

Cycles for Christ 2018 Year in Review

Cycles for Christ is a ministry of Hudson Presbyterian Church located at 202 W Streetsboro St Hudson, Oh. The goal of the ministry is to serve Gods people by providing bikes to those who for various reasons cannot afford a bike. Bikes are collected repaired and distributed. A helmet is provided with most bikes. A letter is provided to recipients telling them why we are doing this and inviting them to attend our Church or a Church of their choosing. We ask that they pray and thank God if they have been blessed by our ministry. When opportunities are presented testimony is provided to the recipients in formal and informal settings.

Cycles for Christ is attempting to follow the Apostle Paul in terms of being a “tent maker.” That is to say we are trying to earn our way outside the normal church budget. Currently about two thirds of the cost of the ministry is paid for by sales or donations from outside the budget. The HPC budget does pay for the helmets that are distributed with the bikes. The Men’s Bull Pen generously donated a portion of their monthly offerings to support our work in 2018.

2018 has been a successful year for our ministry. God has blessed Cycles for Christ with generous donors who have given us their time, money and used bikes. Because of these donations we have been able to distribute 301 bikes and 246 helmets to individuals and organizations in Hudson, surrounding communities, Akron, and Cleveland. In addition to the bikes we distributed we have also repaired another 25 bikes. The average cost for parts to repair a bike is approximately \$6.50. The cost for a helmet is approximately \$5.25. Our goals for 2019 are to continue to serve existing client agencies and develop additional contacts where we can be of service.



Emergency Assistance Center Clients



New partner Urban Vision in Akron

The folks who receive our bikes fall into three groups, The Poor, The Homeless and Immigrants. To identify these people, we depend on local faith based agencies. The organizations we continued to work with for distribution are Hudson Community Service Association, the Emergency Assistance Center in Macedonia, Haven of Rest in Akron, Open M in Akron, Salvation Army, The Wright Connection in Kent, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Urban Community School in Cleveland, Our Community Hunger Center in Twinsburg, and the Peter Maurin Society that works with the homeless in Akron. These community faith based organizations identify individuals who are in need of bicycles.

Because demand for bicycles was down from our existing partner groups. We established relationships with new groups. They were:

1. International Institute of Akron
2. Urban Vision (North Hill of Akron)
3. Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church (Twinsburg)
4. South Street Ministries (South Akron)



Delivery to USCRI Clients in Lakewood



Repair Day with Mt Zion Missionary Baptist

Our on-site repair program is done in conjunction with our partner agencies. This year we worked with Mt Zion Missionary Baptist Church to fix 20 bikes for the kids in Twinsburg. Volunteers from both Churches shared fellowship and served God's children. A portable bike repair shop was set up; clients brought their bikes in for repair. The repair time offers a chance for conversation and testimony of God's blessings to those being served. We will continue to offer the repair program as time and opportunity permit in 2019.

We have been blessed that three local bike shops have provided support to us through the year. Eddy's Bike Shop in Stow collected over 100 bikes from folks who wanted to donate them and provided us with a discount on parts. Century Cycles in Peninsula collected 40 bikes, donated some parts and offered us a significant discount on others. Dirty River Bicycle Works located in Akron helped us out this year with a generous donation of bikes and tires. The generosity of these shops has saved us money and resulted in approximately 40% of the bikes we collected.



Donated bikes and Tires

Cycles for Christ Ministry was blessed by support from the congregation and community. Some members have collected bikes from their garages and neighborhood garage sales. Cub Scout Pack 3327 has been a significant contributor to our program. They hold an annual bicycle collection drive, Scouting for Bikes. Over the years they have donated 600 bicycles to Cycles for Christ. Many members, friends and neighbors volunteered their time at the shop, provided suggestions and encouragement or loaned equipment; without this support the mission would not have succeeded. Last, but not least, was very faithful support provide by Bill McClure. Bill helped out with weekly shop work, participated in the on-site repair program and deliveries. Thanks are extended to everyone who helped this year.



Western Reserve Volunteers



Goodyear Volunteers

We had some new volunteers this year. The Vacation Bible School 4th and 5th grade class came to the shop and worked on bikes. We prepared 22 bikes for delivery. We have an enthusiastic visit from the Youth Group come to help repair bikes. It was great to have a chance to work with the youth of our church. A group of volunteer bike enthusiasts from Goodyear (Jon Polhamus' former employer) came up and spent a day. We also had a group of kids from WRA who helped repair and distribute bikes. As is said, "Many hands makes light work," help of everyone was appreciated



Spreading the word

God has blessed this ministry and it has flourished. Over the past 8 years we have given away 2,652 bikes and repaired another 439 bikes. Each bike represents a life we have touched, a seed sowed in Gods garden. It is safe to say that we have done little more than scratch the surface of need. Positive feedback from the groups we work with reassures use that Cycles for Christ is a blessing to their clients. We are looking forward to continuing our work in 2019. We have a nice inventory of bikes ready to start the year for the 2019 bicycling season.

An invitation is extended to anyone who would like to assist. Contact Jon Polhamus 330-524-8564 or by email at jonpolhamu@aol.com.