



## 2020 Recycle-A-Bicycle Year End Report

Every day, through our work at Recycle-A-Bicycle workshop, we strive for impact--to make a difference, touch a heart, inspire a soul and enjoy the day. While this has not changed, the past year has been very strange and eventful for R-A-B, like it has for many.



As you may know, Program Director Don Cunkle had a bicycle accident and broke his neck in the fall of 2019. Throughout the winter and early spring, this injury prevented him from doing any activity. He was in a neck brace for a year, only having it removed in late October of 2020. Fortunately, two skilled and reliable volunteers, Bob Resh and Jeff Zawisza, were able to step in to finish the 2019 season, and reopen our doors again in the early spring of 2020. Cunkle was able to come in and do some bike repairs in the

spring and gained strength and mobility as the year progressed. Without the dedication of Resh and Zawisza, Recycle-a-Bicycle would not have prevailed, and we are extremely grateful for their continued work, and the work of all of our volunteers.

Coming into Spring 2020, we were planning for our tenth annual Bike Swap, held the first weekend of June. As COVID 19 began spreading, and the Stay Home, Stay Safe order was extended, we decided to cancel the Bike Swap, which generally attracts several hundred bikes and shoppers. Proceeds from this event cover R-A-B overhead operating costs, and allow us to seek funding that focuses directly on serving our clients and referring agencies. We also had to put our collaboration with the TBAISD Ace program, which allows students to learn different skills while assisting in the bike repair shop, on hold because of safety concerns surrounding COVID 19.

We were, however, able to set a new record in bike sales this year! As more households are eager to get out and away from crowds, we sold 136 bicycles in 2020. The funds from these sales helped us make up the gap that was created by cancelling the Bike Swap event. We also took in a larger number of donated bicycles from our area citizens that were not being used anymore. Donated bicycles to R-A-B range from being in beautiful condition, but

may have a flat tire or some other minor defect, to being well-used and need larger repairs, to even being so well-loved that they are scrapped for usable parts. Regardless of condition, we are grateful for the donated bicycles from our community!

For several years, our baseline goal has been to distribute 150 bicycles annually to our neighbors in need, plus provide about 50 free repairs for our referred clients. This year, we were only able to distribute 98 bicycles and provided 47 free repairs. Many of our clients were not meeting in person with their case managers - resulting in a lower number of referrals. We are happy to report that we have seen recent uptick in referrals, and hope this continues throughout 2021.



Recently, we had a client who had received a bicycle last winter reach out to let us know that the chain kept coming off the rear gear on the back wheel, and the shifter wasn't working properly. This bicycle was his only mode of transportation, and he needed it to get to his job working as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army this holiday season. Don Cunkle picked up his bike at his residence and brought it to our workshop to see what we could do for this gentleman. After assessing the damage and the condition of the bicycle, Cunkle decided to replace it with a newer model bicycle. He then delivered the replacement bike at the clients residence that same day. Part of our program is lifetime repairs and replacement of any bikes that we have given away. We are glad that we were able to help our neighbor in need, as he in turn helps others.

Thank you to the following organizations for their support throughout the existence of Recycle-a-Bicycle. Their generous contributions allow Recycle-a-Bicycle to continue working in our community.

- 4Front Credit Union**
- The Les and Anne Biederman Foundation**
- The Campbell Endowment, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation\***
- Cherry Capital Cycling Club\*, a founding supporter of R-A-B**
- Cherryland Cares\***
- The Exchange Club of Traverse City**
- Grand Traverse Band Of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians\***
- Michigan League of Bicyclists**
- Morsels**
- Rotary Sunrise Club\***
- Rotary Twilight Club\***
- The Art and Mary Schmuckle Family Foundation**

\*Denotes a 2020 R-A-B Funder