

Changing Lives

One Bike at a Time



BikesfortheWorld.org

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2023 Impact



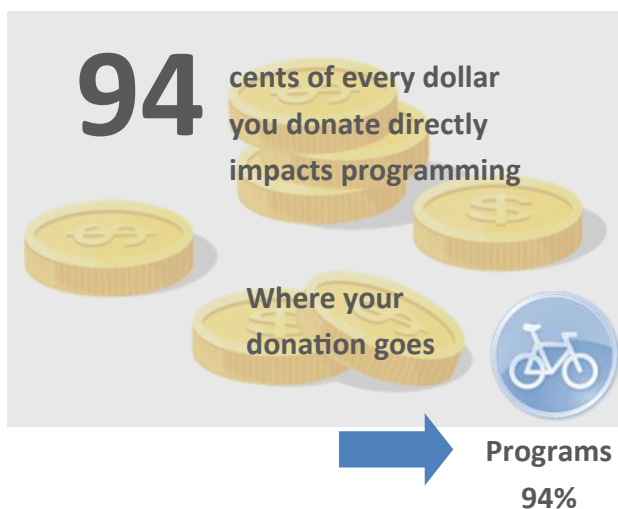
A Message From the Director

Building strong communities locally and abroad is the cornerstone of Bikes for the World's goal of improving lives through access to a bike. Our network of committed individual volunteers, small businesses and civic organizations make it possible for Bikes for the World to transform a donated bike from a simple machine into a life changing tool for empowerment.

In 2023 I saw firsthand how our bikes have improved lives in Ghana and Sierra Leone for the past two decades. I met students who used to rise at 4am and walk 3+ hours to attend school, but now ride a bike in a fraction of that time. I spent time with healthcare workers who use bikes to more easily provide in-home care for a larger population than when field visits were done by foot. Farmers in Sierra Leone are able to transport produce to markets quicker via bike, doubling their productivity and income. Bike mechanics raved about the importance of good quality used spare parts, even describing them as "golden nuggets", that keep people riding.

These are just some of the ways that Bikes for the World is providing our partners and their communities with the tools to improve lives one bike at a time. Together we are using bikes to move people towards self-sufficiency and building networks of resilience in communities around the world.

FINANCIALS



Taylor Jones
Executive Director



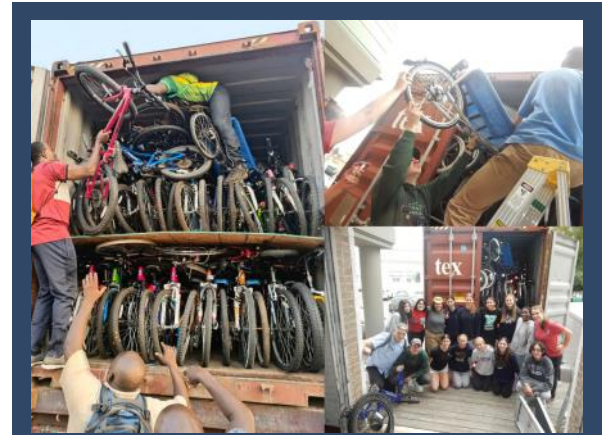
Change Starts at Home

Breaking it down

Every week Bikes for the World provides hands-on team building opportunities that engage our volunteers in meaningful service projects. We help make the connection between our volunteers and beneficiaries half a world away. Together we have the capacity to transform the world.

In 2023, we delivered bikes to 18 global partners, including nine here at home. Since 2005, BfW has donated **192,094 bicycles**...climbing to **11,128 bikes in 2023**. We continue to exceed our goal of donating more than 10,000 bikes annually thanks to the dedicated and talented crew of volunteers who help us collect and compact bikes every week. Some months are busier than others and we truly count on those volunteers to make our mission consistent and seamless.

In just one month last fall we hosted 17 groups and 192 volunteers. With those 650 combined hours we were able to load 4 containers and donate 2,050 bikes to our partners around the world. Included in our shipments were 3,266 spare parts, most of which were rescued by our student volunteer groups in the shop. These parts help rural mechanics repair your old bikes (in varying conditions) before finding their new owners. For each bike we donate, we estimate its impact affects four individuals. During just this month, that means we improved the lives of 8,200 beneficiaries, including the new bike owner, the mechanic, and the participant in a program supported through the bike project.



Volunteering: One and All



Volunteer Hours

Our volunteers logged the most annual hours ever in 2023- over **5,500 hours**, perhaps in part because we were joined by **1,700 volunteers**, also a record.

From board members who spend countless hours keeping us on track to our youngest volunteer, Sebastian (above) who logged just a single hour, each one of our volunteers is important for us to meet our mission. The collection volunteers, warehouse mechanics, groups and individuals, make this team complete and effective. As this program grows, so does our impact.

Turning around 12,000 bikes a year, we count on every single volunteer. Whether they give us five hours a week or one hour total, it's our volunteers who make this program work.

Corporate Service Days

Bikes for the World resumed our corporate loading events in 2023 joining forces with groups from IAD, Capital Business Alliance, and Microsoft, to name a few. Through these partnerships we were able to increase our shipments in 2023 to **22 containers**...nearly 12,000 bikes donated to beneficiaries around the world.



Aligning these volunteer efforts with our mission engages our community on a global scale. Working with employee programs brings a motivated team to our warehouse when we need them most. We are able to tackle bigger projects, like loading a container, where the team makes the greatest impact, saving us time and effort.

Working in Groups

We also partnered with **40 groups** in the warehouse in 2023, doubling our number from the previous year. Thanks to our volunteer mentors, we were able to provide a safe, learning experience in the shop for groups of various sizes. We hosted many school service projects, where students learned to work with their hands, how to think critically and how to work as a team to remove good usable spare parts that were included in every shipment. These will ensure that your old bikes are repaired and continue to roll for years to come.



Village Bicycle Project Visits

Sharing and Learning

In 2023, we had the opportunity to visit Ghana and Sierra Leone to see the two **Village Bicycle Project** programs firsthand. Taylor worked with local mechanics to learn more about how we can improve our shipments and provide better quality parts and accessories. He also met with many students and school administrators to see how bikes were improving education and offering life changing opportunities to rural families.

Abdul Karim Kamara is the program manager in Sierra Leone who showed Taylor around during his visit. When Karim came to the US later in the year, he made a stop at BfW while we were loading a container for his project in Sierra Leone. Our supporters had the opportunity to meet Karim and ask him questions about how their work was impacting the project and beneficiaries in Sierra Leone. Karim also closed the container that he would soon be unloading at home. This shipment would be heading to a region run by Richard Musa.

Richard Musa

Richard Musa (below, center) was, for years, **the** point person in Sierra Leone for VBP. A veteran bike shop owner, Richard has been the driving force behind increased bike use in Freetown and also employs local youth in his shop, mentors aspiring small business owners, and even pays tuition for kids to continue with their education. More recently he established the **Flames Cycling Club** in Freetown to engage youth in sport.



Sustaining Mechanics

Ghana

Providing a bicycle for transportation is just one small component of our mission. What BfW supports is a sustainable program that creates jobs, builds wealth, and betters communities through the bikes you donate.

In Ghana, our partner **Village Bicycle Project** does that by working with existing shop owners and mechanics to help bring more bikes into their communities. They also offer workshops that train new mechanics and set them up with tools and the skills they need to run a successful bike business. This creates jobs in the community, brings in more bikes, and offers the ability to buy parts for repairs. Local mechanics are also available for those more complex repairs to keep our bikes rolling.

Making bikes dependable, affordable, sustainable transportation

VBP numbers

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 142,000 | Bikes distributed |
| 61,500 | Tools distributed |
| 23,500 | Trained in repair |
| 4,200 | Women/girls learned to ride |

Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone VBP saw an opportunity to empower women by training them to be mechanics and supporting them in establishing their own shops. **Isata** was the first female mechanic in the country and she continues to be a role model for other young women. Isata offered internships to other women and shared her knowledge and experience. There are now four female owned shops in Sierra Leone. VBP creates jobs and opportunities through the bike project. These shops build careers, feed families, and create dreams and possibilities.



Transporting Students

Cycle of Learning

For young people in Africa, attending school means walking 1-2 hours twice a day or spending money on a bus or taxi ride. The time and cost associated with getting an education is tough on families and even tougher on girls, who are often forced to drop out. Getting girls on bikes remains a high priority. VBP continues to established bicycle libraries across Sierra Leone to help provide bikes specifically for girls to stay in school.

In the nearly two decades of working with Village Bicycle Project in Ghana and Sierra Leone bikes have helped better the lives and education of countless children. Program impact data shows that when a student commutes by bike absenteeism decreases by 24 days per school year, graduation rates increase by nearly 20% and overall school commute time is cut by nearly a third.



Bicycle Libraries ensure girls have access to bikes



Jon

Jon is 13 and received a bike through Village Bicycle Project in 2023. His commute to school is 6 miles (one way!). He had been spending 4 hours a day just walking to school until he was able to ride and save so much time and energy. He knows the importance of studying because Jon expects to become the president of Sierra Leone some day.



Inspiring Health Care Volunteers

Ambanja became the sixth community partner in Madagascar to receive bikes from BfW. Each co-op has trained mechanics and converted shipping containers into rural bike shops to help repair and maintain the bikes we donate. The project builds incentive among volunteer health workers, creates empowering jobs within the community, and helps generate capital for their health initiatives.



10,000 bikes delivered to support health workers

Marie is a single mother of three. She is a cocoa farmer in Madagascar and relies on money from the production and sale of cocoa. She is using a bike donated through BfW to carry the cocoa to market, 10 miles from her home. She is saving time on her commute which allows her to spend more time at home with her kids.

Marie



BfW sent **1,029 bikes** to this new project in Ambanja in 2023.

Our first container of bikes donated to Madagascar in 2015 was delivered to the co-op KOPAMA. All members of the e-Box (seen above) are also volunteer health workers. They provide lifesaving care and information within their villages. They all live over two miles from the nearest health facility making their health services valuable to their communities. Their only income comes from repairing and selling bikes.

Marthe (in her 70s) is the oldest member of KOPAMA and serves as an inspiration to her younger colleagues. Marthe participates in co-op meetings, and in the shop she is responsible for inventory, repairs and sales.

Marthe



World Bicycle Day



Smiles for Miles

We celebrated World Bicycle Day by making a difference in our local neighborhoods. We collaborated with several local organizations to take part in the 2nd Annual Chocolate City Ride in SE DC, where we also donated **50 bikes to local kids**. For some, this was the first time they ever owned their own bikes. The kids were fitted with bikes and helmets and also earned safe riding tips before setting off to ride with local cyclists through the city.

The work that we do in our community is often focused on service days with school groups, church groups, and corporations. The hands-on team building opportunities empower our volunteers to learn new skills while making a difference a world away. Giving back to our community is a core value of our mission. This event engaged our trained volunteer mechanics, who repaired the bikes, and allowed us to donate 50 high quality bikes right here at home, opening trails and changing lives in our own neighborhoods.