

# RECYCLE BICYCLE HARRISBURG REVIEW

FALL 2022

## Paying It Forward – The Bike That Keeps Giving

Seven years ago, local non-profit, Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg (RBH) worked with a woman whose bike was stolen to provide her with a much needed replacement bike. She left the shop with a plum-colored classic Ross bicycle. She enjoyed her bike and loved it through the years, so much as to have completed two Capital Area Greenbelt Association’s Tour de Belt rides!

As with most things, wear and tear happened and eventually she had the tires and cables renewed at a local bike shop on this classic Ross bicycle. This bike would be giving more than just a ride in the future.

After some time, she got a new bike and donated her classic Ross bike back to RBH at Harrisburg’s Kipona Festival. Thus, the plum-colored Ross bicycle had returned to its starting point, but only for a brief visit. Because...another woman in need, an immigrant searching for a bike to satisfy her transportation needs, came upon RBH and was introduced to the same Ross bike that helped the previous woman over seven years ago! It was in good shape and ready to, again, share the joy of cycling. The classic Ross bicycle keeps paying it forward, providing function and smiles to its new owner.

The pay-it-forward concept is the lifeline of how RBH operates. It tells us that we can make a difference in the lives of others! Thank you for always giving. Pay it forward – bring in your old bike – help another out. We love recycling and helping people!



## Matching Fund Challenge

We have officially begun our 2022 Matching Fund Challenge. Multiple donors have offered to match, dollar for dollar, up to **\$5,000!** We are excited to raise money to help with restocking highly used parts, continue building maintenance, and grow our Youth Mechanic Program. We had a successful year repairing and restoring bicycles. See page 4 for donation options.

**Since the beginning of 2022,  
we’ve been busy!**

### Let’s look closer at our volunteer hours

Per week, an average of **80 work hours** is split between an average of **23 volunteers**.

The Current Estimated National Value of Each Volunteer Hour\* is **\$29.95**. Through September we have **\$93,473.95** in hours worked!

**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

\*Independent Sector

Registered Adult Bikes  
770



Registered Kids Bikes  
175



Bicycles Donated  
1,612



Bicycles Repaired  
1,625



Volunteer Hours  
3,121

## Bicycle Advocacy in Harrisburg

As a bicycle advocate we are dedicated to providing support for bicyclists as they navigate through the streets in our area. We focus on teaching the law, being prepared, and riding defensively.

We can't transform Harrisburg and surrounding areas alone. In order to change culture, we need to work together to increase bicycle advocacy vision into the laws and policies of our decision makers. The collective voice of readers like YOU can help make the streets of our city and neighborhoods safer. Please be involved. You can also contact your county government and local boroughs and townships.

### ADVOCACY RESOURCES

**PennDOT Transportation Survey** - <https://talkpatransportation.com/get-involved/transportation-survey> - make our voices heard!

**Bicycle South Central PA** - <https://bicyclesouthcentralpa.org/>

**Tri-County Regional Planning Committee** - <https://www.tcrpc-pa.org/> - Responsible for the Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS), this study includes the count of pedestrians, bicyclists and other forms of micro-mobility.

**Commuter Services of PA** - <https://pacommuterservices.org/> - the more people document their non-car trips for work, shopping, and school, the more data we have to make the case that cars aren't and shouldn't be the only reason to design roads.

**Harrisburg City Council** - this site has every council member's email address - <https://harrisburgpa.gov/city-council/> - 10 N 2nd St #1, Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 255-3060

**Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg** also has a **Facebook group** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427224720663022>

**Brandon Basom's Streetsblog Article** about 2nd Street: - <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2022/08/08/opinion-safety-fix-for-deadly-road-nixed-by-harrisburg-mayor-over-parking/> or go to: [streetsblog.org](https://streetsblog.org), search: Harrisburg, PA



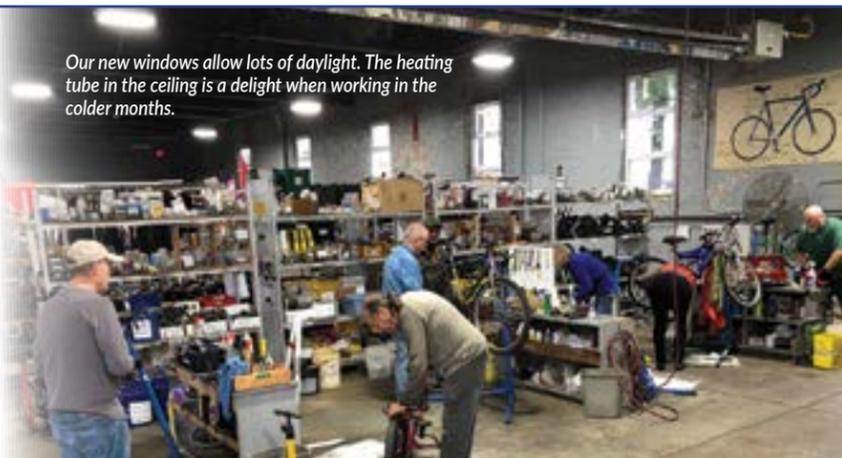
## We Remember Leyla

**Leyla Monroy**, 36, originally from Peru, was killed while riding her bicycle in the 1100 block of Market Street in the city of Harrisburg this summer. A car tried to make a U-turn. That is when Leyla crashed into the driver's side and fell under the car. She died two days later in the hospital. Leyla Monroy's family, mother, Lourdes Tenorio and brother, Andre Monroy, flew to Harrisburg from Peru after they heard of Leyla's death. Support for the family may be given at Leyla's Go Fund Me page. Search: Justice for Leyla

**Building Update** Our building keeps on improving with the hands of loyal volunteers and thanks to wonderful grants from the John Crain Kunkel Foundation, the S. Wilson & Grace M. Pollock Foundation, and many other organizations and individual donors, have made new windows in our building and improved HVAC a reality.

The windows have been wonderful during the heat of the summer, allowing a cross breeze to help our volunteers stay focused. If you haven't visited our shop, please do. We love to show off our amazing space!

*Our new windows allow lots of daylight. The heating tube in the ceiling is a delight when working in the colder months.*



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: RICKEY MORTON

**Passion** is the word Rickey Morton uses when he describes why he volunteers with Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg (RBH). That passion began years earlier after an injury.

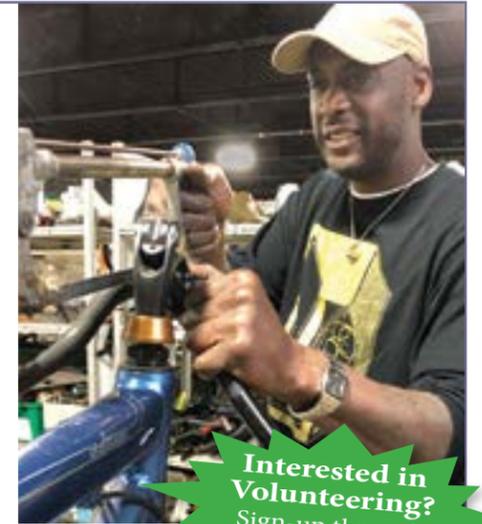
Rickey grew up in the Allison Hill neighborhood where RBH is located. He waited for his elementary school bus at the corner, just east of the shop entrance. He played basketball through high school and after graduation he continued to play, until during one game he tore his Achilles tendon. During rehab it was suggested he try bicycling. Once on the bicycle, he never looked back. A passion was ignited.

On Earth Day in April 2012, Rickey was riding his bike when he came upon an event at the Broad Street Market. A bicycle race around the market, called Market Madness was taking place. He asked a police officer about the event and she introduced him to Ross Willard, who was checking and fixing bicycles.

Ross and Rickey talked about bicycles and safety and the next thing he knew he was running home to get his children, then 14 and 9, to bring them back with their bicycles. The kids raced in their age group and did extremely well. After his experience with the race and talking with Ross, he went to volunteer at RBH, then at the Elder Street location. Rickey is now one of our most experienced mechanics and has learned everything through his volunteer hours at RBH. "The best thing about volunteering," Rickey says, "is seeing the people so happy with their bicycle."

Since 2012, Rickey has volunteered whenever he has time, between raising his family and working. Most recently, Rickey was approached by Dajuann Greene, unit director of the Boys and Girls Club John N. Hall Clubhouse, on the south side of the city. Director Greene asked him to help kids with their bicycles. Very excited about this new possibility, Rickey agreed to teach kids bicycle mechanic skills while they earn a bike. He will incorporate RBH's Youth Mechanic Program, which began earlier this year.

Rickey's commitment to the mission of Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg is long-lasting. And his passion is contagious as he works to ignite this spark in young people.



**Interested in Volunteering?**  
Sign-up through our website.

## Volunteers: You are Needed

We tell everyone, we are 100% volunteer, and we can only help as many people as we have volunteers available for that day. Unfortunately, we've had to turn people away from our shop because we didn't have enough people to help. They just have to return the next available day.

We are working on ways to minimize this situation, but it is better to have enough volunteers available at each shop opening day to handle the requests, especially during the summer months.

Not every volunteer needs to be a mechanic. We have needs for volunteers to register bicycles, help individuals with simple requests and teach safety. **We have a desperate need for volunteers who are bilingual, specifically Spanish and Arabic.** There are even opportunities to work behind the scenes with fundraising, writing and outreach opportunities. We will train anyone; and welcome advice from experts.

RBH is growing and we have a great team to help us meet the needs of the community. However, we need additional teammates to make sure we never have to turn people away again. If you would like to help out, show up during our open hours and let our volunteers know you want to help. Or give us a call, 717-978-3919. Or email us, [volunteer@rbhburg.org](mailto:volunteer@rbhburg.org).

## Santa's Workshop is Open

Every year we prepare hundreds of bikes for kids to give away during the holiday season. Last year this workshop fixed over 300 bicycles for kids! It takes months of fixing, cleaning and testing these bikes before we can give them away.

We are in the shop on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm working like little elves. This is a great opportunity to learn some basic bicycle mechanics. If you are interested in helping, stop by on a Wednesday evening. Elf hats are optional.



*Our volunteers are already busy sending children's bikes out for the holidays.*





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Harrisburg, PA 17110

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# Trash to Treasure

We are Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg because we believe no bicycle should find its way to a landfill. Of course getting the word out to people to bring bikes to us is one way to prevent this. However, some folks don't know about or can't get a bike to us. So the bike may end up at the end of the driveway for the trash to pick up.

We have great volunteers and friends of RBH who keep a look out for these bicycles and snatch them up and bring them to us. Some of these bikes are in great shape and are perfect for someone else. These discarded bikes are our treasures.

If you see a bicycle in someone's trash, grab it. If it's questionable, meaning it's close to the trash can but you're not really sure if it's meant for trash. Knock on the door and ask the owner if it's ok to take the bike. Many people run around neighborhoods and look for metal to take to the scrap yard. They aren't concerned about whether a bicycle is worth riding again. But we are! Even if it's not rideable, it's worthy for parts. And after parts are removed, we will scrap the metal and use that money to pay our bills.

*A volunteer saved this bike from the trash and now Damin is the new owner.*



**SHOP** 1722 Chestnut Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104  
**PHONE** 717-978-3919  
**HOURS** Mon. 12-4pm • Tues. 5-8pm • Sat. 9am-noon  
**MAILING ADDRESS** PO Box 5264, Harrisburg, PA 17110  
**EMAIL** [contact@rbhburg.org](mailto:contact@rbhburg.org)  
**WEB** [RBHburg.org](http://RBHburg.org)

Follow us on   

## Three Easy Ways to Donate Now

- 1 Donate on our Facebook page, Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg
- 2 Donate on our website, [RBHburg.org](http://RBHburg.org)
- 3 Donate by mailing a check made payable to: Recycle Bicycle Harrisburg, PO Box 5264, Harrisburg, PA 17110