

**2009 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**R COMMUNITY BIKES INC.**

SUBMITTED JANUARY, 2010

**MISSION STATEMENT**

“R” Community Bikes is a grassroots, 501c3 organization that collects and repairs used bicycles for distribution, free of charge, to Rochester’s most needy children and adults. Our mission is to meet the basic transportation needs of those in the community who depend on bikes for recreation and also to get to work, school, rehabilitation programs and training sessions. For this segment of the population, quality of life and ability to participate in our community are greatly enhanced when our mission is achieved. “R” Community Bikes also provides a venue for the Rochester bicycling community to conduct educational programs relative to bicycle safety and maintenance.

This annual report covers the calendar year of 2009 from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. It focuses on the first full year of operation for “R Community Bikes Inc” as an incorporated entity but does not include the full financial report which would be available on request.

**GROWTH**

2009 was replete with growth in a variety of areas for RCB. Total give aways, repairs, volunteers, volunteer hours, donations, and outreach events are areas where numbers significantly increased from last year. This growth is indicative of both a need in the community and our attempt to meet that need.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers continue to be the lifeblood of RCB. This dedicated group of men and women enables us to be all that we are and do all that we do. Without them, none of our aforementioned growth would have been possible. In 2009, our total volunteer workforce was 181 individuals who donated 7,849 hours during the calendar year. This represents a 100% growth in individual volunteers and an increase of more than 2,000 hours from 2008. Our volunteer workforce this year included a number of non-traditional volunteers. Teenagers from Teen Treatment Court, Americorps volunteers and Mennonite volunteers all joined us at various intervals. As a result of our increasing volunteer force and also the increased need for bikes, RCB expanded its work schedule from two days a week, Wed and Sat. to four days a week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday with Wednesday and Saturday being our days for bike distribution. Normal work hours are from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

## **GIVE AWAYS**

According to our mission, giving away bicycles is what RCB is dedicated to and in 2009, we certainly accomplished our mission. In total, one thousand three hundred and sixty six (1366) bicycles were given away at 226 Hudson Avenue and at several off site locations. That total included 489 bikes given to children and teens as well as 877 bikes given to needy adults. Helmets were provided to all children who were in need of them. Adults were able to purchase helmets at cost but very few adults chose to do so. Bikes were given to individuals representing more than 67 agencies and a wide variety of zip codes, illustrating the breadth of need within our community for our services. This information also indicates that RCB is becoming better known in the community and that we are serving an ever increasing geographic area in the city.

Agencies which provided us with the most referrals are as follows:

OACES - Office of Career Educational Services (RCSD) – 196

Catholic Family Center – 124

St Joseph's House of Hospitality – 78

Action for a Better Community – 39

Salvation Army – 36

A majority of individuals from OACES and CFC were refugees from a variety of countries, at least twelve in number, including Myanmar, Somalia, Iraq, and Cuba. All of these individuals were welcomed into our community under the auspices of Catholic Family Center but were studying at OACES. They were truly a blessing to RCB.

The procedure for off site children's bike give aways was modified in order to better fit individual children to their bikes. Certificates were given to organizations which then distributed them to appropriate children who came to RCB to redeem the certificates for a bike and helmet. This change assured that the bike was appropriate in size and style for the child and that the child and parent were instructed regarding the importance of wearing a helmet.

We continued to supply fitted helmets, free of charge, to children 14 years old and under. A donation was requested but not required. A small percentage of donations was received.

### **SUPPORT**

Major support for RCB's programs came from two very divergent sources. Sale of bikes on Craig's List was a major source of support thanks mostly to the efforts of George Dressing. Because of this major source of income, our focus can remain on our mission of bike distribution rather than fund raising to meet our budgetary needs. Secondly, individual donations remained constant compared to 2008. This was a welcome and pleasant surprise given the economic climate of our community but should also be taken as a vote of confidence in what we are doing for our community. Support also came in the form of technical assistance from The Bike Zone in Greece and Pedallers in Henrietta. Thanks to both Dave Silloway and Bob Deroo for their ongoing support in various ways including providing us with many usable bikes for ultimate distribution. One other major supporter was "The Bike Man" from Driving Park Ave. whose family donated a tremendous inventory of bikes, parts and supplies following his death. Part of our shop is now dedicated to Mary and Andre in recognition of their very generous donation.

## **BUILDING STATUS**

R Community Bikes continues to operate at 226 Hudson Avenue in a building owned by Mario Daniele, local restaurateur and businessman. The Daniele family helped us with the installation of a replacement garage door that was damaged during an attempted break in over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This incident was the only one of 2009! Our monthly rent has increased to \$800 per month and we would like to purchase the building and are investigating the possibility. Owning the building would enable us to make needed cosmetic improvements to the outside and also make the inside of the building more user friendly. During this past year, we have added many improvements to the inside of the building but as renters, we would not make significant and permanent improvements to a building that is not ours. Our concern over the building not meeting code requirements remains.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

RCB'S Board of Directors usually meets monthly to discuss happenings relative to RCB and to formulate plans for future events. The eight member Board will welcome two new additional members, Dave Weagley and Jeff Lewis in 2010. Current members are Bill Danza, Chuck Fujita, Alan Hanford, Dave Teegarden and Gary Young. Bill Cochrane, Tim Kearney and Dan Lill serve as the Treasurer, Assistant Director and Director respectively.

## **OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY**

During 2009, we continued to reach out to various organizations in the community in an attempt to communicate our mission and also to solicit support. As a result, one organization in particular, the Pittsford Rotary will be hosting a springtime bike drive to supplement our inventory. While not all presentations produce such tangible results, it is important to continue to get the word out into the community about what we do. In June RCB, in conjunction with Netlife and Dr Andrew Sherman, provided bicycles that were eventually transported to Senegal and used to distribute mosquito nets to outlying communities in that African country.

At about the same time, we teamed with Bikes for the World and their affiliate in Ithaca to send a tractor trailer load of bikes, parts and supplies to Uganda. Our donation to that project was primarily 32 bikes plus a variety of parts and supplies gathered from our excess inventory.

Also during this past year, RCB was featured in a wide variety of print publications as well as electronic media. Heberle Disposal News Letter, The Wedge, The Shopping Bag, Democrat and Chronicle's Our Town, Thumbs Up. Local news outlets, including most TV stations all featured information about happenings involving RCB. Happily, all the news was good news as were the reports done by several TV stations which covered us especially during our 1000<sup>th</sup> Bike Celebration in October.

Our own publicity was greatly enhanced by our new website [www.rcommunitybikes.net](http://www.rcommunitybikes.net) which debuted this year and was coordinated by Dave Teegarden. The site provides a wealth of information to the community about our services and has been the source of many new volunteers.

### **2009 CONCLUSION AND PROJECTIONS**

Our first full year of operation was certainly one filled with many successes for the most part. Giving away more bikes, using more volunteers for more hours and increasing our exposure in the community all are indicators that R Community Bikes Inc. has become a vital part of the Rochester landscape. We continue to meet our mission statement goals and should do the same in 2010. To that end, we would like to

- maintain our level of bike give aways
- expand our service to other parts of the Rochester community especially the west side of the city.
- increase our volunteer membership and improve training of our mechanics
- finalize purchase of a building either at our present location or some other facility.

Once again we have completed a very successful year in 2009 and look forward to continuing that work in 2010. Our success would not have been possible without the tremendous contributions of those many individuals involved with RCB. Our volunteers especially but also our Board of Directors, advisory board members, local media and a variety of individuals in the community all have combined to make R Community Bikes the effective organization that it has become.

Submitted by Dan Lill,  
Director, R Community Bikes Inc.  
January 2010