

# bikes for Kids

[www.bikesforkidsct.org](http://www.bikesforkidsct.org)

Changing lives one bike at a time!

Fall 2016



We have enjoyed yet another very successful year at Bikes For Kids. This issue includes just some of the many BFK happenings including our successful 1st Annual Bikes For Kids Charity Ride.

As we write this newsletter at the end of October, BFK has given away just over 1,200 bicycles and new helmets since the first of the year. Back in July, we sent out bike # 19,000, which went to a child from the Waterbury YMCA. We are already well on the way to bike # 20,000 which we predict will be going out in late spring or early summer. It's really important to stress once again that none of this would be happening without the generous support of our donors. Your continued assistance over the years has helped thousands of young people to receive bikes for the very first time and enjoy countless hours of efficient transportation, exploring, exercising and good health. Thanks to all of you who are joining us in our mission to change the lives of so many kids.

Have you heard that BFK is moving? We have secured a 4,400 square foot warehouse at 36 Plains Road in Essex. The new "Wheelhouse" is directly behind Service Master along the Essex Steam Train tracks. Bikes can be dropped off at this location after December 15. This move will represent a significant savings for us as we move forward to raise the funds for a building of our own. We are on target with our newly-developed five-year plan and extend our sincere appreciation to Bill Pappas, whose generosity has helped us to become a stronger, more viable organization. Bill's support has placed us on a much higher "rung of the ladder" and kept us on a track for acquiring that building someday. Also, thank you to Tom Gezo for his professional consultations in developing a 5 year business plan and organizational charts. The month of December will be busier than usual for us this year. Along with distributing a projected 150 bikes in time for Christmas, we will make the move into the new facility in December. If you can help us paint, or have a truck and would like to help in the move of some or all of our bikes, shelving, tools and parts, give us a call at the wheelhouse at (860)388-BIKE (2453).

# our first annual Bikes for kids charity Ride:

October 2 found us all at the Old Saybrook Middle School putting the final touches on our first annual BFK Charity Ride. The event was very well attended with almost 90 riders participating in three rides of varying lengths. Our short 5 miler took our younger people down around the beaches in Saybrook. Our 27 miler was a very scenic trip up to the Steamboat Dock in Essex, and then wound its way down to Westbrook and back though the Saybrook shoreline. Our professionals took advantage of a 63 mile ride which passed through changing foliage in Essex, Deep River, Chester, Haddam, Killingworth, and North Madison before returning to ride along some beautiful vistas of Long Island Sound. Award winning food from local restaurants was available to all upon their completion. We received a lot of wonderful feedback from our riders and hope everyone will return next year and bring their friends to share the beauty of the lower CT Valley.

Thank you so very much to our generous financial sponsors, as well as our in-kind sponsors for helping make the ride so special.



# First Annual Fundraising Dinner

We will be hosting an elegant fundraising dinner this year which will be held at the:  
Westbrook Elks' Club  
6-11 PM

Saturday, March 4, 2017.

Please consider coming down for a delightful evening including appetizers, a buffet dinner, live music, silent auction containing a wide variety of items, raffles, and a special surprise or two!!

Tickets are \$75.00 per person.

We expect a full house so send in your checks early to reserve your spot. Remember that your support will help us to continue our efforts into the future.

If you are able to provide gift certificates for goods or services, sports and music tickets, auction/raffle items for the dinner, please contact BFK Secretary, Jennifer Caffrey, at [caffreyj@region18.org](mailto:caffreyj@region18.org) prior to January 31.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help offset some of the costs associated with the event, contact Jennifer.

We thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide our dinner committee.

The Bikes For Kids Board of Directors would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who have put in countless hours to help support our mission. In addition, our donors deserve a huge amount of praise for your contributions.

We hope you all have a fantastic winter break and let's make 2017 the best year yet!

With deep appreciation,  
President Dave Fowler, Vice President Todd Jones, Secretary Jennifer Caffrey,  
Treasurer Ali Muir, Board Members Paul Hammer, Michele Wytas and Sandy Hart.

Please cut off and return completed form below with payment

<u>Bikes For Kids Fundraising Dinner</u>	<u>March 4, 2017</u>
Name(s) of attendees: _____	
Contact information: Email: _____	Phone: _____
Number of tickets: _____ X \$75.00 = _____ (Total enclosed)	
I am able to provide the following goods or services for the raffle/silent auction. _____	
_____	
Please mail to: Bikes For Kids - Attention Dinner Committee, PO Box 94, Centerbrook, CT 06409	

**Thank you to all our sponsors at our first charity ride!**

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Action Sports  
Teen Zone  
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Colonial Market  
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The Safety Zone  
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of SE New England

**THE bicycle**  
is a simple  
**SOLUTION**  
to some of the  
**world's** most  
**COMPLICATED**  
p r o b l e m s .



The First Church of Christ in Old Saybrook held a Helmet fundraiser for two weeks before and after services. They were able to provide 54 helmets for our organization. Thank you Rev. Ed Cornell, Stuart Otto and the McLaughlins for supporting our great organization.



Volunteer Doug Van Dyke donating our 19,000th bike this past July to Jim O'Rourke of the Waterbury YMCA. Over 19,000 bikes donated since 1989!



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P.O. Box 94

Centerbrook, CT 06409

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[info@bikesforkidsct.org](mailto:info@bikesforkidsct.org)



## Here's A Great Idea!!

Is your church or office looking to support a non-profit in a creative way? Why not consider a helmet drive? The First Church of Christ, Congregational, Old Saybrook, recently purchased over 50 helmets over two consecutive Sundays. It's easy and fun at the same time. If you'd like more details on how this would work, please call us at the Wheelhouse, 860-388-BIKE.

drop off  
a bike  
after december 15th  
at our new wheelhouse

## VOLUNTEERS

We are in search for volunteers in several areas including:

- Helping repair bikes on Thursdays and potentially other days.

- Assisting on a sub group of our ride committee.

- Picking up or delivering bikes.

- Fundraising.

- Grant writing.

- Thank you notes.

- Writing press releases or other newsworthy items.



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