

# bikes for Kids Fall 2019

## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF “Changing Lives One Bike at a Time”

Thank you to all our donors as Bikes for Kids proudly celebrates its 30th anniversary.

What started as our founder's personal goal to share the love of bicycle riding to families and children in need, has transformed into a vibrant organization.

**\*Bikes for Kids is a 501(c)(3) non-profit (approved in 2011).**

**\*It is governed by a dedicated Board of Directors.**

**\*Over 40 volunteers consistently give of their time and talents.**

**\*The 4400 sq. ft. Wheelhouse in Essex, CT is operating at full capacity.**

**\*A part-time Administrator is employed to keep things running.**

Our 30th year saw a record 1,300 bicycles roll out of the Wheelhouse into the hands of children and young adults. We are just shy of giving away 23,000 bikes since the inception of BFK in 1989.

This could not have been done without your support. We thank you!



LOVE  
**BICYCLES**

*There are no words! We just wanted to say thank you so very much for these precious gifts; lasting memories and new experiences.*

Amber P.  
Parent

*I just wanted to thank you for offering such a great opportunity to our community. My client and her daughter had an amazing time. They sent me pictures and are so thankful. They wouldn't have been able to attend without your generosity.*

Jessica Condil  
Social Services Coordinator , Haddam

# All aboard! NORTH POLE EXPRESS

On November 9, Bikes for Kids hosted 35 young children (and a parent/guardian) on the Essex Steam Train's North Pole Express. Children were selected by local schools as deserving of this special day. All the kids came dressed in their pajamas and rode the train to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the North Pole. At the end of the train ride, the children were escorted over to the Wheelhouse to receive a special early holiday gift - a new bicycle and helmet.

## WE WISH TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**Essex Steam Train**

**Reynolds' Subaru**

**Rotary Club of Old Saybrook Foundation, Inc.**

John and Shireen Aforismo

Community Foundation of Middlesex County, Inc.

Greenwald Industries

Killingworth Lions Club

Muir Electric

Northstar Wealth Partners

Tower Laboratories, Ltd.

Whelen Engineering Company, Inc

Liberty Bank - Essex Tellers



*That is so generous of Bikes for Kids and all your supporters. I have a family in mind. I'm assuming they "believe" but what I can tell you is they would greatly appreciate a little Christmas Magic.*

Mary Ellen Barnes  
Social Services & Municipal Agent, Essex



## CHANNEL 3

In June, Channel 3 featured Bikes for Kids on their "20 Towns in 20 Days" program. The segment highlighted the positive impact Bikes for Kids makes in our local community. A group of Bikes for Kids volunteers met Channel 3's Mark Zinni in Essex and shared our story. Thanks to Mark and Channel 3 for their \$1,000 donation to Bikes for Kids. To see the TV segment, go on-line to: [bikesforkidsct.org](http://bikesforkidsct.org)



## RACE4CHASE TRIATHLON

Bikes for Kids provided over 175 bicycles and helmets to the CMAK Sandy Hook Memorial Foundation - Race4Chase. Race4Chase is a kids triathlon program, providing children ages 6-14 with a safe, healthy, and non-competitive environment to discover the fun of being a triathlete. Bikes for Kids provides a bicycle and helmet to children in the program who don't have their own. We delivered the bicycles in June to 30 partnering YMCA's who helped the children train for the big event. In August, 521 young athletes participated in the Race4Chase triathlon at Camp Sloper in Southington, CT - and all were winners.



## TIP A TEACHER

A big thank you goes out to Karen Beni and the faculty, staff, students, and families at Deep River Elementary School. Their "Tip a Teacher" night generated a \$2,000 donation to Bikes for Kids. The community fundraiser brought families together to enjoy a pasta dinner while the teachers graciously offered their time to serve over 100 hungry diners. Bikes for Kids is grateful to have been this year's recipient of this fun and delicious fundraiser event.





bikesforkidsct.org

BFK Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 94  
Centerbrook, CT 06409

Wheelhouse  
36 Plains Road  
Essex, CT 06426  
(Opposite Essex Steam Train)

860-388-BIKE (2453)



**Donate** Donate on-line through PayPal. Go to [bikesforkidsct.org](http://bikesforkidsct.org).

Use the enclosed envelope, insert a check, add postage and mail to Bikes for Kids.

Here are ways your donation helps:

\$3,000 - Monthly rent and insurance

\$1,200 - 1/2 month's rent

\$530 - New parts for 12 bicycles

\$130 - 60 tire tubes

\$60 - 5 new bicycle seats

\$30 - 2 helmets

**Donate Bikes** Drop gently used bike(s) that you are no longer using at the BFK Wheelhouse.

**Repair Bicycles** No experience is necessary. Join the crew on Tuesday or Thursday mornings from 9-12 or Thursday evenings from 6-8 at the Wheelhouse.

**Shop AmazonSmile** Sign-up on [AmazonSmile.com](http://AmazonSmile.com) and choose Bikes for Kids (Bikes for Kids Inc listed in Centerbrook) as your designated charity.

**Organize a Helmet Drive** Host a helmet drive within your local community (religious organization, school, community group, etc). It's super easy. BFK has a template and will help.