
20 successes in 2020- a note from Executive Director, Elijah Evans



BIKES NOT BOMBS

Using the bicycle as a vehicle for social change

December 2020 Newsletter

Before 2021 arrives... let's celebrate:



Click on the image above to watch a short 2 minute compilation of some successes we've had in 2020 (despite it also being a very challenging year)!

A note from Executive Director, Elijah Evans:

Dear Reader,

“Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected.” Everyday, the youth we serve show that they are resilient by confronting challenges life throws at them head on. They make progress, sometimes they struggle, but ultimately they thrive. It was in that spirit that we knew we needed to lean on our youth leaders to accomplish our goals this year and step up to serve our community when they needed us most.

2020 has certainly been a year for the books - marked by learning, transition, and growth. COVID-19 has had a profound impact on Bikes Not Bombs and the communities we serve. While there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of bicycles collected overall, because of your critical support, Bikes Not Bombs has stayed open during the pandemic as an essential business with curbside service, with strict policies in place to protect staff, volunteers, participants, and customers.

With your support this year, we shipped a record breaking **636 bicycles** to our partner, Learn Work Develop in Rwanda. We launched three new programs: **Bike Match**, **Bike Institute**, and **On-The-Bike** that collectively distributed **over 100 bicycles** to youth and adults in Boston. We provided **39 jobs** to Boston-area teens. We graduated **36 youth and adults** from our Bike School programs. And we co-organized four **Ride for Black Lives** events, which are Black-led and Black-centered bike rides to raise visibility and awareness of racial inequities that exist not only in Boston and the cycling community, but also nationwide and across industries. Hundreds of unique riders participated in these rides spanning from June to September.

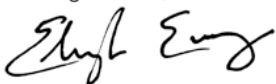
Over the last three years, we have made critical investments in BNB’s operational capacity and financial sustainability. Our work with the **Capacity Institute**, a two-year organizational development process that helps youth-serving nonprofits create a plan for effectiveness, will be completed in August 2021. As a result, we have crafted a **new mission statement** and a **5-year strategic plan** that aims to improve our capacity to better meet the needs of the youth and communities we serve in Boston and overseas for years to come.

Over the next five years, we would like to unite the organization around shared values and a commitment to **advancing racial equity**. We would like to grow the number of youth apprenticeships and workforce development opportunities available, including **professional bike mechanic certification** at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Roxbury, MA. We would like to collaborate with the City of Boston to **expand the Bike Match program** to the homeless, unemployed, and underemployed living in Boston. And we would like to **establish Bike School partnerships within more Boston Public Schools** and other community-driven nonprofits.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast dedication of thousands of individuals and community supporters. In 2020, our staff (including our youth and volunteer apprentices) spent **over 5,000 combined hours**, lending a hand at container loadings, teaching in our youth programs, coordinating bike drives, running the Bike Shop, planning the Bike-A-Thon, processing incoming bike donations, and helping out in the office. We received financial contributions from over **2,300 individuals and households** and took in more than **2,500 donated bicycles**. No matter how you contributed to the effort, on behalf of Bikes Not Bombs, I want to offer my most sincere thanks for your support.

Cheers to a safe, happy holiday season, and best wishes for a prosperous new year.

With gratitude,

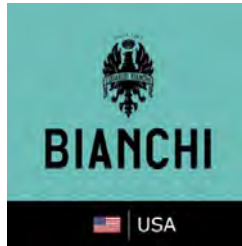


Elijah Evans
Executive Director
Bikes Not Bombs

Make a gift to Bikes Not Bombs
for continued success in 2021!



Preorder your new Bianchi bike with us in 2021!



Order your new Bianchi with us in 2021! [Available models include:](#)

- C-Sport 1
- Cortina
- Cortina Dama
- Siena
- Siena Dama

Please email Pierre Payette, Training & Sales Manager at pierre@bikesnotbombs.org or call the shop at 617.522.0222 x1 to order your new Bianchi!

Partnership with SVP Boston (We're hiring!)



Bikes Not Bombs is truly excited to partner with [Social Venture Partners Boston](#) over the next three years. Our Youth Pathways program aligns well with SVP Boston's vision in which all people in a thriving Greater Boston community have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our partnership has allowed us to expand our team and hire for an **Inventory & Online Sales Manager**. [Click here to access the job description and application.](#)

Bike Match- Philip J. Former "Lost Boy" Finds His Wheels



Philip is a former "Lost Boy" who resettled in Boston nearly 18 years ago during the Second Sudanese Civil War. Walking 30 minutes to his job in Medford as a grocery worker, Philip was referred to Bikes Not Bombs' [Bike Match](#) program to receive a bicycle to help with his commute. Pictured here are Philip (right), Pierre, our Training & Sales Manager (left), and his recycled Trek 930 Single Track which was outfitted with lights for visibility, panniers to carry groceries and other belongings.

Your gifts and bike donations are critical to ensure that people like Philip can attain mobility and experience the joys of riding a bicycle. Bike Match is a success- keep it rolling by making a [tax-deductible gift today](#) if you are able.

A reminder of our holiday hours

We are currently closed for the holidays and we will reopen on 1/5/2021. Enjoy the rest of the year, and we look forward to serving you soon!

Donor of the Month: Breakstone, White & Gluck



Attorney David White at our 2016 graduation ceremony for Girls In Action (now Sisters In Action)

Our Donor of the Month for December is the Boston law firm **Breakstone, White & Gluck** – which donates hundreds of bicycle helmets to Bikes Not Bombs each year for distribution in our youth programs, including Earn-A-Bike and Sisters In Action (formerly Girls In Action).

Young cyclists who participate in these classes learn how to build their own bikes and practice cycling skills, while getting to meet other teens and make social connections. **Attorney David W. White** said, “Bikes Not Bombs provides a special and meaningful experience to local children and teens through its Earn-A-Bike classes. It has been our pleasure to give graduates free bicycle helmets to take home with their new bikes. We want to help them get started riding safely and protect themselves.”

Breakstone, White & Gluck donates helmets to Bikes Not Bombs as part of its **Project KidSafe** campaign. Founded in 2013, Breakstone, White & Gluck has donated 30,000 helmets to children to encourage safety and protect against head injuries. Bikes Not Bombs was an original partner of the Project KidSafe campaign back in 2013. We can't thank them enough for their investment in our youth participants.

Donate to Bikes Not Bombs
for continued success in 2021!

Connect with us:



Our Contact Information
Bikes Not Bombs
284 Amory Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617.522.0222
<http://bikesnotbombs.org>

