



JUNE 2021



WHY WE COME TO BIKE WORKS

JOSÉ: Hello, my name is José and I am 16 years old. I go to William Allen High School and I will be a senior in the fall. I chose to come to Community Bike Works because I feel it's a great challenge for me. I can develop my mind and my priorities and learn discipline and face new challenges while I learn. I really like coming to Bike Works because I can be myself. I can make new friends and talk to the teachers about any difficulties I have.

Learning discipline is about how to properly act when you start working with the bikes. It's really nice because you can face these new challenges that can help you develop your mind and become smarter, more intelligent. Community Bike Works is like a home and you can be safe in a warm place. The teachers have the capacity to make any kid at Bike Works feel comfortable. You can be yourself while you are working on your bike.

RODNER: Hi, my name is Rodner. I am 16 years old. I also will be a senior at William Allen High School. What I like about Community Bike Works is that everyone is so helpful. You can have so much fun with the Bike Works teachers. I feel like being myself here. I can make new friends and I can learn more about my personality. I can learn new words in English and more things.

JOSÉ & RODNER: We have been friends for three years. A friend of ours, Luis, talked to us about how he came to Bike Works in middle school. He told us how to join the class so we can earn our bikes. That was our thing—we wanted to earn bikes. Then when we came to Bike Works we felt comfortable with the teachers and so we decided to involve ourselves more in Community Bike Works.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED AT BIKE WORKS



JOSÉ: Bike Works shows you how to take care of yourself by showing you how to wear your helmet. It's actually really nice when you have someone that takes care of you. Lots of kids don't want to wear helmets, but they tell you how to properly wear your helmet. They show you how to take care of yourself when you see a car on the street, and they give kids lights so they can see at night. Those priorities that they have for you, to be more careful and take care of yourself, that's what makes kids comfortable here—and their parents too.

RODNER: Bike Works has shown me a lot of tricks for how to fix bikes. And the teachers show me how to be more responsible with the things I have to do, like school work. I feel very thankful for them for teaching me a lot of new things about how to be myself and how to be a better person in life.

JOSÉ: When I earned my bike I earned it online. We are going to do in-person Earn a Bike this summer. I know it will be a lot of fun and better because all the students will be in the classroom and fixing our bikes by ourselves, and I'm pretty excited about that. I still need to learn some of the tools. I know some of it but I need practice.



RIDING AT BIKE WORKS

RODNER: Before I earned my bike, I wasn't too attached to Community Bike Works. Then I came to a ride, and when I saw there were nice people here I kept coming. Before, I didn't have a bike. I knew how to use a bike a little bit. When I was little, 7 or 8, my cousin had a 26-inch bike that I rode, so I kept falling. Then I came to Bike Works. I was still falling on my bike a little bit, when I did tricks. Now I know how to do some tricks. I'm still learning how to jump but I think I am getting it.

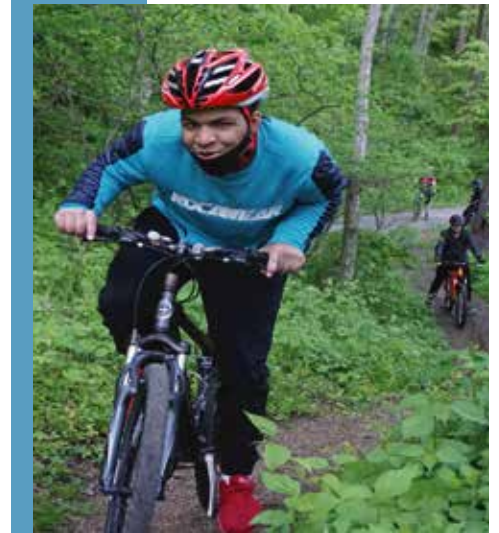
José and I joined the Bike Works mountain bike team. I had to get more attached to it, because I am still learning and I get tired fast. But it's a lot of fun. I go jumping and go real fast. So I really like going on mountain bike rides because I think I am losing the fears of a lot of things I had and that helps me a lot in my life. I really like the view, too. Riding in the trees, when I see the river and the mountain, I feel relaxed. That's my comfort spot, to be in nature.

JOSÉ: Mountain bike team is actually pretty good because they show you how to be responsible when you are on a mountain road. On the ride, the team sticks together and the coaches are waiting for you. They are very helpful and they care for you. If you are doing something not good for the team, they say you need to be doing something better. They teach you.

SETTING GOALS AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

JOSÉ: Mac and Adonis helped me fill out an application to work at Community Bike Works. After the time I've been here, I figured out I want to work at Bike Works to have more opportunity to help kids with their bikes. I want to get the job at Bike Works because I have the goal to save some money. I haven't seen my mom in two years. This summer I am going to the Dominican Republic to see my mom, and I want to make my mom feel like a queen, which she is.

JOSÉ & RODNER: Community Bike Works is wonderful. We hope everyone will support Community Bike Works so that the community gets bigger and reaches more kids, and helps them get their bikes so we can have fun with them.



José M. & Rodner

This summer, we will emerge from a most challenging year to connect with students, including José and Rodner, in ways both old and new. We will engage students in in-person Earn a Bike, on near-daily bike rides, and in our one-on-one mentoring and youth leadership programs. We'll connect with students at our downtown and East Allentown bike shops and in schools in Allentown and Bethlehem. Most excitingly, we'll host our first classes in Easton, to truly reach youth across the Lehigh Valley.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity that allows us to engage young people in youth bike mentoring. Can you make a gift this summer to support Community Bike Works students, like José and Rodner, to connect them with mentors and help them learn life lessons through bicycles? Please join us today to ensure that as we look to a future newly full of possibilities, young people across the Lehigh Valley will have meaningful opportunities to learn and grow. In deep appreciation, thank you.

Kim

Kim Schaffer, Executive Director

PS. Visit communitybikeworks.org to enjoy a video from José and Rodner. While you're there, you can also check out our latest Gratitude Report, covering our last two program years. Thank you for your support of Community Bike Works!