

# GRATITUDE REPORT

## 2024-2025



### 30 YEARS OF EARN A BIKE

Since 1995, more than 8,500 young people have joined our Earn a Bike program, connecting with mentors to build bikes and community. It is because of you that so many Lehigh Valley youth have been able to connect with caring adults to learn mechanics, and life and leadership skills. In our early days, 60 young people a year joined Earn a Bike. Now, we engage 600 young people in Earn a Bike annually, with 300 of those students staying engaged in our cycling, mentoring, and leadership programs.

The lessons that youth learn in Earn a Bike can stay with them for a lifetime. From working as staff members at Community Bike Works to making an impact in the Lehigh Valley's business and public sectors, Earn a Bike alum are making a positive difference in our community!

**"PROGRAMS LIKE EARN A BIKE PROVIDED FAR MORE THAN JUST A BIKE: THEY GAVE ME MENTORSHIP, SUPPORT, AND A SAFE SPACE THAT KEPT ME ENGAGED. AS A PROUD FRANKLIN PARK YOUTH, THE BIKE I EARNED THROUGH COMMUNITY BIKE WORKS ALLOWED ME TO EXPLORE PARTS OF THE CITY I WOULD NOT HAVE OTHERWISE ACCESSED, ESPECIALLY AS THE FIRST WOMAN IN MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY TO DRIVE. THOSE WHEELS WERE TRULY LIFE CHANGING."**



**-LUCINDA WRIGHT, EARN A BIKE ALUM ALLENTOWN DEPT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

**"BEING ONE OF THE 8,500+ STUDENTS WHO'VE GONE THROUGH THIS PROGRAM MAKES ME PROUD, ESPECIALLY SEEING HOW IT CONTINUES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. WHEN YOU WALK INTO THEIR SHOP, YOU CAN FEEL THE ENERGY, TEAMWORK, AND DEDICATION THAT HAVE KEPT IT GOING STRONG FOR OVER 30 YEARS. I'M TRULY HONORED TO SUPPORT CBW'S MISSION AND HELP KEEP THAT MOMENTUM GOING INTO THE FUTURE."**



**-NICK MILLER, EARN A BIKE ALUM PENNSYLVANIA STATE SENATOR**

# ENGAGING LEHIGH VALLEY YOUTH

**617** STUDENTS IN  
EAB AND JREAB

**320** STUDENTS  
IN ADDT'L  
PROGRAMS

**5,309**  
MILES RIDDEN



**98%** "I FEEL SAFE AT EARN A BIKE"

**93%** "I FEEL BETTER ABOUT MYSELF"

**92%** "I WORK BETTER WITH OTHERS  
ON A TEAM"

**94%** GRADUATED & EARNED  
THEIR BIKE AND HELMET

**600+** BOOKS DISTRIBUTED



"SOMETIMES WHEN I RIDE THE BIKE, I'M SCARED, LIKE I DON'T WANT TO DO IT. IN MY CLASS, ANOTHER STUDENT HELPED ME WITH MY BALANCE EVERY TIME AND I FELT KIND OF STILL SCARED, BUT I TRIED MY BEST TO MAKE IT AND THEN I GOT IT."  
-MILA, 8

# FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS



**252,361**

POUNDS OF  
FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED

**1,000+**

INDIVIDUALS SERVED  
PER MONTH

**1,677**

PLANT-BASED  
MEALS SERVED



# PILLARS & PROGRAMS

## IN OUR YOUTH BIKE MENTORING PROGRAMS, YOUNG PEOPLE CAN...

- BUILD PROTECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULT MENTORS IN A SAFE SPACE
- LEARN LIFE AND STEAM SKILLS
- LEARN HEALTHY LIVING HABITS THAT SUPPORT PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH
- LEARN TO BE ENGAGED CITIZENS AND LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY



**OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY WAS A BIG YEAR, WITH MORE THAN 600 YOUTH ENGAGED IN OUR CORE BIKE MENTORING PROGRAMS!**

**EARN A BIKE:** Our month-long Earn a Bike classes offer students hands-on experience in bicycle mechanics and safety while learning alongside supportive adult mentors. As they rebuild their bikes, students practice collaboration, persistence, and critical thinking. Classes are held at our Franklin Park and Keck Park bike hubs in Allentown, our West Ward Easton bike hub, and in public schools across Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton.

**JUNIOR EARN A BIKE:** Younger students practice social-emotional skills while learning to ride and fix a bike of their own. Students discover that, just as assembling a bike requires specific tools and parts, building a strong emotional foundation takes social and emotional tools they can learn to use.

**EASTON BIKE CLUB:** Bike Club offers Easton Area High School teens an in-depth, 40-hour Earn a Bike class, with ongoing connections to mentors. Graduates regularly return for afterschool rides and other outdoor activities. Bike Club is supported by the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency.

## MORE THAN HALF OF ALL STUDENTS ENGAGED IN OUR ADDITIONAL CYCLING, MENTORING, & LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:

**RECREATIONAL CYCLING:** Recreational rides offer all Earn a Bike youth the opportunity to explore local trails and roads while practicing healthy habits. Students rode more miles together—5,300—this year than ever before!

**COMPETITIVE CYCLING:** In 2025, seven teens raced with the Lehigh Valley Composite Mountain Bike team under the leadership of Coach Adonis, competing in races from Philadelphia to Gettysburg.

**EARN A BOOK:** Earn a Book offers hands-on sessions designed to help our Junior students experience the joy of reading. Thirty-two students participated in summer Earn a Book, with activities including independent and group reads and trips to the Allentown Public Library.

**GEARSS (GIRLS EVALUATING AND REDEFINING SOCIAL STANDARDS):** The support of Women United, the women-led affinity group of the United Way, allows us to offer All-Girls Earn a Bike classes and a monthly Girls' Club, demonstrating that girls are mechanics and cyclists! This year, Girls' Club toured the Allentown Art Museum on International Women's Day, hosted a Keck Park clean-up, and visited The End bookstore for books!

With support from our friends at **Allentown West Rotary**, our **1-1 mentoring program, Gaining Traction**, is underway with a new group of student mentees. Four teens were matched with adult mentors with a focus on college and career readiness and personal growth. **Wilber & Edwin** worked with their mentors to secure employment at Bike Works and continue their education to support future careers.

**Wilber:** I didn't understand how to apply to LCTI (Lehigh Career & Technical Institute). So, I asked Edwin and Ms. Diana to help me fill out the application. It was hard to get into a program at LCTI because they told me the programs I wanted were full. But then I sat down with Edwin and Ms. Diana and wrote a cover letter and I got in! **It feels good to be in the program I want to be in, heavy machinery.** When I graduate, I'll be able to operate any machine.



## GAINING TRACTION

**Edwin:** When I first started having mentors, I wasn't planning on going to college. I was planning on taking a gap year, saving money, and then pursuing a career. Ms. Diana and Ms. Melanie let me know about FAFSA and other government assistance so it would be a lot easier on me. **If I could go to college, I wanted to, especially for automotive technology.** My mentors took me to the placement test, helped me meet with my advisers, and helped me get my driver's permit.

# YOUTH LEADERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Students in our Franklin Park Youth Leadership program worked with the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation (CAT) to help **change the outdated City of Allentown Bike Ordinance**. They helped identify the difference between local and state laws, then met with Allentown Mayor Matt Tuerk to propose changes based on their experiences living and riding in the City. They then presented their findings and ordinance review at Allentown City Council Public Safety Committee and Council meetings. In April 2025, City Council voted YES to make the amendments recommended by the team!



**Youth Leaders helped plan a Franklin Park neighborhood clean-up on Earth Day.** Working with **Love Your Block, Ripple Community Inc., and other neighborhood partners**, students surveyed the Franklin Park neighborhood and planned routes for the clean up, marking the spots with the most litter. At the clean-up, participants collected 50 bags of garbage, totaling more than 500 pounds!



Our East Side Food Pantry and Garden helps us feed our neighbors and students throughout the year. As the main East Allentown pantry, **our pantry provides nourishing and culturally appropriate food to 267 families each month.** Students enjoy helping plant and harvest produce in the garden, and making flower bouquets to take home to their families.



## Rooted in Nature

We are excited to offer a new program **focused on bettering youth mental health through experiential learning in nature!** Supported by the United Way, this year-long program combines bike rides and other outdoor activities with a foundation in ICT: Integrative Community Therapy. A favorite trip was visiting Sandy Hook Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey for a 9.4 mile bike ride along the biking and walking path with gorgeous views of the bay and the Atlantic Ocean!



## Youth Advisory Council

Members of our Youth Advisory Council meet before each board meeting to review the meeting agenda, provide input on decisions, and gain an understanding of how boards work. YAC teens also led a donation drive for a local animal shelter. They created flyers, and collected and delivered pet food and supplies.



## 2024 MILEAGE CHALLENGE

Thank you to the Challengers who got active with us and the community members who supported those Challengers! For two weeks in 2024, our **31 teams**, consisting of **166 dedicated community members**, rode a total of 16,908 miles and raised an amazing **\$113,000** to support the kids of Bike Works.

**Lehigh Valley Cycling Club** took 1<sup>st</sup> place in miles ridden. **RLB Accountants Team Blue** took 1<sup>st</sup> place for team fundraising. We are grateful to all of our supporters who make the Challenge a success!



# WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS WHO MADE OUR WORK IN 2024-25 POSSIBLE...



Pennsylvania  
Department of Community  
& Economic Development

**BOB & SANDY  
LOVETT**



**GARRIGAN  
FOUNDATION**

**THE DUNN FAMILY  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**



SCAN HERE  
TO VIEW  
ALL DONORS

...AND MORE THAN 1,200 ADDITIONAL DONORS, BIKE DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS

## 30 YEARS OF LIFE LESSONS THROUGH BICYCLES & 8,500+ STUDENTS ENGAGED!



"WHEN I WAS HIRED AS A STAFF MEMBER, I WAS DOING EXACTLY WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE BEFORE ME. JUST TEACHING MY OWN EARN A BIKE GROUP, SAYING 'YEP, THAT'S HOW YOU DO IT'—THAT FELT FULFILLING. SEEING THE EXPRESSION OF JOY ON A KID'S FACE AT THAT EUREKA MOMENT, IT FILLS ME WITH A SENSE OF PRIDE."

**-OMAR, EARN A BIKE ALUM  
BIKE WORKS EMPLOYEE**

"EVERY DAY YOU LEARN NEW THINGS ABOUT BIKES. YOU CAN SOCIALIZE WITH KIDS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. RIDING A BIKE IS FREEDOM TO GO ANYWHERE. HAVING A BIKE INCREASES DISTANCES YOU CAN GO. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WALK. IT EXPANDS BORDERS. YOU CAN JUST RIDE. EARN A BIKE HAS DONE A LOT FOR THE COMMUNITY."

**-ABRAHAM, EARN A BIKE ALUM  
HUTCHINSON INDUSTRIES EMPLOYEE**



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Boehret Shalon Buskirk Steve Haymon Lara Kuhns, *Secretary* Greg Lamb Stacy Melvin\*  
Melanie Sanchez-Jones Dolores Singletary, *Chair* Olga Torres Stefanie Wexler, *Treasurer*  
Laura Zaharakis Tony Zimmermann

### STAFF

Sadie Aten Adonis Cannon\* Hana Cannon\* Omar Carpio\* Dave Edinger Edwin Estevez\*  
Reilly Leisher Maddie Marte\* Jose Monte de Oca\* Nella Panella Kristina Scesa  
Kim Schaffer Brean Shea Florrie Stoop Jeff Varrone James Williams\* Kevin Winterfield

We extend our best wishes to departing board members Jean Blanc, Pete Lessik, and Chris Randle, as well as departing staff member Brittany Smith

\*Denotes EAB grad or family member

### STATEMENT ON FINANCES, 2024-25

**Revenue: \$1,454,878 Expenses: \$1,359,564**

Community Bike Works is a growing organization with income that varies annually. We are grateful, thanks to our supporters, to show a budget surplus of \$95,314 in 2024-25. This surplus partially offset our approximate \$200,000 deficit in the previous year. While we have more to do to achieve long-term fiscal security, we look forward to working with you, our generous supporters, to sustain our mission well into the future.

In 2024-25, 39% of our funding came from public sources, 37% from foundations and corporations, and 24% from individual donors and community groups.

Our complete 2024-25 990 is available at [www.communitybikeworks.org](http://www.communitybikeworks.org).

### NEW TAX BENEFIT FOR DONORS: GET 90% BACK IN PA TAX CREDITS!

Through EITC, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit, you can increase your impact on youth bike mentoring throughout the Valley.  
**It costs a dime to give a dollar!**

To learn more about individual giving through EITC in addition to your annual giving, please contact Jeff Varrone,  
[Jvarrone@CommunityBikeWorks.org](mailto:Jvarrone@CommunityBikeWorks.org)