BIKES NOT BOMBS
Reclaim. Empower. Transform.

284 Amory Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
bikesnotbombs.org
617.522.0222

2026
Impact Report

MESSAGE FROM CEO ELIJAH EVANS

In 2026, Bikes Not Bombs brought renewed momentum to the wheels of change—with young people leading the way and a vibrant community powering every turn. That energy was palpable in everyday moments: young people patiently teaching peers to fix their first flat; neighbors setting off on community rides with friends old and new; volunteers loading bikes into containers bound for the Global South. Together, these moments brought our shared purpose to life. They reflected our commitment to **racial equity, youth empowerment, solidarity, and environmental justice**—and our determination to turn those values into systemic change.

At every turn, youth catalyzed neighborhood transformation. They led rides, listened to diverse perspectives in community meetings, and conducted on-the-bike research—all to advocate for the street infrastructure our city deserves. They proved that, when given the resources to lead, they not only meet expectations—they redefine them.

Our commitment to equity also extended across borders. Together, youth, staff, and volunteers helped us ship more than 1,000 bikes overseas and strengthen ties with partners in Rwanda, El Salvador, and Vieques, Puerto Rico. This work affirmed our belief that the fight for mobility justice is a shared endeavor.

The values we put into action in 2026 also form the foundation of our new five-year strategy, **#BNB2030: Powering Mobility, Unlocking Economic Opportunity**. Through this strategy, we are creating space for deeper engagement, expanded opportunity, and broad-based movement-building. We will refine our program models and deepen our impact through a renovated, more accessible, and more welcoming community hub. Your generosity does more than power this progress—it catalyzes economic independence and affirms human dignity.

Thank you for being part of Bikes Not Bombs in 2026 and for your continued partnership as we build a future where everyone has the resources they need to pedal forward.



In solidarity,

Elijah Evans, Chief Executive Officer

BIKES NOT BOMBS | MISSION

Bikes Not Bombs empowers Black and other marginalized youth and young adults to launch their careers and lead the change their communities need, using the bicycle as a tool for economic mobility, environmental and health equity, and systemic liberation.

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

Bikes Not Bombs (BNB) dismantles systemic racism by advancing racial justice, centering the voices of communities of color, and building a just and equitable world where everyone can thrive, regardless of race. Racial equity guides everything we do, from investing in youth leadership and economic opportunity to expanding bicycle access, advocating for safer streets, and supporting global partners. Together, we are building a future where race no longer determines access to mobility, opportunity, or the power to shape change.

EMPOWERING YOUTH

Bikes Not Bombs believes in the power of young people to realize their potential, lead with confidence, and drive meaningful change.

"I was nervous at first, but as I learned to work on bikes and got to know the people here, I became more confident. This is my first job, and it feels good to earn my own money and be able to help other people. Every time I learn something new, I feel like I'm a step closer to what I could do with my life."
- Moses, Youth Apprentice, 18

YOUTH PATHWAYS

In 2026, youth remained at the center of BNB's work. Through the Youth Pathways program, young people transformed curiosity into capability. With skilled mentors at their side, paid Apprentices built **technical skills** while honing the **everyday disciplines** of reliability, collaboration, and resilience; and dared to aim higher than they ever thought possible.



Youth Apprentice Jacob A.

33 Youth Apprentices:

- Mentored local youth in bike mechanics programs;
- Led community rides and campaigns for transportation equity;
- Supported BNB's full-service, mission-driven bike shop;
- Prepared, packed, and quality-checked shipments of bicycles to partners in the Global South;
- Built a foundation for long-term success through work-based learning and structured career development workshops; and
- 82% of youth demonstrated mastery of assessed professional competencies.

"Youth displayed an impressive amount of technical know-how, clearly demonstrating their strong investment in the program. The programming is well-structured to promote youth development, and is developmentally appropriate, giving youth meaningful projects and opportunities to share their skills. Staff interactions with youth are also highly respectful, and effectively promote leadership and independence."
- Certified Program Observer, Boston After School and Beyond

Earn-A-Bike

We held **two Jamaica Plain Earn-A-Bike (EAB) sessions, engaging six young people** who each learned how to refurbish a bicycle to keep as their own. Youth Apprentices played a key role in supporting the program, sharing their knowledge with participants as they overhauled each system of the bicycle. Through our ongoing partnership with the **Department of Youth Services** (DYS), we engaged 11 justice-involved youth across **four sessions**. We also continued our advanced certification class, creating a clear pathway to employment and deeper community connection.

LEADING LOCAL CHANGE

Our work is rooted in solidarity: the belief that lasting change grows from strong relationships, shared responsibility, and collective action.

CHAIN REACTION

Through Chain Reaction, Youth Apprentices advance mobility initiatives by combining direct service, cycling education, and public engagement. They engage neighbors, identify transportation barriers, and advocate for safer, more accessible streets—all while building critical workplace and leadership skills. Through this work, they step into roles as community leaders and movement-builders.

Safer Streets

BNB staff, youth, and residents organized for equitable transportation infrastructure and safer conditions for all road users. Youth Apprentices led participatory action research, using action sports cameras on group rides to collect 360-degree **visual street data.** This footage documented conditions and hazards from cyclists' perspectives and informed discussions about infrastructure improvements. We convened youth, community members, and coalition partners at a **Community Advisory Council** meeting focused on the **Blue Hill Avenue redesign**, then extended that dialogue through **two Great Commuter Challenge** events featuring routes along the corridor and post-event discussions about cycling and public transit.

We also connected city officials and residents to help shape equitable solutions to longstanding transportation challenges. At **town halls,** we engaged neighbors from **Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury,** discussing the redesign's goals for improving safety and transportation efficiency for cyclists, pedestrians, and bus users, while listening to residents' concerns. As part of a larger coalition to improve transportation on Blue Hill Ave, we met monthly with the **City of Boston's Streets Cabinet** to strengthen **City-community communication** and improve public awareness of ongoing transportation projects.

Wheels 2 Wellness

Through Wheels 2 Wellness, youth, staff, and volunteers helped neighbors build confidence on bicycles and strengthen connections to public spaces and one another. We hosted **11 group rides** to destinations including the Arnold Arboretum, Franklin Park, the Charles River Esplanade, and minority-owned businesses in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. In partnership with Cambridge Bike Give Back, we also taught children and adults to ride at three local events.

Youth Apprentices advanced transportation equity by offering **free bicycle repair in community spaces,** including the City of Boston's Ride and Chill event and at Madison Park High School. At our Jamaica Plain hub, Apprentices and staff relaunched Tool Time "bike kitchen" events, offering no-cost mechanics lessons, workspace, and tools.

Youth Apprentices took their skills and confidence on a three-day, **65-mile bikepacking trip** to Cape Cod. Riders from across Greater Boston showed up to support the **Bike-A-Thon** and **Century Challenge**, which together welcomed **337 riders** and raised more than $180,000 for BNB. Finally, we were thrilled to lay the groundwork for an indoor cycling pilot by exploring potential spaces and equipment needs.



Day 2 of bikepacking on Cape Cod

LEADING GLOBAL CHANGE

We stand in solidarity with communities worldwide, working across borders to address shared challenges, advance human rights, and build a more just and equitable future.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

BNB shipped more than **1,000 bicycles overseas**, strengthening partnerships with CESTA in El Salvador and Learn, Work, Develop in Rwanda. These shipments supported transportation access and economic opportunities for girls and women.

BNB staff presented at the **World Bike Forum** in El Salvador, hosted by longtime partner CESTA. International leaders, advocates, and practitioners explored how bicycles can build more just, connected, and sustainable communities. We shared our experience, learned from others, and strengthened connections across the global bicycle movement.



BNB and CESTA at World Bike Forum

Building on four years of partnership in **Vieques, Puerto Rico**, BNB staff, Youth Apprentices, and volunteers repaired 96 bicycles for residents with limited access to bike shops. We also partnered with three schools—Escuela 20 de Septiembre, Escuela Maria Simons, and Escuela Montessori—to offer introductory bicycle mechanics workshops for youth.

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We protect our planet by preserving natural resources for future generations, championing sustainable practices, and building a healthier, more resilient environment for all.

MISSION-DRIVEN BIKE SHOP

In 2026, our **Bike Shop** expanded access to sustainable transportation with new and refurbished bicycles, e-bikes, accessories, and repair services. Staff and nine Apprentices **sold 123 refurbished bicycles** and **serviced more than 2,500 bikes**. Affordable used parts helped customers keep their bicycles in safe riding condition and customize them for more enjoyable rides. We also participated in **Boston E-Bikes Incentive Program** events. Designed to address historic inequities in transportation access, the program offered income-eligible adults, seniors, and adults with disabilities opportunities to test-ride e-bikes, ask questions, and purchase an e-bike from our shop with a voucher. By expanding access to bicycles and repair services, we helped more people choose lower-carbon transportation.

Through our **bicycle recycling operation**, we **diverted more than 1,100 bicycles and 8,300 parts** from the waste stream. We collected, processed, and inventoried used bicycles, preparing each for its next use: refurbishment for sale, use in Earn-A-Bike, flattening for shipment overseas, or salvage for useful parts.

THANK YOU FOR POWERING CHANGE WITH US

This work has never been more important. Your commitment to youth empowerment, environmental sustainability, racial equity, and solidarity makes it possible. As we welcome more Apprentices and strengthen advocacy that brings neighborhood voices into citywide policy, your support remains vital. In 2027, we invite you to help shape this next chapter—not only through your generosity, but also through your voice, vision, and action. **Together, we can build a lasting legacy of mobility, opportunity, and meaningful change. Thank you!**