



Youth Development & Work Ethic Programs

# Gratitude report

2013-2014 Annual Report | 235 N. Madison Street, Allentown PA 18102 | [communitybikeworks.org](http://communitybikeworks.org)

## LEARNING LIFE LESSONS...through bicycles



Photo: Sasha Phylars-Burgess

At Community Bike Works, we teach life lessons through bicycles. We use classes in bike mechanics as a hook to engage youth and, once engaged, influence their behavior and their outlook on school and life. In our most recent program year, we continued to strengthen our flagship Earn a Bike program while finding new ways for students to connect with mentors and learn life skills.

### Earn a Bike

In our flagship Earn a Bike program, students ages 9 to 17 complete a 12-week bike mechanics course. Through working on their bikes, students learn work skills by arriving for class on time, following manuals and writing in their journals, working as a team, and seeing the satisfaction of turning a broken bike into one they can ride. In the end, students earn their refurbished bike and a new helmet.

Angel, who completed the Earn a Bike program at Central Elementary, was asked whether he found the program worthwhile. "Yes," he answered, "because at the beginning you learn about the bike, how to fix it. **It takes a long time to learn about the bike but it's worth it because at the end you get to**

*...continued p. 2*



Students spend time with adult mentors, having fun while learning. From top: sewing squeak toys for the puppies of Peaceable Kingdom, making healthy snacks, and enjoying the pool at KidsPeace.

## Student Spotlight: Josh

**A**fter moving to Allentown as a young boy, Josh—whose family had recently come from New York—hung around the neighborhood for several months before working up the courage to let staff know he wanted to join Bike Works. Once he arrived as an 11 year old, however, Josh stayed—earning his bike and becoming a youth volunteer and then a paid apprentice. Josh gained skills and confidence along the way, while also making a positive difference in the lives of dozens of younger students.

Josh graduated from Allen High School this spring, and he is now a freshman at Temple University.

**"Bike Works was a stepping stone for me becoming more of a leader,"** Josh says. "When the other youth would look to me for guidance, I had the opportunity to extend my knowledge—of bikes, of school, of life—to them." Thank you, Josh, and best wishes for continued success!



Josh with Program Manager James Williams at his Allen graduation.

## LIFE LESSONS: Program Highlights 2013-2014

**keep it.** ...When I grow up I want to be a mechanic, because they fix things, and in my program I learned how to fix my bike.”

For 2013-14, we continued to hold Earn a Bike classes at our Allentown bike shop, in Allentown and Bethlehem schools, and at KidsPeace. This spring, to provide more opportunities for students to connect, we offered a **Saturday Earn a Bike** class.

We also drew explicit connections between skills students are learning and future job skills. A spring class at Lincoln Elementary was sponsored by Just Born, Inc. As part of the **My Bike is Just Born** class, Just Born employees described their work and how it relates to skills students learn in Earn a Bike.

### Earn a Book

In our reading & homework program, students are paired with tutors from Cedar Crest College to build skills and develop an enthusiasm for reading. Twenty students participated regularly in each of the fall and spring semesters.

“Tutors can help you in academic skills, and at the end, you can get a book,” says Erick, 11.

This year, we renamed the program **Earn a Book** to create synergy with Earn a Bike. Now, students who spend 18 hours with a tutor earn a **trip to a bookstore**, where they choose books for their home libraries.

### Drop-In

In afterschool and summer Drop-in, students work on bikes, go for rides, or participate in engaging group activities. Highlights included a **bike ride in Easton, visits from the Da Vinci Science Center, sessions with musician Dave Fry**, and weekly cooking lessons.



Photo: Sasha Phylars-Burgess

### Youth Volunteer & Apprentice

After graduating from Earn a Bike, students may join the youth volunteer program and serve as peer instructors. The capstone of the Bike Works experience is Youth Apprentice, in which students receive their first paying job as an Earn a Bike instructor.

“I love volunteering,” Jose said. **“I get to serve people. I get trusted with stuff. It’s awesome.”**

This year, staff and two youth leaders headed to **New York City for Youth Bike Summit**. Kyle and Breeanna spent the day in workshops that included telling their stories through videos and zines.

## Our Programs\*

**287 students in Earn a Bike classes; 76% graduated.**

**More than 80 students attended Drop-in and Earn a Book each semester. 12 students served as youth volunteers.**

**Students made 4,770 visits to Bike Works and spent more than 9,500 hours with mentors.**

\* Numbers not comparable to previous years' because of a slight change in calculations. Please contact us for more information.

## Our Students

**76% are male; 24% are female**

**64% are Hispanic. 35% are black/African-American; 47% are white, and 17% are mixed race or another race**

**81% live in families at or below half of the area's median income**

**67% live in female-headed households**

## From the Director

**W**hat an exciting year!

In the first year with a new executive director, the Bike Works board committed to a strategic plan that calls for retaining the strength of our programs while focusing on increasing opportunities for student engagement. The plan's top two goals are:

1. Ensure our programs remain effective and youth have the tools they need to succeed.
2. Increase our engagement with youth. Provide opportunities for deeper connections to mentors and more meaningful learning experiences.

I am happy to report significant accomplishments in both areas. Based on student

feedback and staff evaluation, we implemented a number of changes:

- We developed and instituted Pumped Up!, an organizational-wide system of expectations and consequences to help promote positive behavior.
- We revised our Reading & Homework program to create Earn a Book, creating synergy with Earn a Bike while helping students build a home library.
- We developed Food for Fuel, in which students have access to fresh fruit every day upon their arrival after school, and a volunteer helps students prepare healthy snacks.

As always, Bike Works remains about

every individual student. In the words of Angel, 11: **“Bike Works is fun. I like building stuff and helping out.”** What more could you ask for?

Bike Works serves as a safe place for our students to learn and connect thanks to the support of our volunteers, community partners, student families, and of course, the students themselves. Thank you all, and here's to an even more successful year ahead!



*Kim Schaffer*

## GEARING UP FOR THE FUTURE: YOUTH LEADERSHIP

More than 200 guests joined Community Bike Works at the IronPigs' Coca-Cola Park in March for **Gearing Up for the Future**. We honored retiring founder Stefan Goslawski and celebrated our youth leaders.

At stations around the room portraying a student's journey through Bike Works, guests saw students' work and spoke with them about their experiences. In a brief program, current and former students described, in tribute to Stefan, what Bike Works means to them. In his speech, Youth Apprentice Kyle, 17, summed up the evening's sentiment: "Community Bike Works is more than learning how bikes work. It's learning how life works."

The 18 students who attended listed the highlights of the evening as meeting Mayor Ed Pawlowski and other community leaders and, of course, the food. A few days after *Gearing Up*, Xavier, 11, told staff that he'd "like to rewind back to the gala. It was really fun and the food was delicious."

The benefits to the students will extend past the evening. Thanks to our sponsors and supporters, *Gearing Up* raised a net \$38,000, which will be used to expand our youth leadership programming.

Since the gala, we have been able to hire an additional Youth Apprentice to join Kyle. We have also developed curriculum for a new youth leadership program that will debut this fall.

Participating students will explore what leadership means, connect with local leaders, and develop a project that allows them to give back to Bike Works and their community.



*"Community Bike Works is more than learning how bikes work. It's learning how life works."*

—Kyle, 17, Apprentice

## GEARING UP FOR THE FUTURE COMMITTEE

**CO-CHAIRS** Laurie Hackett, Air Products | Frank Facchiano, Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE** Patricia Wood Beldon | Karen Green | Lara Kuhns | Alice Lynott | Sandra Mann | Gail McMakin | Nick Mittica | Dave Przekurat | Will Rivera | Joan Schork Chair | Chuck Weinmann | Laura Zaharakis



All photos this page: Sasha Phylars-Burgess

Please see the following page for the complete list of our generous supporters who helped make *Gearing Up for the Future* a success.



## GEARING UP FOR THE FUTURE SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

### Presenting Sponsor Air Products

**Sustaining Hub** National Penn | PPL | Just Born Quality Confections | Embassy Bank for the Lehigh Valley | Claire & Bob Aylward | Pat & Sandy Beldon | Barnet & Lisa Fraenkel | Dan & Maureen Sautter

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**Friends** Ara Barlieb & Pam Wallace | Terri Bartholomew | Jeff Blinder | Steve Cameron | Martha & Will Christine | Stephen Chronowski | Attorney Martin Cohen | Walter & Ruth Dex | Candice & Justin Daibes Silvestre | John & Cecilia Eberhard | Jonathan Epstein | Anne Felker | The Freed Family | Charlie Forkas | Cheryl Gilbert | Terese Haas | Nicole Habecker | Lynn Higdon | Barry Hoffman | Pat Jroski | Mike & Claire Klatchak | Allan & Nancy Kramer-Moyer | Lara & Josh Kuhns | Dave & Kathy Leber | Nicole Loyd | Tony Luna | Alice & Vince Lynott | Jennifer Mann | Peter & Annette Mattiuz | Gail McMakin | Men of St. Thomas More | Pauline Mittica | Anthony & Sara Muir | Hiram Munger | Christopher Nace & Jennifer Bryant | Michael & Joan Nagle | David & Lois Nowack | Nancy O'Neill | Robert Pandaleon | Melissa & Keith Pavlack | Robert & Esther Peruzzi | Michael Peters | Sharon & Randy Prymck | David & MaryAnn Przekurat | Will & Melissa Rivera | Greg Russo | Justin & Angie Schaffer | Ron & Linda Schaffer | Lorrie Scherline | Richard & Jeanette Schmoyer | Diane Schoch | Bradford Wagner | Susan Wallace | Annemarie & Edward Weist | Stephanie Weitzman | Dave & Patty Williams | Ilene Wood & Ray Starner | John Yurconic Agency

**Live and Silent Auction prizes** donated by Air Products, Allentown Art Museum, Allentown Brew Works, Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Apollo Grill, Bear Creek Spa, Frank Banko Alehouse Cinemas at ArtsQuest, Keystone Homebrew Supply, Lehigh Valley Phantoms, Megan Carrie Photography, Pearly Baker's Alehouse, Phil LaPorta - The Modern Alchemist, Sandra Mann, RE:find, Saucon Valley Bikes, Shangy's The Beer Authority, Stella & Dot by Angie Schaffer, The State Theatre, Two Rivers Brewing Company.

We thank the evening's volunteers including Phil La Porta, Lisa Regan, Kristina Schwarz, and Wendy Seiffert. Special thanks to the IronPigs for the use of Coca-Cola Park.

## In Memory of Rick Gavin

This year's annual report is dedicated to the memory of Richard Gavin, a contractor and woodworker who was also an avid cyclist. To honor Rick's life, his wife Pamela Valkos, friends, and family came together to support the youth of Bike Works. The \$3,580 contributed in Rick's name was used to provide students with Earn a Bike lessons and a summer woodworking class in which students built birdhouses and bookshelves.

Erich Schrempp Photography  
Gross McGinley LLP  
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John Talecki  
Anne Troiani  
Lisa Valkos  
Gary & Patricia Ward  
Joyce & Lloyd Welken  
Randall Wood

## Donor Spotlight: IronPigs Charities & Phillies Charities

It was a phone call that had us jumping up and down: Thanks to a nomination from IronPigs Charities, Community Bike Works was going to receive a \$10,000 grant from Phillies Charities!

And, to make things more exciting, we would represent Bike Works at the Phillies Charities banquet in December that is attended by Phillies' players, coaches, wives, alumni, Ballgirls, and front office.

At the banquet, Youth Apprentice Kyle and Executive Director Kim Schaffer got to meet General Manager Ruben Amaro and say a few words to him about our Earn a Bike program. We also met the Ballgirls, and heard about the dozens of other organizations supported by the Phillies.

In addition to the generous support from the Phillies, we were also a recipient, as in recent years, of a grant from IronPigs Charities. We appreciate the Pigs' support of Bike Works as an organization that provides educational and recreational opportunities for local youth.

Go Pigs! Go Phillies! **Thank you!**





Photo: Sasha Phylars-Burgess

## THANK YOU! to our donors

**Gold Medal Partners** \$20,000 & above PennDOT  
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**Silver Medal Partners** \$10,000-\$19,999 Anonymous  
Air Products City of Allentown-CDBG Harry C. Trexler Trust  
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**Champion** \$2,000-\$4,999 Asbury United Methodist Church Lehigh Valley Community Foundation Sylvia Perkin Charitable Trust The Century Fund The Charles H. Hoch Foundation The Gadomski Lehigh Valley Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation Trek Bicycle Corporation

**Rainbow Jersey Club** \$1,000-\$1,999 Amazon Fulfillment Barry Coles & Robin Deily Charles A and Leona K Gruber Foundation ExxonMobil Foundation Michael & Claire Klatchak Lehigh County Quality of Life Linden Foundation Kathleen Matthews MicroTek in honor of David Ironside Janice Woods

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**Rotating Wheel** \$250-\$499 Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Nancy Ball Stephen Campbell CSI Fegley Enterprises, Inc. First Presbyterian Church of Allentown -Greening Creation Committee Kenneth Gilson Attorney Ellen M. Kraft, in memory of Patrick Ytsma Bryan McClintock Hiram Munger RCN Philip Salen Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania Stella & Dot by Angie Schaffer Pamela Stilin St. John's UCC, Fullerton Stephanie Powell Watts, Monica Najjar, Julia Maserjian, & Holona Ochs Individuals attending Cask Night

**Sustaining Hub** \$100-\$249 Alpha Delta Kappa Anonymous Anonymous Anonymous Marc Basist Nancy & Jeff Bogert Jennifer Bortz Michael Bushner Cops 'n' Kids Lehigh Valley Stephen & Kathleen Crampton Kathleen & Carl D'Angelo Joaquim De Matos William Dewar Brent Green David & Nancy Griffith Kathleen Guthrie, in memory of Joel Guthrie George & Sandra Hartzell Brian Jelensits Susan & Peter Kijak Nancy & Allan Kramer-Moyer Kathleen Krasley Robert Kricun Ron Krikorian Sandra Lakatos Samuel & Kathryn Laposata David & Kathryn Leber Lennart & Lisa Marten Christine McConnell Nancy Ginkus -O'Connor & Martin O'Connor Anthony & Nancy Odorski David & MaryAnn Przekurat Edward Richards Gregory & Ann Reinbold Michael Riskin Jay Rochelle & Susan Steinhaus Bill & Jeanette Seaman Andrea Smith Robert & Mary Sodaitis Jim & Nancy Steffy Stanley & Carol Stephens Brady & Jasmine Sullivan David Tellier The Clothing Tree US Bancorp Foundation Employees of Wegmans Food Markets David Weinstein William Allen SADD Club

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<b>Revenues</b> July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014	<b>Foundations &amp; Corporations</b> 63.5%	<b>Total 100%</b>
	<b>Government</b> 15.4%	
	<b>Individuals &amp; Community Groups</b> 17.5%	
	<b>In Kind &amp; Other Income</b> 3.6%	

This unaudited list includes gifts and in-kind support received between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. We regret any errors or omissions. Please email corrections to [kim@communitybikeworks.org](mailto:kim@communitybikeworks.org).

## CONNECT with Community Bike Works



**We host regular Bikes & Brownies open houses!**

**Please join us Wednesday, November 12.**

Stop in any time from 5-7 pm to see our students in action and enjoy delicious brownies.

RSVPs appreciated but not required to [kim@communitybikeworks.org](mailto:kim@communitybikeworks.org)

## JOIN US in teaching life lessons through bicycles

*Be a part of the Community Bike Works team and help a child grow!*

- ⇒ **Be a mentor.** We seek dedicated adults to serve as volunteer mentors. No mechanical experience needed. Contact [james@communitybikeworks.org](mailto:james@communitybikeworks.org)
- ⇒ **Donate a bike.** Have a kids' or adult bike you no longer need? We'll put it to good use! Call 610-434-1140 to arrange a time for drop off
- ⇒ **Be a supporter.** Your generous gift will help us meet our mission! **Donate online** at [www.communitybikeworks.org](http://www.communitybikeworks.org) (click the big red **DONATE** button) or return the form below



----- *Kindly return* -----

YES! I want to support youth learning life lessons through bike mechanics.  
Enclosed is my check to Community Bike Works.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTRIBUTION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**235 North Madison Street | Allentown PA 18102 | 610-434-1140**

**Thank you for your support!**

## THANK YOU! to our volunteers

The success of our programs is due to a low youth-to-adult ratio that allows for the development of meaningful mentoring relationships between youth and adults. These relationships are possible only because of the dedication of our team of volunteers. In 2013-2014, more than 60 volunteers served nearly **3,200** hours, with a value of approximately \$72,000. We love our volunteers!

Claire Aylward  
 Jeff Blinder  
 Stephen Campbell  
 Mary Cancelliere  
 Chuck Canfield  
 Michael Duncan  
 Jon Gabriel  
 Cheryl Gilbert  
 Gary Goodnuff  
 Bobby Hissim  
 Barry Hoffman  
 Judy Jones  
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Dan Royer  
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 Erick Schneider  
 Joan Schork  
 Adrienne Thornburg  
 Dennis Whitman  
 Dan Widtfeldt  
 Roger Yott

**Muhlenberg College**  
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 Katie Casty  
 Melanie Goetz  
 Sarona Isaac  
 Vernon Jordan III  
 Benji Kornbluth  
 Lauren Polcaro  
 Nathan Rigione  
 Melanie Vandegrift

**Cedar Crest College**  
 Francheska Aquino  
 Denasia Brown  
 Hawa Diaby  
 Emily Crull  
 Morgan Fulmer  
 Bria Johnson  
 Kayla Kline  
 Molly Koonz

DeJanet Lantion  
 Shaquira McCottry  
 Courtney Saluti  
 Fatima Smith  
 Amanda Scott  
 Sarah Slaw Kiewe  
 Stephanie Victorin  
 Nashely Villeda  
 Tayler White

**Community Partners**  
 Allentown Promise  
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 Save the Kales  
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 Allentown  
 Valley Preferred  
 Cycling Center  
 Volunteer Center of the  
 Lehigh Valley



Photo: Sasha Phylars-Burgess

**Q: How did the program make you feel about yourself?**

I don't have to ask my dad to help me fix my bike I just do it myself with the tools in the closet. That makes me feel good about myself because now I know how to fix a bike if it breaks so I don't get hurt.

**Q: Has the program helped you to think about what you want to be when you grow up?**

I want to be a doctor like my mom so when a kid breaks their arm, I want to know how to fix it. In the program we take the bike apart and put it back together just like what a doctor does.

— G., Central Elementary

## Board of Directors

In this past year, we undertook a several-month process to identify new board members, and were pleased to welcome six new directors—including two parents of current students—for 2014-15. New directors are identified with an asterisk.

Steve LaBrake, Christopher Nace, Marty Nothstein and Chuck Weinmann ended their terms this year. We thank them for their service.

**Bienvenido (Benny) Avila\***

**Claire Aylward**

**Patricia Wood Beldon, SECRETARY**

**Issam Billeh\***

**Jonathan Fenner\***

**Karen Green**

**Charles Hoch\***

**Mike Klatchak, TREASURER**

**Scott Kleinschuster**

**Lara Kuhns\***

**Saleem Mawji\***

**Nick Mittica, CHAIR**

**Will Rivera**

**Laura Zaharakis**

## Staff, 2013-14

**Kim Schaffer** Executive Director

**Stefan Goslawski Sr** Program Advisor

**James Williams** Program Manager

**Jessica Webster** Asst Program Manager

**Haze Figueroa** Program Aide

**Hannah Miller** Program Aide

**Dave Przekurat** Program Aide

**Brennen Sullivan** Program Aide

**Kyle Cunningham** Youth Apprentice

**Jose Ortiz** Youth Apprentice



235 N. Madison Street  
Allentown, PA 18102

[www.communitybikeworks.org](http://www.communitybikeworks.org)  
610.434.1140

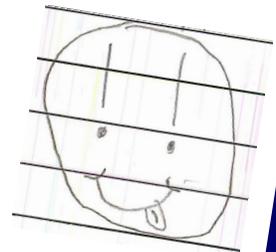
Community Bike Works provides inner-city children living in at-risk situations with meaningful work-ethic alternatives to gangs, drugs and the streets.

We use bicycles, peer role models and adult mentors to develop and nurture relationships and to engage youth; and once engaged, influence their behavior and their outlook about school and life.



Dear Donor,  
I thank you x50 for what you did. Although the bike was a little beat up, it was still cool. Once I got it, glee filled my body. I had a good time riding my bike and next week I take it home!!!!!!!

Sincerely, James



**Stay in touch!**

Check out our updated website at [www.communitybikeworks.org](http://www.communitybikeworks.org)

Attend our next Bikes & Brownies open house from 5-7 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 12

Follow us on Facebook to see photos and stories throughout the year!

**Clockwise from upper left: Earn a Bike student Marquette drew a graduation picture for us; James, a student at Central Elementary, wrote his note to the person who donated his bike; the three Pink Girls work on their bikes in an evening Earn a Bike class.**