

Working Bikes

2015 Annual Report



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



2015 has been another great ride for Working Bikes. So many good things just seem to come our way, mostly in the form of generous, energetic, and passionate people who want to help us help others.

In November, we said good-bye to Marie Akerman our first non-mechanic hire who served so ably over the past 2 ½ years as our Communications and Development Manager. We know she'll do great things in Salt Lake City. We welcomed her replacement, Julie Nicewander, the author of this annual report. We also said good-bye to dedicated Board Member Amelia Jaffe as she moved on to Denver and welcomed new Board Member Alderman Brian Hopkins.

Our General Manager, Paul Fitzgerald, along with our Volunteer Committee, took the initiative to seek input and improve our volunteer program. We've added two volunteer days (Women & Trans Night on Thursday and a Friday afternoon open volunteer session) and brought on 4 additional volunteer coordinator/teaching mechanics (Andrew, Maja, Waymond and Octavio). Our wonderful volunteers in Brandon's Bike Shop are producing more bikes for our local bike donation program and for the kid's bike holiday event. Paul has also put together a great team of professional bike mechanics who we are very fortunate to have cranking out bikes for the shop and servicing bikes for people in the community.

Dave Gorman, co-founder of Bikes for Lesotho, came to us to formalize our ongoing partnership. His life's passion to send bikes to kids in Lesotho, Africa is more securely realized now that Working Bikes has become the financial and bike donation warehouse for Bikes for Lesotho. We sent 500 kids and adult bikes in November and plan to send another container in 2016.

Flavio Pina of Leo Burnett volunteered his unique skills and passion for bikes to create the first crowdfunding project on Instagram with the Good Container. Our Instagram followers generously gave \$3,000 to help fund the shipping costs of a container filled with 500 bikes to Ability Bikes in Ghana. Stay tuned for Flavio's video following the journey of the Good Container to Ghana.

I am particularly excited about our new partnership with Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding I signed with Keith Sproule in November to document our partnership. We will provide bikes and technical assistance to Abercrombie's new bike project in Zambia which trained 5 village women as bike mechanics. Three more containers will be shipped to Africa this year.

I also want to thank the hundreds, dare I say thousands, who chose to donate a bike, host a bike drive, run a donation drop off site, volunteer in the shop or be a Working Bikes customer. Thanks for everyone's support so we can continue giving old bikes new homes and making a difference for thousands of people. We hope you continue to be involved in our work and have some fun with us along the way! If you'd like to join in on the ride, please email us at info@workingbikes.org.

And finally, we recently received the sad news that Raymond Damm our accountant passed away suddenly. We owe Raymond so much for helping us get our not-for-profit status in order and making us a more sustainable organization. We will miss you Raymond.

Phil Kaplan, Board President



OUR STORY

As we take a look at all that we've accomplished in 2015, we can pause to reflect on our past, remembering how our story began. We've come a long way since 1999 when our founders Lee Ravenscroft and Amy Little began saving bikes bound for the scrapyard in an effort to return them to productivity as working bikes. Salvageable bikes were repaired and sold for a small fee, funding the next scrapyard purchase. It was a small operation, but it eventually grew to become what Working Bikes is today. Now in our 16th year, we have provided bicycles to over 55,000 individuals in more than 20 countries! We have moved from a home garage to our current warehouse that can hold thousands of bikes. Two years after opening Brandon's Bike Shop, our volunteer program is more successful than ever. We are proud of our past, and excited for our future. It's been quite a ride so far, and we can't wait to see what's next!



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OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**13 international
shipments**

**Shipped to 7
countries**

**\$58,926 cash donations
from generous individuals
and companies**

**851 bikes repaired by
volunteers and
distributed locally**

**9,119 unwanted or
unused bikes collected**

**243 new volunteers
registered in
Brandon's Bike Shop**



WHO WE ARE



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Staff

Aaron Brown
Production Manager

John Clark
Mechanic

Jeff Coufal
Mechanic

Bk Elmore
Volunteer Coordinator

Paul Fitzgerald
General Manager

Alan Lloyd
Mechanic

Cesar Meza
Mechanic

David Nasca
Mechanic

Julie Nicewander
Communications and Development
Coordinator

Patrick Tivnan
Mechanic

Mikey Young
Mechanic

Board

Trevor Clarke -Secretary

Brian Hopkins

Phil Kaplan - Board President

Jim Lindsey- Treasurer

Amy Little - Vice President

Regina Murphy

Lee Ravenscroft

Pete Travnicek

Eric Wood

BIKE DONATIONS

Repurposing and donating bikes is the core of our mission. Bikes provide transportation, create jobs, help students stay in school, and create healthy environments. Bikes transform lives! In 2015, thanks to the support of our amazing network of donors, we were able to provide 6,575 bikes to individuals and communities across the globe. Of special note, Don Hale retired at 92 from the bike collection team in Nevada, Iowa. So far the team has sent 8,800 bikes to Chicago for international distribution.

LOCAL DONATIONS

Working Bikes donates repaired bicycles in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs through numerous partner organizations. These include health-focused institutions (veteran hospitals, health and human service agencies), transitional housing facilities, youth organizations, community centers, and schools. Our dedicated volunteers spend thousands of hours repairing bikes which are then given new life as donations to deserving recipients. This year we provided 851 bikes through our local donations. At our annual Holiday Kids Bike Extravaganza, we provided bikes and helmets to 244 children!



GLOBAL IMPACT

Each year, Working Bikes ships over 5,000 bicycles to communities throughout Latin America and Africa. In these communities, a bicycle can be the difference between work and unemployment, mobility and immobility. This year we sent 5,724 bikes to eight partner organizations in seven countries. Bikes were shipped from Oregon, WI, Urbana-Champaign, IL, St. Louis, MO and the Working Bikes warehouse in Chicago.

2015 Shipments

ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	NUMBER OF SHIPMENTS
Ability Bikes	Ghana	1
ANNV	Nicaragua	1
Bikes for Lesotho	Lesotho	1
CESTA	El Salvador	4
Goodwill Panama	Panama	1
Transaid/Lalana	Madagascar	1
Village Bicycle Project	Ghana	2
Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy	Zambia	2



FINANCIAL DONATIONS

In 2015, we received \$58,926 from contributions. Thank you to everyone who donated to our cause!

DONORS & SPONSORS

Alex Wilson	Glenview Public Library	Patagonia – Bike to Work Week funds recipient
Allen and Debra Rutzen	Goose Island Beer Co. & employees	Paul Teppema
Alvin & Liz Katz	Henriot Champagne	Peter & Colleen Mulchrone
Andrew Brown	Jane and Joseph Gano	Pops for Champagne
Anonymous	Jeff Teppema	Rebecca & Jeffrey Cohen
Association of Industrial Real Estate	Jill & Rick Olswanger	Reddy Ajitha
Bernier Foundation	Julie Pulk	Riot Fest & All Rise Brewing
Better Boys Foundation	K Foundation	Robert Helle
Charla Riermaier	Kalman Foundation	Rotary Club of Lombard
Chicago Community Foundation	Katharine Parker	Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest
Chicago Health Initiative	Kiwanis Club of Lombard	Schubas Bike Bash
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD.	Kiwanis Club of Palatine	Schwab Charitable
Christopher Beck & Nicole Aranas	Landry's Management LP	Scottrade
Cobra Lounge	Laura Sparacino	Seaspar Aktion Club
Conservancy of North Park Condo Association	Laurie Morse	Spring Insight Marketing
Counter Culture Coffee	Lifeline Humanitarian Org	Stephen Siegel & Susan Bandes
CPS Library Foundation	Loretta & George Tracy	Steve Oksas & Mutual Federal Bank
Dan and Amy Kaufman	Luann Hamilton & Jim Akerman	The Jordan-Wood Family
Dan Sepke & Angela Podesta	Lynn Else	The Lagunitas Brewing Co.
David Williams	MacArthur Foundation	The Winchester
Edge Alliance	Marcia Bogolub	Tim & Amy Hohulin
Elizabeth Burtelow	Marilyn Wardle	TTX Corporation
Elizabeth Lassar	Mark and Loraine Perlen	United Way
Ellen Bogolub & Nick Friedman	Martin Family Charitable Trust	West Monroe Partners
Evanston Bike Club	Mary Trowbridge	Wheeling Wheelman
Faith United Methodist Church of Orland Park	Melody F. Balicki	Windy City Rollers
Flowers For Dreams	Michael & Gay Gorman	World Relief DuPage
Francis Streit Foundation Trust	Michael Sichlau	
Friends of Robert Emmet School at DePriest School	Mr. B Foundation	
Gail Artrip	Nancy Vintilla	
Gay Sigel & Howard Epstein	Naperville Sunrise Foundation	
	Nickolas Roedel	

* List includes those who

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

25th Ward Alderman Danny Solis
Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy
Abus
Better Boys Foundation
Bike A Bee
Bikes for Lesotho
Bikes for the World
Bikes N' Roses
Bikes Not Bombs
Blackstone Bike Co-op
Bronzeville Bikes
Chicago Diner
Chicago Help Initiative
Chicago Real Estate Private
Equity Network
Chrome
City of Chicago
Clif Bar
Cook County Forest Preserve
CTA
Disparti Law Group
Divvy
Ed Clancy of Nixon Peabody LLP
Francis W. Parker School
Flavio Pina
Green Corps
Greg Borzo & SRAM Cycling
Fund
His Wheels International

Irv & Shelly's Fresh Picks
Lake Express Milwaukee
Lolla Cares
Martin Rivera
Metra
Old Town School of Folk Music
One Summer Chicago
Rainbow Cone
REI
Revolutions Bike Co-op Memphis
Rotary Club of Algonquin-Lake in
the Hills
Rotary Club of Carol Stream
Rotary Club of Duneland (Porter
County, Indiana)
Rotary Club of Grayslake
Rotary Club of Highland Park
Rotary Club of Lombard
Rotary Club of Naperville Sunrise
Rotary Club of Woodridge
SCARCE
Just Salad
The Chicago Public Library
The Handlebar
The Peggy Notebaert Nature
Museum
The Recyclery
Timbuk2
Upton's Breakroom

We would also like to thank our amazing photographer, Steven Gross, who has kindly donated his services to take photos of our Sweet 16 party and our warehouse.

Many thanks to our regular volunteers,
who help out every Tuesday - Saturday, and to our wonderful drop off locations!
To view a complete list of the partners who collect bikes for us year in and year out, go to:
www.workingbikes.org/drop-off-locations/

SNAPSHOTS OF 2015

January - We started the year off with a Membership Appreciation Party at the warehouse to thank all of our amazing volunteers and donors.

February - Working Bikes staff and board representatives, Marie and Trevor, visited Central American partners to see the impact of WB's efforts. In Esteli, Nicaragua, Marie saw ANNV turn donated Working Bikes into jobs and resources for the blind. In El Salvador, Marie and Trevor saw Working Bikes put to use on paved roads, dirt paths, and gravel lanes. They even found some donated Divvy tires hanging for sale (cheap!) at a thatched roof roadside bike shop run by a CESTA trained mechanic and amputee. We know first hand that our efforts are providing transportation and jobs!



March - With the beginning of spring the shop came back to life with bikes being serviced and sold. We also sent our volunteers to represent Working Bikes at festivals and green fairs.

April - Our calendar was full of Earth Day events, capped off with trucking 250 bikes from Lake Express Ferry Terminal Milwaukee donated through a promotion that offered a free crossing of Lake Michigan for a donated bike.



May - Flavio Pina from Leo Burnett launched the first-ever crowdfunding Instagram campaign on behalf of Working Bikes. Instagram followers raised \$3,000 to fund a shipment to Ability Bikes in Ghana. Flavio later saw that container unloaded in Abidja, Cote D'Ivoire. Check it out here:
www.instagram.com/goodcontainer/



SNAPSHOTS OF 2015 CONTINUED...



July - On a hot summer day, we partnered with Champagne Henriot for the 5th Annual Tour d'Henriot. At this quirky yet elegant event, local restaurants and shops took a leisurely bike ride dressed in their French best. All proceeds went to Working Bikes, and we received \$1,930 - to that we say "Merci Beaucoup!"



September - Goose Island Beer Co. raised \$1,500 for us through their Custom Cut Jorts Sale at the annual 312 Urban Block Party, proving that Jorts still have a place in polite society.

June - WTTW featured us on the popular show Chicago Tonight in a segment called New Lives for Old Bikes. You can view the episode here:
<http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2015/06/29/new-lives-old-bikes>



August - Three of our amazing teenage volunteers Yadid, Carol, and Justin graduated high school and enrolled in college... Cesar graduated, too, and is now a full time mechanic.



SNAPSHOTS OF 2015 CONTINUED...

October - Over 200 of our staff, volunteers, donors, and board really buckled down to drink great beer, eat fantastic food, and groove to the music of Environmental Encroachment to help raise over \$7,500 for WB! Such sacrifice!



November - We entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy to spell out our roles in sending three shipping containers a year for at least the next two years to new bike projects in Africa.

December - Our volunteers worked harder than ever to get bikes ready for the Holiday Kids Bike Extravaganza. We distributed 333 kids bikes in December - a new record! Thanks to Disparti Law Group, we were able to provide helmets to each child who got a bike.

