



Life lessons through bicycles

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THE JOY OF RIDING, THE THRILL OF MASTERING A NEW SKILL...a bike can mean so much!

Community Bike Works teaches life lessons through bicycles to the young people of Allentown and the Lehigh Valley who could benefit most. We offer high-quality mentoring programs that connect youth with adult and peer mentors and help them learn skills for success—all while having hands-on fun with bikes!

EARN A BIKE. In our flagship Earn a Bike, students team up with adult mentors for a 12-week course in bike mechanics and safety. While working on their bikes, students learn work skills by following their manuals, working as a team, and seeing the satisfaction of turning a broken bike into a functional one. Once students complete their classes, they earn their refurbished bike and new helmet!

JUNIOR EARN A BIKE introduces 7- and 8-year-olds to the idea of working with mentors and bikes. Each class includes a sampling of Community Bike Works' core skills: Reading, Riding, and Wrenching. Students read from a book that introduces the day's lessons, practice bike riding, and learn basic bike mechanics.

Once engaged in bike mentoring, students can participate in our full range of programs, including **afternoon Drop-in, Earn a Book, and Youth Leadership.** In addition, we offer year-round cycling opportunities with Community Bike Works staff and local cycling clubs. Students can participate in **Saturday trail rides, track riding, long-distance road riding, and mountain biking**—learning skills including discipline and perseverance while spending additional time with mentors.

IN 2018-19:

- More than 500 students participated in Earn a Bike (414) and Junior Earn a Bike (93) at our Madison Street bike shop, our new East Allentown location, and in schools in Allentown and Bethlehem.
- 90% of students completed Earn a Bike, and 100% completed Junior Earn a Bike, demonstrating bike learning and earning their refurbished bike and a new helmet.
- 35% of our onsite Earn a Bike students participated in six hours or more of supplemental mentoring programs, including Drop-in, Earn a Book, Youth Leadership, and cycling programs.
- Of students at a United Way community school who participated in Earn a Bike in 2018-19, 72% improved or maintained their school attendance during the year they were in our program.
- In total, students made 9,500 visits to Bike Works and spent over 20,000 hours with mentors!

A BIKE CAN CHANGE A YOUNG PERSON'S LIFE. Xavier, 13, completed Junior Earn a Bike at our Madison Street location before moving to East Allentown, where he completed Earn a Bike. In his words:

*I knew how to fix bikes, but I didn't know the little things. Now I know the bottom bracket, I know what's in the headsets, and in the hubs. **I also learned that when you find an interest you like, it helps with everything else in your life.** When I am mad at my brother, working on and riding my bike helps me calm down. Another thing I like about Bike Works is that it's welcoming, and you can feel safe here. When my littlest siblings turn 7, I'm definitely bringing them to Bike Works.*

With your support, we can continue to connect students and mentors, teaching life lessons through bicycles and helping kids succeed. Please join us!

