

# bikes for Kids

[www.bikesforkidsct.org](http://www.bikesforkidsct.org)

Changing lives one bike at a time!

FALL 2017



2017 was a great year for Bikes for Kids!

By the end of this year we will have given away more than 21,000 bikes. We couldn't have done this without the support of our wonderful Bikes for Kids community.

Moving the "Wheelhouse" to 36 Plains Road was a good decision. Doubling the space to over 4,000 square feet has allowed us to increase the number of repair stands, store more bikes/parts, maintain a small office and host more volunteers, all while saving money and ultimately helping us to give more bikes to children.

Your monetary donations cover the cost of our much appreciated Wheelhouse and parts to refurbish bikes allowing our team of dedicated volunteers to do what they do best – work on bikes. Volunteers make necessary repairs, safety check and shine each bike before a bike is tagged (with green duct tape) ready to donate. Donations also pay for a new helmet given to each bike recipient and the pickup and delivery of donated bikes.

Thanks to our Sponsors and great weather our second Charity Ride held this Fall was a huge success. Upon completion of one of four rides, participants and volunteers were hosted to the "best lunch in town" and tours of the new Wheelhouse. A great time and some good exercise was had by all – while raising money for BFK.

Upcoming events include, Parade Prep Party at the Wheelhouse, Essex Trees in the Rigging Parade and Old Saybrook Torch Light Parade. Also, save the date for our 3rd Charity Ride planned for Sunday, September 29, 2018.

I want to thank all our supporters, volunteers, riders and sponsors.

Please keep us in your planned giving this year.

Best Wishes,  
Dave



Shopping on Black Friday, Cyber Monday or Giving Tuesday through Amazon?

Please go to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and choose Bikes for Kids, Centerbrook, CT as your favorite charitable organization. This is a simple and automatic way to support Bikes for Kids every time you shop, at no cost to you. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus of the AmazonSmile Foundation donating 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Bikes for Kids. What an easy, effortless way to support BFK!



## Everyone Loves a Parade

Calling Kids of all Ages! Come on down to the Wheelhouse on Sunday, November 19 from 1-4. Bring your bikes and any cool lights that you would like to put on them. Our volunteers will be on hand to help you light up your bikes (and helmets). We will be preparing for the Essex Trees in the Rigging parade on November 26 and the Old Saybrook Torchlight Parade on December 9. Help us get the BFK message out there.

Plenty of pizza and chips will be available at the Wheelhouse on the 19th.  
Hope to see you there.

### Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Program

Essex Savings Bank customers, please vote for Bikes for Kids in their annual Community Investment Program at the beginning of 2018. Anyone with a checking, savings, certificate of deposit, mortgage, loan, safe deposit box or trust account is eligible to cast a ballot. The amount of money each charity organization receives is determined by the number of votes cast on behalf of the organization. The Essex Savings Bank annually commits 10% of its after tax net income to qualifying organizations within the immediate market area.

Bikes for Kids is thrilled to continue to partner with the CMAK Sandy Hook Memorial Foundation - Race4Chase Kids Triathlon Program and their goal to provide kids age 6-12 with a safe, healthy, non-competitive environment to discover the sport of triathlon. Through the program kids from all different backgrounds are educated on a healthy lifestyle, coached to develop a foundation of athletic skills and inspired to aim high in sports and life. This year there were over 20 programs and 600 participants. Thanks to your donations and BFK volunteers, Bikes for Kids was able to supply bikes and helmets to any child who wanted to participate, but did not have the means to own a bike of their own. We supplied 119 kids with bikes.



**CMAK**  
Chase Michael Anthony Kowalski  
Sandy Hook Memorial  
**FOUNDATION**



It's done! It runs! It's black and red and has been out on the streets! And it's turning a lot of heads! What are we talking about? It's our special restoration project volunteers undertook on a 1948 Schwinn bike with springer fork, leather seat and a '48 Whizzer engine similar to what the "American Pickers" look for. It's a real beauty.  
Look for it at the upcoming parades.

# 2017 Charity Ride

Over 180 riders and volunteers came together to support and celebrate Bikes for Kids by participating in the 2nd Annual Charity Ride. It was a gorgeous day for a bike ride. With 4 routes to choose from, there was a ride for every ability.

There were two longer rides (55 or 27 miles) starting from the Bikes for Kids Wheelhouse in Essex rolling through some of the most beautiful sections of Connecticut's River Valley. Both rides had the same route to start - including the killer incline of Wig Hill in Chester and a much appreciated stop at the enthusiastically staffed Cedar Lake Break Station. From there riders split off winding through Haddam, Killingworth (with a 36 mile Break Station option), Westbrook, Clinton and back to the Wheelhouse.

Riders looking for shorter options tried a scenic 12 mile ride or the perfect introductory 3 mile ride. Both these rides also shared the same beginning route through picturesque downtown Essex. BFK President and ride leader, Dave Fowler, said, "It was an amazing sight - over 60 riders ranging in age from 4 to 70 rolling down Main Street on a Sunday morning!". Some headed back to the Essex Town Hall, while others continued on the very challenging 12 miler out River Road and through Deep River with a stop to hydrate and refuel at the Deep River Green Break Station.

All rides had team leaders and were supported by SAG vehicles clearly identified by the flashing safety lights (donated by Whelen Engineering). There were three Break Stations stocked with sweet/salty/healthy snacks and beverages. And at each Finish there were balloons and a rowdy crowd excited to congratulate and waive riders in. Back at the Wheelhouse an amazing after ride lunch was served, a Bike Rodeo staffed by local high schoolers was available and the Wheelhouse was open for tours.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, volunteers and riders, the camaraderie and spirit of a morning well spent for a great cause was contagious!

Thank you so very much for sponsoring the ride:

Reynolds Subaru

Bob's Furniture  
Northstar Wealth Partners  
Whelen Engineering

Simpson Healthcare Executives

Essex SavingsBank  
Greenwald Industries  
Guilford Savings Bank  
Ivoryton Playhouse  
Tower Labs

Eurest  
H&R Block  
iMerchandise LLC  
Pages Printing  
Pedal Power  
Signs & Digital Graphx  
WebNow 1



Anonymous  
Big Y  
David and Lisa Fitzsimmons  
Deep River Ambulance  
Madison Ice House  
Essex Hardware  
Hays Haven Marina  
Lays  
Sanitary Solutions LLC  
Scott's Orchard  
Taylor Rental Center

And thank you to all the hard working volunteers! We couldn't have done it without you.

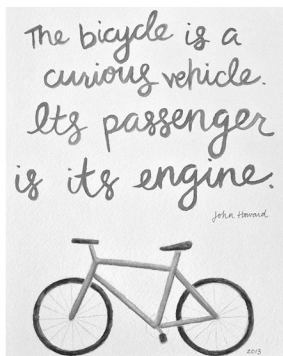
# bikes for Kids

[www.bikesforkidsct.org](http://www.bikesforkidsct.org)

BFK Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 94  
Centerbrook, CT 06409

Wheelhouse  
36 Plains Road  
Essex, CT 06426  
(opposite the Essex Steam Train)

860-388-BIKE (2453)



LIKE us on Facebook

## How to donate a bike:

If you have a bike you would like to donate, please drop it off at the Wheelhouse, 36 Plains Road, Essex, CT.

The Wheelhouse is usually open Thursdays 9-12 and 6-8. Any other time, you can leave it in the bike rack next to the garage door. Please leave a note/tag with your name and address so we can send a confirmation of receipt.

drop off  
a bike  
at our wheelhouse

## SAVE THE DATE!

\*Help repair bikes on Thursdays

\*Pick up or delivery of bikes

\*Thank you notes

\*Grant writing

\*General writing

\*2018 Charity Ride



November 19 - Wheelhouse Bike Prep Party for parades, 1-4 pm, Wheelhouse, 36 Plains Road, Essex

November 26 - Essex Trees in the Rigging Parade, 4:30 pm, meet behind Essex Town Hall, 29 West Avenue at 4:15 pm

December 9 - Old Saybrook Torch Light Parade, 6:00 pm, meet at O.S. Shopping Center (Famous Footwear) at 5:15 pm

Please call us to express an interest at 860-388-BIKE.

