

## Cycles for Christ 2016 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.

2016 has been a very 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 498 bikes and 380 helmets to individuals and organizations in Hudson, surrounding communities, Akron, and Cleveland. In addition to the bikes we distributed we have also repaired another 53 bikes primarily for individuals in Akron at Haven of Rest and Salvation Army. The average cost for parts to repair a bike is approximately \$6.50. The cost for a helmet is approximately \$8.25. In 2017 we will install a bike rack and sign in our parking lot. The bike rack will be used to collect bikes and provide a lockable storage location for members of our church who ride their bikes to church activities.

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, Missions USA in Green, The Wright Connection in Kent, International Services Center serving Immigrants, City Life Club (Ryan Hough), Urban Community School (Leah Majernik) in Cleveland 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. Cub Scout Pack 3327 has been a significant contributor to our program. They hold an annual bicycle collection drive, Scouting for Bikes, which resulted in over 158 bicycle donations.



**Delivery to ICS**



**Bike for one of Ryan Hough's Clients**

Our on-site repair program was done in conjunction with Haven of Rest in Akron, Emergency Assistance Center, and Salvation Army. A portable bike repair shop was set up at these locations and 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 at Haven of Rest and other agencies in 2017.



#### **Bike Repairs at Salvation Army with Bill McLure**

We have been blessed that two local bike shops have provided support to us through the year. Eddy's Bike Shop in Stow collected 190 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. Their generosity has saved us money and resulted in approximately 40% of the bikes we collected.



**Donated bikes waiting for repair and distribution**

Cycles for Christ Ministry was blessed by support from the congregation and community. Money from the church budget paid for helmets. The Men's Bull Pen has donated a portion of the offering from their meetings. Some members have collected bikes from their garages and neighborhood garage sales. 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.



**Spreading the word**



**Salvation Army Sign at Christmas in July Event**

God has blessed this ministry and it has flourished. Over the past 6 years we have given away 150 bikes and repaired another 400 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 the Ministry is a blessing to their clients. We are looking forward to continuing our work in 2016. We have an inventory of bikes ready to start the year for the 2017 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](mailto:jonpolhamu@aol.com).**

**Jon Polhamus**

**Cycles for Christ**