MILWAUKEE MOBILE BIKE REPAIR

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Youth Mechanics
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275+ BIKES REPAIRED
AND 75+ FIXED BIKES
GIVEN AWAY!
We had yet another successful year of training youth to help the Milwaukee community. One of our youth mechanics returned for his second summer with the mobile team, and we hired a teen Leader in Training from the PEAK Initiative who built upon her participation in National Interscholastic Cycling Association racing to learn and practice mechanic skills. Our partners at Milwaukee Recreation (MKEREC), COA, and Neighborhood House helped us provide safe spaces to provide repair services at 8 park sites, totaling over 35 days of active programming. Additionally, we returned to 8 Milwaukee Public Library branches, further expanding our footprint.

We also continued to support bike rides with Nearby Nature Milwaukee, Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, Westlawn Gardens, and the Mayor’s Office, and this year saw a large collaborative bike giveaway with Dreambikes, Riverworks, and Riverwest 24. Over 100 volunteers participated and learned basic bike repair skills under the supervision of trained mechanics to fix up over 75 bikes to be given away.

Our busiest sites were those where we had the strongest ties and partners. At Franklin Square, we have regular contact with neighbors year round at the Bike Fed’s Valid Bike Shop in North Division High School. At Walker Square, we maintain relationships with Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, who can target those who would benefit from a bike to maintain or build an active lifestyle. At Moody Park, our youth mechanic resides nearby, and our other neighborhood partners held overlapping events to bring out the community. The bike repair stand at PEAK Initiative in Tiefenthaler Park was further activated during a “Community Camp” that engaged residents of the Near West Side surrounding the park with free recreational and educational activities.
REPORTED DATA OF SERVICE RECIPIENTS

Gender
- Male: 66.8%
- Female: 32.4%
- Non-Binary: 0.8%

Race / Ethnicity
- Black / African American: 58.8%
- White: 16.8%
- Hispanic / Latinx: 21.6%
- Multi-Race: 2.0%

Age
- 0-9: 11.6%
- 10-19: 34.8%
- 20-29: 6.4%
- 30-39: 16.8%
- 40-49: 19.6%
- 50+: 10.8%

Have you eaten yet today?
- Yes: 84.4%
- No: 15.6%

Have we repaired a bike for you before?
- Yes: 41.2%
- No: 58.8%

How often do you ride a bike?
- Everyday: 21.6%
- 1-2 times a week: 40.0%
- 3-4 times a week: 18.4%
- 5-6 times a week: 20.0%
- Rarely: 18.4%
- Sometimes: 16.4%

How often do you come to this playground/park/community center/library?
- Everyday: 28.8%
- Sometimes: 16.4%
- Often: 36.4%
- Rarely: 18.4%
One of the most noticeable effects of our ongoing efforts this summer was at Tiefenthaler Park. In fact, so many young people were coming to use the stand and space that a system was devised to handle the landfill, scrap metal, and spare parts generated in the process!

While cleaning up the tools and supplies that had resided at the community center over the summer, a group of young people around the park approached us with questions. Although we were not technically there to assist with repairs, it would likely have been the last opportunity for them to have any questions answered. They walked us over to the repair stand, along with their bikes. Together, we walked through a quick diagnostic multiple times until they knew what to look for and roughly how to use the tools at hand to fix any critical issues. The spare parts also came in handy, as we advised them on how to identify salvageable parts, as well as how to install them. If one of them did not understand fully, others stepped in to educate and perform the necessary repairs. Parts from one of their bikes were scavenged to fix up a better bike that had been abandoned in the scrap pile, and everyone was able to go home with a working bike that day!

Jean was one of the first youth mechanics in our program over 8 years ago, and he has recently started working for the Bike Fed as a Bike and Walk Instructor. He now teaches skills and strategies to Milwaukee Public School students to help them safely navigate city streets either on the sidewalk or while riding a bike on the road. Milwaukee PBS recently spoke to Jean about our Valid Bike Shop and how working with the MBR program has helped him realize his own American Dreams.

OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Colliers • COA Youth & Family Centers • DreamBikes • Escuela Verde • Milwaukee Public Library MKEREC • Nearby Nature Milwaukee • Neighborhood House of Milwaukee • Rebel Reform Riverworks Development Corp. • Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers • Truly Spoken Cycles