



Spring 2020 E-Newsletter

May/June 2020



Free bike provided to Lauren, a medical case manager working with homeless patients

Bike Match - 37 matches and counting!

On April 20, 2020, Bikes Not Bombs became an official provider of Bike Match, a nationwide effort to connect first responders, medical professionals, and other essential workers with free bicycles during the coronavirus pandemic. The Bike Match program was piloted by Transportation Alternatives in New York City in order to respond to an uptick in the number of bike commuters during the crisis.

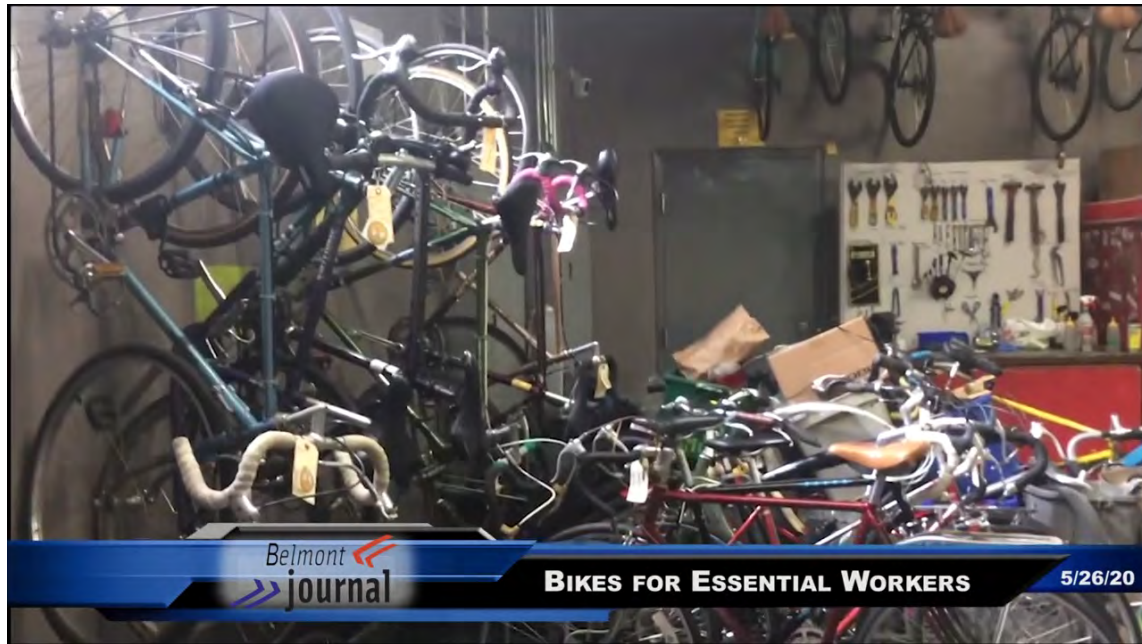
How it works: potential bike donors and requesters must go to the Boston area Bike Match website, located at bikematch.safelanes.org/boston. After they fill the required forms, we will use the information to “match” a bike to a specific recipient. The donor must ensure that the bicycle is in ready-to-ride condition, or as close

to ready-to-ride condition as possible. Bikes Not Bombs has also donated many of its own bicycles from our warehouse in Dorchester.

Since its inception, Bikes Not Bombs has completed 37 successful matches (exchanges of bicycles) but there is still a long waitlist of workers who have requested bicycles.

If you have an extra bicycle, please consider making a donation.

Monetary gifts are also appreciated and help sustain our program with replacement parts and labor that go into the donated bicycles. Feel free to visit our website at bikesnotbombs.org or email angela@bikesnotbombs.org for more information.



BNB's "Bike Match" program featured in the Belmont Journal!

Donate Now

Bike Shop Update

New Bike Shop hours: Effective June 1, 2020, the Bike Shop will be open from **12:00 PM to 7:00 PM** during the week, Tuesday through Friday. Weekend hours will remain the same.

Our full hours are:

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12 PM - 7 PM
- Wednesday: 12 PM - 7 PM
- Thursday: 12 PM - 7 PM
- Friday: 12 PM - 7 PM
- Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM
- Sunday: 12 PM - 4 PM

Welcome to new staff!

- Please join me in welcoming **Addison Chase**, our new Training & Service Manager, and **Mario Simon** and **Luis Sanchez**, our new Mechanic and Sales Associates at the Bike Shop.

Shout out to our Youth Apprentices!

- Youth Apprentices **Joseph Pires**, **Luis Pena**, and **Sam Cash** have been conducting safety checks, flat fixes, and performing brake adjustments on bicycles for the Bike Match program. They have also assisted with sales. Let's give them a collective shout out for their hard work these past few weeks!

Summer Programs Update & COVID-19 Prevention

Bikes Not Bombs is a critical part of our community's effort to recycle bicycles and provide concrete development opportunities for youth. We are undeniably committed to reconnecting vocationally disengaged youth to school and work, increasing their self-efficacy, belonging, and a sense of hope, while helping them develop critical skills and habits for success in post-secondary education and/or the workforce.

Although these are confusing, anxiety-filled, and uncertain times for all of us, the critical work we do has not stopped. **Since the beginning of the year, our organization has collected and recycled over 700 bicycles, refurbished over 187 bicycles in our Bike Shop, distributed 37 bicycles via our new Bike Match program, and engaged 34 youth in our innovative youth programs so far.** Our programs and services just look a little different during this time of uneasiness and uncertainty. Please review our upcoming programs schedule, safety protocols, and modified operations listed below:

- **This summer we have decided, out of an abundance of caution and due to social distancing recommendations, to CANCEL both summer sessions of Earn-A-Bike.** Instead, we are offering **On-The-Bike** (for youth ages 12-18) and **Bike Institute** (for youth ages 15+ and adults). Both programs are crash courses in bike safety and basic bike maintenance. Participants emerge with a bicycle of their own to keep. Classes will largely be held outside (weather permitting) in open spaces. There are no prerequisites requiring previous cycling or mechanics experience.
- **Enrollment will open for On-The-Bike and Bike Institute on June 15th.** Please visit our website at that time to access class dates and times, application materials and more details about the experience.

Here is a reminder of what actions we are taking to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19: We are providing regular updates to our staff and volunteers so they can keep themselves and their families safe;

- **Our staff will help us ensure a safe and healthy environment by following CDC recommendations** re: hand washing, social distancing, and avoiding handshakes and person-to-person contact. Friendly waves and smiles are still okay!
- **Face masks** are required of everyone by law
- Any person in our organization (volunteer or staff) who is mildly sick or interacts regularly with someone who is, will be sent home and/or asked to stay home;
- We will be regularly **sanitizing tools and commonly used surfaces** at the store (door handles, registers and POS screens, retail and service work areas, etc.);
- We will be sanitizing products throughout the store including new and used bikes, parts and accessories.

Donors of the Month: Ellen and Bill Brandt

This month we are delighted to highlight Ellen and Bill (dec.) Brandt as our Donors of the Month. When Bill suddenly passed in 2015, Ellen suggested that friends and family donate to Bikes Not Bombs in lieu of flowers. At that point, Bill had only recently learned about BNB, and had every intention of getting even more involved with us. Bill was also a tinkerer and inventor (five patents!), and built both bikes and other human powered machines. He left behind an expert bike workshop crammed full of bikes, cool bike tools, and lots of parts and apparel. Ellen always intended to donate Bill's bike workshop to BNB, and in March, she did so. We are so very grateful for this donation.

We remember Bill as someone who was devoted to helping youth with hands-on learning and giving young people learning opportunities outside of academia. We are fortunate for the time Bill spent mentoring youth on bike mechanics at BNB. He was a strong supporter of Bikes Not Bombs - as a donor, volunteer teacher, and Bike-a-Thon participant.



Jeannie Hess touring from Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, DC!

Remembering Jeannie Hess

It is with great sadness that Bikes Not Bombs remembers our long-time supporter Jeannie Hess. When Jeannie passed away on March 11, 2020, Bikes Not Bombs lost one of our most ardent supporters.

Jeannie was an avid cyclist and bike commuter. Her wife, Lorna Gibson, recounted for us that in the early 1990s, Jeannie rode her bike across the country - twice! She took both the northern route (Seattle, WA to Bar Harbor, ME) and the southern route (San Diego, CA to St. Augustine, FL). Jeannie and Lorna enjoyed plenty of bike touring together- in Quebec, Holland, the Loire Valley, and Provence in France, and from Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, DC on the Great Allegheny Passage and C&O Canal route.

We remember Jeannie as a steadfast supporter of BNB since back in the year 2000. Jeannie participated in several of our annual Bike-A-Thons, and volunteered to help with data entry. Jeannie even helped recruit volunteers for BNB when she worked as a coordinator for Harvard Medical School's community service program.

Lorna donated Jeannie's two bikes to BNB's Bike Match program, which matches free bikes with essential workers in need of transportation. Lorna also requested that friends of Jeannie's make donations to BNB or LivableStreets Alliance in lieu of flowers, and there has been a generous outpouring of support to both organizations in Jeannie's memory.

We will miss her dearly!



Volunteering with BNB!

Bikes Not Bombs is looking for volunteers to help with sorting parts, tire sorting, performing safety checks, and general maintenance on bikes for our Bike Match program. There are also some other tasks around the shop that we can use assistance with. Volunteers may also be able to work from home or in outdoor spaces.

Volunteers will be scheduled in shifts, one at a time, all while observing the CDC's social distancing guidelines. The health of our staff and volunteers is our #1 priority.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Martinas Andrius, Director of Operations at martinas@bikesnotbombs.org.

[Donate Now](#)



Hub and Bike Shop: [284 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130](#)

Bike Shop Hours

Monday: Closed • Tuesday - Friday: 12pm - 7pm • Saturday: 9am - 5pm • Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

Our Contact Information

Bikes Not Bombs

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bikesnotbombs.org