



GRATITUDE REPORT 2023-24



TEACHING LIFE LESSONS THROUGH BICYCLES

DEAR FRIENDS OF BIKE WORKS:

At Community Bike Works, 2023-24 was a transformational year:

- **A record-high number of youth—578!—joined Earn a Bike and Junior Earn a Bike**, making us one of the largest youth bike mentoring programs nationally.
- **From cycling and youth leadership to our East Side Food Pantry, we strengthened our supplemental programs**, offering youth and their families more opportunities to engage with us for months or years at a time.
- **We made big changes to how and when we offer programs**, based on lessons learned during the pandemic.
- **We hosted 300 teens and their adult advocates from across the country for the 2024 Youth Bike Summit!** We are so proud of our team's work to host this national conference.

Community Bike Works has grown into a regional organization, engaging youth across the Lehigh Valley. Each weekday, we have six teams teaching life lessons through bicycles: at each of our bike hubs—in Allentown's Franklin and Keck parks and in Easton's West Ward—and in schools across Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton.

Our staff is committed every day to building a healthier and more connected community. Of our 16 staff, seven are Earn a Bike graduates or family members, helping mentoring relationships to thrive.

Our board, volunteers, and you—our committed supporters—are critical to our success. From donating bikes and funds to mentoring students and volunteering in our pantry, we know we can count on your time, skills, and support to fulfill our mission. We are deeply grateful for your support that allowed us to reach our goals last year.

In 2025, Community Bike Works will celebrate 30 years of Earn a Bike. While we have grown from one bike shop to three, and 60 students a year to 600, our foundations remain the same. At Bike Works, young people can earn a free bike while they:

- **BUILD PROTECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULT MENTORS IN A SAFE SPACE**
- **LEARN LIFE AND STEAM SKILLS**
- **PRACTICE HABITS THAT SUPPORT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**
- **GROW AS ENGAGED CITIZENS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS**

The year ahead promises to be challenging. Our commitment to our values and our students remains strong. We hope you'll join us in 2025 to help realize our vision of a healthy community of young leaders. Drop off a bike that is taking up space. Come to a Bikes & Brownies open house. Form a Mileage Challenge team and get active for Bike Works kids. Volunteer in Earn a Bike or at our pantry. Finally, keep an eye out for other events to recognize 30 years of Earn a Bike. We'll be eager to celebrate with you!



Dolores Singletary
Dolores Singletary
Board Chair



Kim
Kim Schaffer
Executive Director

ENGAGING LEHIGH VALLEY YOUTH

578 STUDENTS IN EAB AND JREAB

- 94%** "I LEARNED I CAN DO THINGS I DIDN'T THINK I COULD DO."
- 92%** "I WORK BETTER WITH OTHERS."
- 87%** "I TRY HARDER IN SCHOOL & PARTICIPATE MORE IN CLASS."
- 87%** "I SPEND MORE TIME BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE."

94%
OF STUDENTS EARNED THEIR BIKES & HELMETS

350
STUDENTS IN ADDT'L PROGRAMS

63,000+ HOURS WITH MENTORS

108 AVG HOURS PER STUDENT

4,750 MILES RIDDEN

5 NEW VOTERS REGISTERED

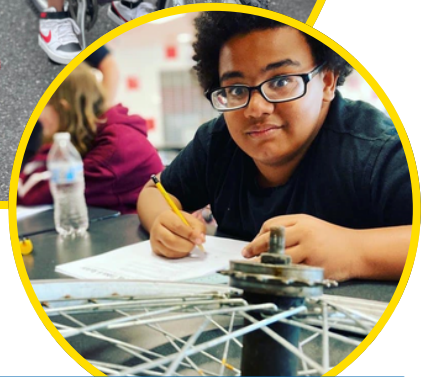
\$2,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS



289 FAMILIES SERVED MONTHLY

200,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED



AT BIKE WORKS, I'VE LEARNED HOW TO RIDE A BIKE, FIX BIKES, HOW TO BE NICER TO PEOPLE, AND HOW TO CONTROL MY EMOTIONS.

-Ronny, 12





**BUILD PROTECTIVE
RELATIONSHIPS WITH
MENTORS IN A SAFE SPACE**



LEARN LIFE & STEAM SKILLS



**PRACTICE HABITS THAT
SUPPORT PHYSICAL
& MENTAL HEALTH**



**GROW AS ENGAGED CITIZENS &
COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Earn a Bike: In our flagship Earn a Bike program, students partner with adult mentors for month-long classes in mechanics and safety. While overhauling their bikes, students practice life skills by working collaboratively, solving problems, and learning perseverance. Classes are offered out of our Franklin Park, Keck Park, and West Ward bike shops, as well as in community schools across Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton.

In 2023, we redesigned our programming plan to better support youth mental health. Most Earn a Bike sessions are now offered in four-week classes that start at the beginning of each month and run Tuesdays through Thursdays. This change allows us to set aside in-depth time with mentors on Mondays, Fridays, and many Saturdays.

Easton Bike Club: New for 2024, Bike Club offers an in-depth, 40-hour Earn a Bike and riding program to Easton teens. Graduates regularly return for afterschool rides and activities including indoor rock-climbing and ice skating. Bike Club is a 2-year program supported by the PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency.

Junior Earn a Bike: Second- and third-graders practice social-emotional learning while learning about reading, riding, and wrenching. JrEAB students learn that, just as building a bike requires tools and parts, building a healthy emotional life requires social and emotional tools they can learn to use. At the end of the program, students earn their bike, a new helmet, and several books!

Recreational Cycling: Recreational rides offer all youth the opportunity to explore local trails and roads while practicing healthy habits that support physical and mental health. Rides are offered daily during the summer, plus Mondays, Fridays and one Saturday a month during the ride season.

Competitive Cycling: Students can “try the track” at the Lehigh Valley Preferred Cycling Center. In 2024, 5 teens raced with the Lehigh Valley Composite Mountain Bike team under the leadership of Coach Adonis, competing in races across the state!

Youth Leadership: Throughout 2024, Youth Leaders worked to plan and host the national Youth Bike Summit. Among other tasks, teens provided input on all major decisions made by the YBS planning committee and planned a Saturday reception for 300 attendees, in what was the most youth-led Youth Bike Summit to date!

Youth Advisory Council: Our Youth Advisory Council was formed in 2023 to give teens more of a voice within Bike Works. Five inaugural YAC members worked alongside the board to learn how nonprofits run.

East Side Food Pantry: Since June of 2022, Bike Works has operated the East Side Food Pantry out of our Keck Park facility to provide healthy and fresh food to 290 East Allentown families each month. In addition to meeting a significant community need, operating the pantry allows us to meet youth program goals: Our pantry manager Hana prepares lunches for our Allentown students each summer day, and students can volunteer in our pantry or garden. In the words of youth leader Edwin, “You can’t ride a bike if you’re hungry!”



2024 YOUTH BIKE SUMMIT A HUGE SUCCESS!

Community Bike Works was thrilled to host the 2024 national Youth Bike Summit, which brought together 300 youth and adults—from the Lehigh Valley, New York and Boston, to Chicago, Texas, and California—to learn and grow through the power of the bike.

Following the 2024 theme, "**Youth Lead the Way**," attendees spent three days **building skills and developing relationships** to support them as they grow as riders, advocates, and citizens. National cycling advocate Randy Neufeld, an Allentown native, provided a keynote, and workshops took participants down the Lehigh River and to Bicycling magazine. YBS2024 culminated with a Big Ride from Muhlenberg College, along the D&L, to Bethlehem's SteelStacks, allowing attendees to experience our local landscape and celebrate their new relationships.

Avery Daniels was honored as the League of American Bicyclists **Emerging Leader of the Year** for his work with CBW youth on planning the National Youth Bike Summit. He was presented with his award at the National Bike Summit in Washington DC.



GIRLS EVALUATING AND REDEFINING SOCIAL STANDARDS

Through our GEARSS program, supported by **Women United**, the women-led affinity group of the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, girls connect with our women mechanics to learn bike mechanics and bike riding in an **All Girls Earn a Bike** class and monthly **Girls Clubs**. We encourage female-identifying students to step outside of their comfort zone, create a safe-space to try new things and show that women are mechanics! Girls clubs have included an Iron Pigs baseball game, women in STEM visit from Cedar Crest College, bike rides, and a clothing design day.

"Girls' Class is a safe environment to express yourself and learn from people that understand you and want to empower you."

-Fayrouz, 12, Keck Park



CORE

Fellowship Program | LVCF

Board Chair Dolores Singletary and East Side Food Pantry Manager Hana Cannon joined the inaugural cohort of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation's CORE Fellowship Program.

As part of this three-year program designed to bring nonprofit leaders together to center equity in themselves, their relationships, their organizations, and the nonprofit sector, Hana and Dolores arranged focus groups for students, staff, and board, and helped create communications agreements for our organization.

Leonard Parker Pool INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH

Thanks to the Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health, four Bike Works staff were trained in **ICT: Integrative Community Therapy**. By offering guided conversation among community members, ICT creates a safe space for folks to share life experiences and share in the responsibility of finding solutions and overcoming life's challenges. Bike Works is using ICT as the basis for a new project, Rooted in Nature, that combines ICT conversations with bike rides to support teen mental health.



Lehigh Valley
Health Network

HIGHMARK

Nordson

FAT TIRE

2023 CYCLE CHALLENGE

Thank you to the Challengers who rode, walked, spun, and ran with us, and thank you to the community members who supported those Challengers! For two weeks in 2023, our **27 teams**, consisting of **158 dedicated community members**, rode a total of 17,728 miles and raised an amazing **\$100,000** to support the kids of Bike Works.

In 2023, RLB Accountants-Team Blue took home 1st place in miles ridden AND funds raised! We are grateful to all of our sponsors, riders, and donors who make the Challenge a success!



COMMUNITY BIKE WORKS TEACHES LIFE LESSONS THROUGH BICYCLES TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY WHO COULD BENEFIT MOST

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS WHO MADE OUR WORK IN 2023-24 POSSIBLE...



...AND MORE THAN 1,110 ADDITIONAL DONORS, BIKE DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jean Blanc Bob Boehret Shalon Buskirk Steve Haymon Lara Kuhns-Secretary Greg Lamb Pete Lessik Stacy Melvin*
Chris Randle Melanie Sanchez-Jones Dolores Singletary-Chair Olga Torres Stefanie Wexler-Treasurer Laura Zaharakis
Tony Zimmermann
We are grateful to Claire Aylward, Adrian Cousens, Joe Goldfeder, Taryn Hipp, and Bob Snyder whose terms ended in 2023-24.

YBS HOST COMMITTEE

Bob Boehret Adonis Cannon Dave Edinger Avery Daniels Kathleen Dent Diana Dunn Steve Haymon Tinku Khanwalkar
Reilly Leisher Maddie M Gloria Power MaryAnn Przekurat Melanie Sanchez-Jones Kim Schaffer Dolores Singletary
Stefanie Wexler James Williams Laura Zaharakis Yotzael* Edwin* Hector* Isaac* Leila* Lamont* Noah* Zayvian*

STAFF

Sadie Aten Adonis Cannon* Hana Cannon* Omar Carpio* Dave Edinger Edwin Estevez* Reilly Leisher Maddie Marte*
Jose Monte de Oca* Nella Panella Kim Schaffer Brean Shea Brittany Smith* Jeff Varrone James Williams Kevin Winterfield
We extend our best wishes to Avery Daniels and Mac McMahon who left to explore new opportunities during the year.*

**Denotes EAB Graduate or Family Member*

STATEMENT ON FINANCES, 2023-24

Revenue \$1,062,947 Expenses \$1,261,628

Community Bike Works is a growing organization in good financial health. Like many nonprofits, our income varies from year to year. In 2023-24, CBW experienced a significant deficit that was largely the result of delayed public contracts; gifts from foundations, corporations, special events, and individuals were all near expected levels.

We were able to use operating reserves to fully cover costs for the year without reducing staffing or programs. In the current year, we will seek to draw down our outstanding public funds as we also work to find additional ways to strengthen our financial standing and rebuild our reserves.

Our 2023-24 990 is available at communitybikeworks.org.



GET INVOLVED:

DONATE A BIKE OR VOLUNTEER!

610.434.1140 FRANKLIN PARK, ALLENTOWN

484.957.6228 KECK PARK, ALLENTOWN

610.820.4067 EAST SIDE FOOD PANTRY

484.957.6722 WEST WARD, EASTON



@communitybikeworks



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