



BIKES for KIDS

WISCONSIN

making transportation accessible for all

Programming Offered

Annual Bike Giveaway Program

Providing bikes to those facing transportation barriers for Economic Mobility. Since our first bike giveaway in 2017, we have distributed over 12,600 bicycles to people who would otherwise never have the opportunity to have one. This is an economic impact of \$1,701,000 invested in our community.

Bike Mechanics After School Program

This program, in partnership with public schools, is a workforce development training for middle school youth. Bike mechanics are in the trades and are always in high demand in bike loving communities like Madison. Providing knowledge and skills will help them keep their bikes, their family's bikes, and their friends' bikes rolling safely and could spark an entrepreneurial dream they were not previously aware was an option.

Bike to Work Program

This program focuses on immigrant workers and new refugees with transportation barriers to employment. You can think of a bike as being the bootstraps people do not have when they arrive here. Their bike opens doors to opportunities and employment.

Bike Fleet Services

We provide fleets of bikes to public schools so those struggling with transportation barriers to school can get a bike when needed. We also provide low-cost bike maintenance and repair services to schools and community centers with fleets so they can keep their bikes well maintained and safe.

Low-cost Bike Sales and Repairs for All

We provide bikes that have been fully refurbished and tuned up for sale at a low cost to keep bicycle-based transportation accessible. When we distribute bikes, recipients know they can bring their bikes to us for free service for the first year of ownership. Bikes are vehicles and they need to be regularly maintained and frequently repaired. Many of our recipients do not have the knowledge or tools to maintain their bikes so we provide instruction when they come to us so their bikes are reliable. We also offer bikes for sale and repair services as a way to support our efforts and be financially sustainable.

Community Bike Disposal Services

Because of our commitment to sustainability, we accept bikes that cannot be saved as a way to prevent them from going into the landfill. We see that they are sustainably recycled.

Alan who received our 10,000th bicycle in 2023

Alan, a sophomore at West High School in Madison, lives with his grandmother in Fitchburg. With no bus service to his school or to wrestling practice, Alan relied entirely on his bicycle to get to school and stay active on his team.

In November 2023, Alan's bike was stolen. Living five miles from school, he began walking the long distance each day and told his coach he would have to quit the team. His coach reached out to us, and we were able to provide Alan with a new \$750 Giant bicycle, along with a helmet, lock, and lights.



Thanks to his new bike, Alan continues his education and is still proudly part of the wrestling team. Without it, he could have lost both his connection to school and his chance at a brighter future.

Zayden learns to ride a bike

Zayden attended a bike giveaway event in the spring of 2023, eager to learn how to ride. I had the honor of teaching him, and he picked it up quickly, with his mom cheering him on from the sidelines. Afterward, she approached me and said, "You have no idea how much this means to us. Next week he's being screened for autism, and this will help him so much."

Since then, Zayden and his family have become regulars at the Bike Center, and he still loves riding his bike. His newfound confidence and joy have been a bright spot in their lives.



Maria experiences the American dream

Maria (in the pink) attended a bike giveaway this spring with her principal from Lincoln Elementary in Madison. She had just arrived in the U.S. after a treacherous journey from Honduras, where she was detained at the border for three weeks and separated from her mother.

At the event, Maria excitedly Facetimed her grandmother back in Honduras to show off her new bike. Her grandmother was in tears, watching as Maria began her new life in America with her new friends and her new bicycle. We can't wait to see where this bike takes her next!





Current Needs & Opportunities for Growth

As our organization continues to grow and serve more people, we have identified several key areas where strategic investment will help us sustain and expand our impact:

Permanent Warehouse & Community Bike Center

We are currently operating in a temporary warehouse slated for demolition in the near future. Securing land and building a permanent warehouse and community bike center will provide us with the stability needed to collect, repair, and distribute even more bicycles each year. A permanent space would also allow us to have a dedicated educational space to expand our youth bike mechanics program and offer more educational opportunities.

Expansion of Educational & Workforce Programs

As the demand for bicycles and educational programs increases, additional funding would allow us to grow programs like our popular youth Bike Mechanics classes and our new 'Pedals and Pixels' initiative, which blends biking and creative arts for middle school learners. Teaching the basics of bike mechanics inspires a career in bike mechanics, a high-demand job in the trades and gives them the skills to keep their bikes rolling smoothly.

Sustainable Staffing & Operations

With the increasing demand and scale of our operations, maintaining a dedicated, skilled staff and covering ongoing operational costs is essential to keep serving the community effectively and efficiently. We run a very lean organization that the community has grown to depend upon and sees as a critical service.

Find us online at BikesForKidsWi.org.