Gary Baier, for everything!**





### **BIKES FOR HARTFORD: Four Adventurers Cycle from the Tip of Cape Cod to Hartford...**

Back in the spring, we were contacted by four bike enthusiasts wanting to do a charity ride to help provide funding and bicycles to the young people of Hartford. Andy Meigs, Chris Rago, and brothers Tim and Patrick Scully had planned a marathon ride of 207 miles from Provincetown, MA to Hartford in one day. Leaving at 1:00 a.m., they rode along the Cape Cod Rail Trail and then rode the main routes once the sun came up through Providence & the steep hills of Eastern CT. Finally they arrived, exhausted, but happy, at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Bushnell Park at about 8:30 that evening where they were greeted by family, friends and members of Bikes For Kids. Prior to this "double century" ride, the four men sponsored a bike collection for BFK- about 100 bikes! They were later repaired, safety-checked and distributed among four Boys' and Girls' Clubs in the Hartford area. A huge thank you goes out to Chris, Andrew, Patrick and Tim for their herculean efforts along with their volunteers that provided support assistance.

***Congratulations on an amazing ride!***



**Interested in Helping Out?** Bikes For Kids is always looking for assistance in the following ways: pick up/deliver bikes, help prepare bikes for distribution, or sponsor a helmet/accessories drive or bike collection at your office. Do you have a bicycle to donate or know of someone in need that would benefit from a bicycle?

Currently we have regular hours at the warehouse where volunteers can repair bicycles on Thursdays from 9-12 AM and 6-9 PM. Other days and times will soon be added. Contact us for details.

**Call our new number: (860)388-BIKE (2453) or E-mail Dave Fowler: [davefowler05@gmail.com](mailto:davefowler05@gmail.com)**

**To coordinate a bicycle collection, contact Andy Meigs: [andrewmeigs@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmeigs@gmail.com) or call (860)995-2577**

Are you a member of the Essex Savings Bank? If so, please vote for us in their Community Investment Program. If your company has "Matching Funds", please send the form to us. Your generous monetary donations are crucial in keeping our program moving ahead and allowing us to purchase repair parts, helmets, and new bicycles when necessary. Checks can be made payable to: **Bikes For Kids** and mailed to **P.O. Box 94, Centerbrook, CT 06409**



**Tour de Lyme:** Nearly 100 bicycles were collected for us during the week of the Tour de Lyme in May of 2014. Nearly 600 riders participated in the road or trail rides that benefitted the Lyme Land Conservation Trust. Reynolds Subaru will again be a bicycle drop off location for the ride being held on May 17, 2015. Donors may also bring their used bikes to Ashlawn Farms on race day. For more information about the Tour de Lyme, go to: [www.tourdelyme.org](http://www.tourdelyme.org)

### **50 Kids...An Experience to Remember!**

Bikes For Kids teamed up with Jack Kasten from the Connecticut Tigers & Claudia Mitchell from Norwich DCF to bring smiles and bikes to 50 Norwich and New London kids. The recipients and their families were treated to tickets and food vouchers. A \$1000 grant was provided by Pfizer to help offset a portion of the cost. Thank you to all who made these 50 dreams come true. *To the right:* Director of Group Sales and Operations, Jack Kasten, leads the kids around the warning track.



**Bikes to Tanzania:** We received a request for 45 mountain bikes from *Artists For World Peace*. This Middletown based group has supported the village of Kibosho in Tanzania each summer for the last several years. This year, AFWP sent eye doctors and surgical equipment over to perform exams and minor surgical procedures. As a result of our bicycles arriving at the village, the women no longer have to walk the several miles down a dusty dirt road to a mill with maize to be ground, or make the long walk back. They now can use bikes to get to and from the mill, the riverfront and other outlying areas, in a much more reasonable amount of time. Our bikes have improved the quality of life there by shortening the amount of time it normally took to perform essential tasks.



+



=137 Bikes

Essex Boy Scout, Jake Azzinaro, along with a great team of helpers, led a fantastic collection for us at Pedal Power in Essex.



**Scot Haney Congratulates Avery!**

WSFB's Scot Haney came down to the warehouse to congratulate Girl Scout, Avery Wyne, from Canton for her incredible collection of nearly 200 bikes!



**Stanley, Bob's Discount Furniture, BLR, Inc. and Target:**

When we first entered the "Wheelhouse" facility, Stanley Tools of New Britain graciously donated over \$1200 worth of tools to get us started. Bob's Discount Furniture came through with a \$1000 gift card which provided us with a table and chairs, office desk, coffee table and more. BLR, Inc. donated over 25 heavy-duty storage racks that allow us to store bicycles vertically. Target provided a 3-handset phone and answering machine. THANK YOU all immensely for your generosity!!!!!!!

**More Information on the Old Saybrook Facility that we like to call "The Wheelhouse"...**

Through the generosity of Bill Pappas, with help of realtor Kevin Geenty & Facilities Director John Welles, our new home is located at 20 Research Parkway in Old Saybrook Business Park. This 2,700 sq. ft. space provides us with a quality area to repair and store bicycles getting ready for distribution, as well as conduct many of our charity-related tasks. On January 20, our civil engineer volunteer friends from Milone and MacBroom helped repair dozens of bicycles at the Essex Fire Department and load, transport, & set up 20+ storage racks donated by BLR, Inc. at the Wheelhouse. Please use our **NEW NUMBER 860-388-BIKE (2453)**. **Volunteers are there Thursdays 9AM to noon and 6-9PM.** Individual bikes can be dropped off at the Wheelhouse, or contact us to arrange a drop-off time for large amounts.

**Thank  
You,  
(very much)**

**As the Bikes For Kids organization continues to grow in a positive manner, we want you all to know how appreciative we are of your help. Thank you to our growing number of volunteers and to all that have contributed to Bikes For Kids. Without your enthusiasm and support, we would have a difficult time meeting the ever growing demand to provide bicycles and helmets to needy children and families.**



# **Bikes For Kids**



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New Phone: 860-388-BIKE (2453)

**Look inside to find out about all of our new  
and exciting adventures during 2014.**



- Bikes For Kids continues to provide bicycles & helmets to children and families in need; We will likely exceed 1,200 donated bikes this year!
- Bikes For Kids surpassed **16,700 bicycles** donated since 1989!
- Bikes For Kids is an official 501c3 non-profit charity and all monetary donations are tax deductible! **We now have PayPal!**
- Bikes For Kids encourages you to host a bicycle and accessory drive to help keep our inventory up! Contact us for details - see inside.

Check out our website: [www.bikes-for-kids.net](http://www.bikes-for-kids.net)

Follow us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/BikesForKidsCT](http://www.facebook.com/BikesForKidsCT)