

# IN GEAR

THE NEWSLETTER OF PEDALS FOR PROGRESS

FALL/  
WINTER 1998  
VOLUME II  
ISSUE II

## Tandem Taxi, Southern Africa Style

Amutenya already had a bicycle, a very old bicycle, when he first came to the Clay House Project, PFP's partner agency in Otijwarongo, Namibia. As he came riding in, his bicycle seemed so small under the long legs of this large man dressed in the familiar blue shirt and pants of the Namibian laborer. Clay House was still busy inventorying and sorting bicycles and parts from its newly arrived shipment.



Amutenya delivering his fare

No sooner had Amutenya stepped off his bike and started glancing over the various types of bicycles, than he spotted the sole tandem in a sea of 373 bicycles. His eyes lit up. "This one is mine!" he thought, as he imagined what he could do with a bicycle with two seats, two handlebars, and two sets of pedals. Marcelino Castro, director of the Clay House Project, asked him where he worked. "TransNamib," he replied, referring to a transport agency in the railroad station. "I work from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. doing anything that needs to be done," he added, never taking his eyes off the yellow tandem. That very day he left

a down payment to be sure no one else would get the tandem. The Clay House mechanics had not yet started to recondition this bike. Two days later the bike was ready and Amutenya was back. He paid in full the equivalent of about \$100 US and proudly took off with his prize bike.

In Namibia anything more than three children in a family is considered a lot. What does one say about a very large man 51 years of age who has to care for ten, ranging in age from five to 15?! Eight of them go to school. Amutenya's wife sells candy, matches, hot beer, and fish, all from the "business" room of their two-room house. The business room is about 10 feet x 10 feet, as is the other room where everyone sleeps. Under the corrugated zinc roof and between corrugated zinc walls temperatures rise during mid-day to over 100°F. Fortunately, they have a low tree outside, providing a shady spot where they can go to get some relief. At night when temperatures drop into the 50s, the close sleeping quarters help to keep them warm.

"On weekends I work all day driving my tandem taxi myself," Amutenya explained to Marcelino. "When I'm at work in TransNamib, my oldest son helps with the taxi business. Saturdays are best and on a really good day I can make \$8 US. People see me

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## PfP / DC area sets record spring pace!

Several outstanding and innovative collections were held. St. Mary's Church (Burke VA), which earlier collected 265 bikes over a spring weekend in 1997, recruited three other neighborhood churches in 1998, cut the collection hours down to three hours on a Saturday morning, and still brought in more than 200 bikes. Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, holding its fourth annual collection, joined forces with the Arlington (VA) County Solid Waste Department's hazardous waste collection, and generated more than 120 bikes over the course of the day. Herndon (VA) Friends Meeting, defying global warming and summer vacation schedules, collected over 150 bikes in mid-July.

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WITHOUT  
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## NEW PROGRAMS

### CELA

The Foundation Center for Environmental Legal Assistance (CELA) is a Colombian non-profit, non-government organization. CELA has advocated for the rights of cyclists and pedestrians since 1993. CELA members believe that in advocating for the rights of cyclists and pedestrians we are celebrating our hopes in cultural change. CELA believes that the bicycle symbolizes an opportunity for human culture, a mode for sustainable mobility, a means for making a living, and a way to mitigate poverty in the countries of South America. Mediterranean Shipping donated the shipping costs and the first container arrives October 10, 1998.



Fundación Atenea (F.A.) is a Venezuelan private non-profit corporation founded to give "direct" attention to children who have been abandoned, abused or are considered delinquents. Operational since 1995, F.A. is expanding to a new center in Casa Granja, a rural area east of Caracas. The new center for boys over 14 will teach labor skills designed to make them independent adults. With PFP shipments, F.A. will open a bike shop where the boys will learn to repair bikes and sell them to the community. The boys learn as the community is simultaneously served and any profits will be used to maintain the center's operations.

# How to Succeed in a Bicycle Collection Without Really Trying

It all started during Thanksgiving weekend, 1997, with the annual five-hour drive to mom's house in New Jersey for the traditional family weekend. After dinner I spotted an article in The Trenton Times newspaper on mom's coffee table, announcing that the Rotary Club of Lawrenceville, NJ was collecting bikes for an organization called Pedals for Progress. Right away I knew that my own Rotary Club in Williamstown, Massachusetts, could do the very same thing.

After dessert I hatched a plan to present this idea to our Club at its next meeting. They loved it! After a call to Dave a few days later, we scheduled a collection date. I generated a long list of Rotary Club volunteers and our town government responded to my request and generously donated a collection site.

We then publicized our event through a unique medium - church newsletters! I wrote letters to over three dozen churches (all addresses were found in the yellow pages) within a one-hour drive of our town, and asked that they include a notice of our campaign in their weekly bulletins. We also ran stories in the local press and on radio - but most of the people who donated bicycles said they learned of the event through their church newsletters!

The collection was great fun. More than a dozen Rotarians volunteered, with the more mechanically adept assigned "wrenching" duties and others working in the "front-end" greeting people and issuing receipts. We collected 185 bikes and prepared them for shipping as they arrived. What's more, we collected \$850 toward shipping costs. The biggest surprise was that many passersby, noticing our sea of bicycles, stopped to ask whether they could BUY a bike from us. We wondered whether we should have sold a few to help with shipping costs, but chose to ask these folks for a monetary contribution instead (many complied).

I wish you well in your program, and can now assure you that the collection is a worthwhile project for any group to tackle. It can be a lot of fun too!

by Doug Phillips, Treasurer, Williams College, Williamstown, MA



# Tandem Taxi, Southern Africa Style

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as somewhat amusing as I wait outside the shops with my tandem. When they come out loaded with purchases, they yell 'Taxi! How much for a ride home?' I tell them and they get on the back seat, but they have to pedal too!"

Amutenya charges a modest fare, the equivalent of \$.50 US, for a 2 or 3 km. trip. Although it's hard work, he is happy that his taxi service has grown to provide a substantial percentage of his overall income. With income earned he has even bought two bikes, much less expensive ones, for his children to use. As Amutenya goes by the Clay House shop, pedaling from the stores of Otijwarongo to the humble houses of adjacent Orwetoveni, his smiling taxi passengers often wave right along with him, charmed by the ride on his yellow tandem. There's nothing like it for miles around, perhaps in the whole country.

Notes:

For further information about the Clay House Project, operated by Grupo Sofinias, visit the Active Programs page on the Pedals for Progress web site.

Of the more than 22,000 bicycles shipped overseas by Pedals for Progress since 1991, less than one in 2500 have been tandems. A second PFP shipment of bikes to Namibia is planned for late Nov., 1998, from Arlington, VA.

## PEDALS FOR PROGRESS

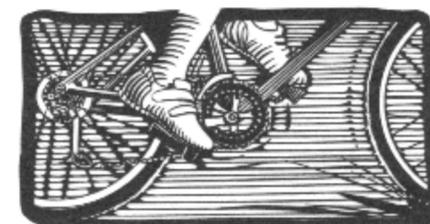
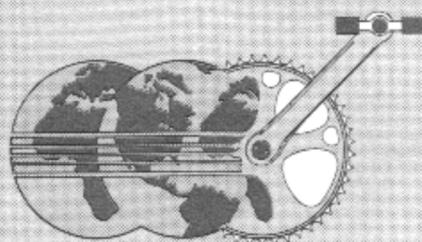
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PFP/OH: Bob Young, P.O.Box 54, Barberton, OH 44203, [pfpohio@juno.com](mailto:pfpohio@juno.com)





# PfP Major Active Programs 10/1/98



The second shipment to EcoViDe in El Progreso, Honduras arrived in July 1998. The chief of El Progreso's Municipal Police, Miguel Angel Ulloa was one of the first to arrive to look at the bikes. The police have not had any way to get around except by walking. The municipality purchased bicycles for the policemen to use so that they can move around quickly, even through congested areas, and are now much more effective in their duties. The Police Chief has expressed his pleasure at seeing his policemen mobilized without having to worry about the cost of fuel.

## Looking for a few good..

- sewing machines for the Dominican Republic,
- groups of working computers for teaching key boarding in the Salesian Schools of Ecuador and Honduras,
- soccer equipment for Namibia and Honduras,
- baseball equipment for Nicaragua, tools for all of our partner's bike shops,
- a 16' truck for collecting bikes domestically,
- 45' storage trailer for DC, and bikes, bikes, bikes.

Country	Bikes Shipped (year-amount)	Program Director Organization
<b>Nicaragua:</b>		
Masaya	91-50, 92-100, 93-100, 94-100, 95-50, 96-1013, 97-479, 98-463: <b>Total: 2355</b>	Thelma Fernandes S. MASINFA
Rivas	92-56, 93-109, 94-855, 95-790, 96-1099, 97-638, 98-100: <b>Total: 3647</b>	Wilfredo Santana R. ADC
San Marcos	93-75, 94-65, 95-405, 96-607, 97-450: <b>Total: 1602</b>	Pablo Gonzalez Mayor
Jinotepe	98-337: <b>Total: 337</b>	Wilfredo Santana R. Ecotec
<b>Fiji:</b>		
	93-213, 95-122, 97-270 <b>Total: 605</b>	John G. Geier Jr. J.A. Int'l
<b>Barbados:</b>		
	95-750, 96-822, 98-430: <b>Total: 2002</b>	Deryck Murray Pinelands
<b>El Salvador:</b>		
	95-457, 96-434, 97-447, 98-400, <b>Total: 1738</b>	Nassin Cuellar CESTA
<b>Columbia:</b>		
	98-392: <b>Total 392</b>	José Borrero CELA
<b>Madagascar:</b>		
	96-8, 97-15, 98-17: <b>Total 40</b>	Jim Sellers STARFISH
<b>Solomon Islands:</b>		
	96-310	Jerry Jones Peace Corps
<b>Dominican Republic:</b>		
	97-768, 98-388: <b>Total 1156</b>	Marcos Vargas B. Rotary Club
<b>Ecuador:</b>		
	97-722: <b>Total 722</b>	Padre Juan Shutka Salesians
<b>Honduras:</b>		
El Progreso	97-434, 98-494: <b>Total 928</b>	Victor Martinez ECOVIDE
San Pedro Sula	97-425, 98-460: <b>Total 885</b>	Sister Marta Soto Salesians
Gracias, Limpera	97-447: <b>Total 447</b>	Maria Sofia Hernandez FEDECOH
<b>Namibia:</b>		
	97-373: <b>Total 373</b>	Marcelino Castro EcoTechnology
<b>1997 total: 5468, 1998 total: 3481 • Grand Total: 22,489</b>		

# 1998 Pedal Wrench Award



In this photo, Elizabeth (Beth) James, a seventh grader at Episcopal Middle School, receives one of two 1998 Golden Rule Award for outstanding volunteer service in the Baton Rouge Louisiana area. Let's not stop there! PFP is pleased to announce that Beth and her family have also been chosen to receive the 1998 PFP Pedal Wrench of the Year Award. To Beth, her brother Robert, and her parents Gaylord James and Robbie McHardy thank you.

## Get a T-Shirt from us, and we'll help you to build a self-sufficient economy in another part of the world.

Our Shirts are made and silk-screened in the USA and designed by our own Pedals for Progress volunteers. Stay current and buy the latest design, because we change them a little bit every year. Bright PFP Logo on a dark blue 100% cotton shirt. Excellent for working on bikes and promoting PFP's Global View on recycling.

### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please send me the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ PFP T-shirt(s) @ \$15.00, plus \$3.00 P & H each  
(Please specify Small, Medium, Large or XLarge)

\_\_\_\_\_ PFP 1.5" x 5" reflective helmet sticker(s) @ \$1.50 each  
(\$1.00 with shirt)

#### Send check or money order to:

Pedals for Progress  
86 East Main Street  
High Bridge, NJ 08829

## PEDALS FOR PROGRESS

### MISSION STATEMENT

#### Vision

Pedals for Progress envisions a day when:

1. North America recycles over half of the five million used bicycles discarded each year, as well as unused parts and accessories for reuse overseas;
2. Poor people in developing countries have bicycles to get to work, obtain services and meet other needs;
3. The bicycle is an effective tool for self help in all developing countries;
4. Trade regulations enhance international commerce in bicycles and parts;
5. Policy makers in developing countries respect and support non-motorized transportation.

#### Mission

Our objectives are:

1. To enhance the productivity of low-income workers overseas where reliable, environmentally sound transportation is scarce, by supplying reconditioned bikes at low cost;
2. To promote in recipient communities the establishment of self-sustaining bicycle repair facilities, employing local people;
3. To provide leadership and innovation throughout North America for the recycling of bicycles, parts, and accessories;
4. To reduce dramatically the volume of bicycles, parts, and accessories flowing to landfills;
5. To foster environmentally sound transportation policies that encourage widespread use of bicycles worldwide;
6. To foster in the North American public an understanding of and a channel for responding to the transportation needs of the poor in developing countries.

## DC Area Sets Record

Continued from page 1

As a result, PFP/DC was able to ship out more than 800 bikes in the first half of the year—437 in early May to a small business development project in Jinotepe,

Nicaragua, sponsored by the Swiss appropriate technology agency SOFONIAS, and 388 in late June to a Rotary-sponsored effort in Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic. Both containers were loaded by volunteers from "Single Volunteers of DC," a young e-mail-linked network encompassing more than 2,000 unmarried individuals from throughout the region.

The fall promises to make 1998 a record-breaking year, exceeding last year's mark of 1,600 bikes shipped. Five churches, one school, and an Eagle Scout candidate have already set dates (see Fall Collection Schedule in this issue, or on the PFP web site). Local supermarket chain Giant Food has helped once again, donating a third 40-foot trailer for PFP storage purposes. A service learning guide for high school and middle school teachers is in preparation.

Contact DC area coordinator Keith Oberg at 703-525-0931 or [oberg@tidalwave.net](mailto:oberg@tidalwave.net) to find out how to sponsor a DC area collection, or help in other ways. Particularly urgent is identifying a site within the Beltway where PFP can place three or four storage trailers, and bring in an occasional shipping container.

## Baton Rouge Beth, Collector "Extraordinaire"

At eight years of age, Beth accompanied her mother Robbie McHardy on a business trip to Philadelphia to attend a national conference on Service Learning. As Beth sat through (in her words) "another boring meeting," she flipped through the conference program, looking for something—anything!—that sounded more interesting. At the first opportunity Beth guided her mother through the conference center to where Dave Schweidenback was demonstrating how bikes are processed for overseas shipment.

"This is so easy to do. I've even had 6 years old Brownies processing bikes," Dave said. When someone in the audience snickered at the idea, Dave looked around the room for proof! He spotted Beth, and quickly called her to the front of the room to learn how to remove pedals and turn handle bars. She accepted the challenge.



Beth begged her mother to help her organize a collection in Baton Rouge. Three years later in March 1997, Baton Rouge held its first Pedals for Progress collection. Mother and daughter contacted friends in five middle schools and convinced them to hold collections at their schools, all on the same Saturday morning. The 350 bicycles collected that morning were all processed the way Beth had learned in Philadelphia and brought to a central location on the Louisiana State University campus. There Beth and her parents and fellow volunteers were joined by ten players from the LSU football team to pack the bikes into an 18-wheeler for shipment to Rivas, Nicaragua. The afternoon's work was topped off with pizza and sodas (through the generosity of the Baton Rouge Coca-Cola Bottling Co.).

The most remarkable thing about that first year was the fun that these sixth and seventh graders had getting to know each other. In 1998 they decided to build on that feeling of working together by inviting ALL of the middle schools in Baton Rouge to participate. Beth wrote letters and her mother met with principals from 36 public, private, and parochial schools throughout the city. Twenty schools agreed to participate, providing a cross section of Baton Rouge middle schoolers in terms of types of schools and neighborhood makeup.

All told, 207 volunteers worked during the 1998 Baton Rouge collection, which yielded 398 bikes and \$1,445 in donations. Beth's dad, Gaylord James, who received a grant from Exxon for \$1000 toward shipping costs and led the truck packing effort for CESTA in El Salvador, with the aid of all 25 members of the L.S.U. Rugby Team. Beth, her parents, and her eight-year old brother Robert would like to draw in the remaining 16 schools and thus create a citywide effort in a charitable project on which they work together for the benefit of others, rather than in competition.

# FALL '98 BIKE ROUNDUP!

It's Fall and there's barns, garages and porches to clean! PFP needs your help to collect bikes by organizing a collection in your area.

We have a goal for 1998, to continue our exponential growth, and **collect and ship over 8,000 this year.** I'm sure it's possible with your continued support. Pass the word, we're looking for some bikes.

## September 19th:

Fanwood Scotch Plains Rotary Club, Fanwood, NJ, 1-2, (908) 889-8880

Plumstead Township Supervisors, Plumsteadville, PA, 10 to 2, (215) 766-8914

## September 26th

Elam United Methodist Church, Glen Mills PA, 10-1, (610) 457-2911

## October 3rd:

Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary, Plainfield, NJ, 10-1, (908) 769-2935

Wharton-Mine Hill Rotary Club, Mine Hill, NJ, 11-2, (973) 584-0992

## Oct. 10th:

Johnson & Johnson with the Somerville Rotary Club, Somerville, NJ (908) 685-1444 ext. 253

Danzeisen & Quigley Sports Specialists, Cherry Hill, NJ, 11-2, (609) 869-0339

## Oct. 17th:

Delaware Township, NJ Clean-Up Day, (609) 397-3816

Westfield Rotary Club, Westfield NJ, 10 to 1, (908) 232-8400

## Oct. 17th:

Mountain Lakes High School Key Club, Mountain Lakes, NJ, 12-3, (973) 335-5498

West Baltimore United Methodist Church, Baltimore MD, 9-12, (410) 525-2039

Electronic Data Systems, Herndon VA, 9-12, (703) 406-2563

Friends Community School, College Park, MD, 10-3, (301) 779-0856

## Oct. 24th:

Church of the Holy Spirit & Chase Manhattan, Clinton, NJ, 10-1, (908) 236-6301

Crofton United Methodist Church, Crofton, MD, 9-12, (410) 721-2473

Tewksbury Township Clean-Up Day, Tewksbury, NJ, (908) 439-0022 ext. 728

## Oct. 25th:

St. Max CYO, West Chester, PA, 12:30 to 3:30, (610) 399-0952

## Oct. 31st:

Vineland Rotary Club, Vineland, NJ, 10-1, (609) 691-3936

## November 7th:

Mid-Jersey Cape Rotary Club & Our Lady of Angels RC Church, Cape May Court House, NJ 9-12, (609) 465-2807

Presbyterian Church of Chatham, Chatham, NJ, 12-3, (973) 635-2340

Wild Lake Inter-Faith Center, Columbia MD, 9-1, (410) 744-0102

## November 8th:

Clark Rotary Club, Clark NJ, 11-2, (732) 815-7808

## Nov. 14th:

Lambertville New Hope Rotary Club, Lambertville, NJ, 10-1, (609) 397-8591

# THANKS!

## PfP Major Contributors

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# Gearing Up for Municipal Bike Collections

In two Hunterdon County municipalities a unique way to encourage municipal participation in Pedals for Progress bike collections has been developed by the municipal Clean Communities Coordinator for these communities, Ellen McShane Fox. Beginning in 1997, the two towns each with a population of approximately 5,000 have used municipal Clean Communities monies to fund collections of used bikes at the spring and fall bulky waste clean-up days in these communities. At the two waste clean-up days held each year residents can dispose of bulky waste, building materials, tires and other large items. In the past the numerous bikes delivered to the clean-up days would be recycled or disposed of as waste as well. To divert the bikes from being disposed of as waste, the logical outlet for bikes that were no longer needed was Pedals for Progress.

To fund the collection costs for the bikes, various sources of municipal funding were explored. One potential funding

source was the State administered Clean Communities grant program which provided both communities with approximately \$14,000 annually. This program was created in 1986 to help fund litter pick-up and removal activities throughout New Jersey and each county and municipality is eligible to

receive these grant funds. In 1997 over 550 municipalities received Clean Communities grant funds that are collected as a tax levied on the sale of litter generating items. Since many of the bikes had or would have been improperly disposed of, the use of Clean Communities grant funds to make collections of bikes for Pedals for Progress was an appropriate use of the grant monies.

Based on the success of the Delaware and Tewksbury Township Pedals for Progress bike collections, other communities may want to consider using Clean Communities grant funds for similar bike collection programs.

For further information, please contact Ellen McShane Fox at (908) 439-002 extension 728.



## **PEDALS FOR PROGRESS**

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