

Overview of R.E.C.'s Operations for the year 2023

Hello Everyone,

2024 was a busy year for R.E.C. We moved all the usual stuff through the facility to our clients including sports gear, runners and bicycles. As storage of said items is always a problem, we need to find new ways to turn over and move out our figure skates, jerseys, hockey gear etc. that seems to accumulate on our shelves. Bicycles coming from all sources were an issue until we stopped taking some of them and cleared our inventory. Most bikes we have go out to our clients with the overload of larger frame bikes going to other charities.

Some organizations and charities that received donations from R.E.C. in 2023 are as follows:

- We are in the third year of a five year commitment to the Surrey School Board to present a deserving, graduating, indigenous student with a \$1000 scholarship. Charlene Egitto, a teacher for the Surrey School District, career development facilitator and R.E.C. board member, oversees this commitment
- "Night Shift" that takes runners, socks & jerseys and distribute the items to the Whalley area homeless.
- Surrey Traditional School (Debbie Holmes) who we give BMX and Mountain bikes to. They have their challenged students work on the bikes and when repaired, take them home. They are assisted by a bike store owner and mechanic and in the past, Robert Mears from R.E.C.
- "Bikes for Humanity", an unregistered charity that take our excess bikes and bike parts and send them on to Malawi, Namibia, and Rhwanda in Africa (no E-bikes).
- "Heart for Africa" (Barry Hickman, R.E.C. for KIDS) who we give bikes to that are then sent on to Swaziland a landlocked country within South Africa.
- William Head Prison in Victoria (pretrial Program). Terry Tucker, who is now acting as a R.E.C. mechanic at large, either comes to R.E.C. or we deliver to him in Oak Bay, Victoria, bikes to take apart as well as taking excess bike parts from us to pass along to the prison.
- Pathfinder youth Center Society (Orville Lee). Orville brings the youth in his care to our facility to get runners and sports gear and to get measured up for ordered bikes.
- Our Community Bikes in Vancouver (also under their umbrella are three other shops...The Bike Kitchen at UBC, Kickstand and another which I don't know the name of). In the past we've given them adult bikes and received kid bikes in return.
- The Surrey, North Delta and Langley Christmas Bureaus, who collectively received 81 bikes of all sizes from us in 2023.

To cope with the cleaning, repairing and organization of all items that we deliver, we have two ladies that clean the runners and sports gear and organize the items on shelves, two senior mechanics, six other well trained mechanics and seven mechanics in training. Doug and Fred order parts and shuffle bikes between storage areas as well as deliver to clients. We have two main delivery people and four others vetted by the RCMP, allowing them to drive our van and do pickup and deliveries.

This past spring and summer we participated in several events that gave us public exposure and generated good will towards R.E.C. for KIDS. Fred and Walter set up a booth in Surrey’s Holland Park and supported a City of Surrey Ride Along Program doing minor repairs and adjustments to participants. Doug, Fred, and Walter did three bike rodeos for the Indigenous communities around Chilliwack, Agassi and Hope while Doug, Walter and Dave attended a bike rodeo for the LEPS organization at a Langley school. LEPS encourages repair and recycling of clothing, small appliances, kids toys, and bicycles and holds the “repair cafes” monthly, spring, summer and fall in the Surrey, Langley and Aldergrove municipalities.

Although we lost some of our volunteers over the Covid Period and our deliveries to our clients fell off somewhat, we’ve been able to attract new people over the last two years and both our volunteer hours and our productivity have been rebounding. We still must make an effort to attract people for specific tasks to eventually replace those of us who will eventually be retiring from R.E.C.

Overall, the year has been a successful one that we will look to improve upon in 2024.

Rec for Kids Operations Summary. Presented to the AGM on April 15th, 2024.

Volunteer hours recorded.

2013 - 1,944 hours	2019 - 7,338 hours
2014 - 2,563 hours	2020 - 4,873 hours
2015 - 5,216 hours	2021 - 4,913 hours
2016 - 6,935 hours	2022 - 4,235 hours
2017 - 7,653 hours	2023 - 4,974 hours
2018 - 6,640 hours	

Sports equipment that went to kids through requests from referral organizations.

In 2023 we passed along 347 bicycles, 334 helmets, 288 bike locks, 155 pairs of runners, 134 soccer balls, 16 pairs of soccer cleats, 41 basketballs, 89 pairs of ice skates, and 705 pieces of sports related clothing.

An additional 277 bikes were distributed in 2023 in the following manner. R.E.C. for Kids also sells bikes to raise funds, donates bikes to various charities, training programs, Christmas Bureaus in Surrey, Langley and Delta, Bikes for Humanities (sending to Africa) and trading bikes with other organizations exchanging bigger bikes they need for smaller bikes that we need.