BIKE DRIVES: DONATIONS FOR EMPOWERMENT

By: Sidney Proctor; Bike Works Intern & Sociology Major at University of Washington

INTRODUCTION
Since April I have been interning with Bike Works in Columbia City. We work to make cycling accessible and affordable, and to empower people of all ages and abilities, from varied socioeconomic backgrounds, and from diverse culture and communities. Everything at Bike Works starts with a bicycle, so we are continually looking to collect as many unwanted bikes as we can. My service project addresses Bike Works’ needs for donations as well as the issue of making donating more accessible to community members.

PARTNERS
At Bike Works we partner with over 50 community organizations and schools to reach more people with our services. Partners include:
- South Seattle community centers
- Local parks
- Interagency Academy
- Summit Sierra Schools
- Rainier Valley Greenways
- Recology Cleanscapes
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Washington Bike Law
- Peddler Brewing Company
- Community members who donate and volunteer with us

SERVICE PROJECT
My responsibilities as a Bike Works Intern included organizing Bike Drives, where we collect unwanted bicycles, bike parts, and bike related materials from members of the community that are then used in our programs, sold in our community bike shop, donated to other organizations, or properly recycled. For my service project, I wanted to run a collection of drives in different suburban communities around Seattle. My supervisor and I contacted one of our partners, Recology Cleanscapes, and was able to set up a drive at each of their four storefronts in Bothell, Shoreline, Burien and Issaquah. I advertised the Drives through mailing posters to storefronts in each area, emailing community organizations, event listings on community blogs, and posting on social media pages.

IMPACT
Through the four Bike Drives, we were able to collect 70+ full bicycles and an array of bicycle parts. These donations will have an impact on a diverse group of community members that we serve through our programs and partnerships and help divert thousands of pounds of material from the waste stream. Youth will be empowered through our summer camps, Earn-A-Bike repair classes, riding clubs, and job skills programs. Adults will have access to bike repair classes and bike riding activities. Low-income youth and adults will be given bikes through our GottaGetABike, Kids Bike-O-Rama and Bikes-For-All giveaway programs. Donations beyond repair will be properly recycled or donated to local artists. I was able to connect with over 100 community members and spread the word about what Bike Works does and why we do it.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
- Thank you Recology Cleanscapes for being a partner of Bike Works.
- Thank you Mike and Steve for driving the van and transporting the donations.
- Thank you Deb Salls for being a great supervisor and great person.
- Thank you Selina for being my office buddy and helping me get the hang of things.
- Thank you to the whole Bike Works team for serving our community and making it a better place.
- Thank you to the Carlson Center for providing the UCBI program and to Marsha and Lauren for being helpful graduate mentors.

www.bikeworks.org
For more information contact sidney@bikewrks.org
INTRODUCTION

- Newly arrived refugee youth usually have a hard time adapting to new environments and people.
- The IRC helps those in need to rebuild their lives and regain control of their future in their new home community. Refugees are greeted and welcomed at the airport by IRC case workers and volunteers to ensure their transition is as comfortable as possible.

PARTNERS

- Mitzvah Corps: A Non-Profit organization which empowers Jewish teenage students in the pursuit of Justice.

IMPACTS

- Gave teens from a different organization the chance to develop relationships with refugee youth, essentially bringing two different worlds together.
- A big hope of mine is that this kind of work brings about change in the community and younger generation, my generation. I hope it inspires us to unite together and love our diversity and accept each other. I also hope it wakes up the community to see how big of an effect this can have on the youth.

SERVICE PROJECT

- This program was created to meet an unmet need in the community, as even low-cost summer programs are often out of reach for IRC clients due to economic barriers, cultural barriers or transportation barriers.
- Summer camp was an opportunity to provide these youth with a week worth of safe fun and exciting games. It also gives them the chance to build relationships with each other and interact with other cultures.

REFLECTION

- They are all children who just want to have fun and play.
- Trauma can be easily triggered for them, which makes it a bit challenging when thinking of a curriculum to create.
- This opportunity gave me insight on what I want to focus on more, which is changing the policies and laws that make it hard for the families of these refugee children to gain the basic life essentials we all are entitled to.
- My mentors have influenced me in a way where I have learned not only how to make sure I get the job done, but to also learn how to communicate in an efficient and beneficial way professionally. They also influenced me to pursue a field that I am passionate about and to utilize the skills I have while gaining new ones.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- IRC Staff for creating this program
- Mitzvah Corps organization for donating their time and effort
- Carlson Center
About Youth in Focus

Located in the Mt. Baker/Beacon Hill neighborhood, Youth in Focus is a youth development photography nonprofit organization that serves at-risk youth and provides classes in both film and digital photography at both their home site and partner organizations.

Youth in Focus has been serving their community for 23 years, and their mission is to empower youth, through photography, allowing students to express themselves and their thoughts, and encouraging students to make positive impacts. “Through photography, their students find their voice, identity, creativity, and gain new confidence in their worth and abilities.”

Programs and Workshops

Youth in Focus offers their Core Programs, which are youth development photography classes in both digital and black and white film photography year round.

Youth in Focus also offers photography classes and programs that are custom designed to meet the needs of each individual agency. Some services they offer (but are not limited to) are:
- Portrait and head shot services
- Photo booths
- Workshops

Community

Youth in Focus is located in the Mount Baker/Beacon Hill neighborhood, settled in the 2100 Building. They work with youth who face a variety of challenges on a daily basis. Youth in Focus has had over 3,900 students go through their youth development photography programs in the past 23 years.

UCBI

Through the opportunity that the Carlson Center has provided me, I have been able to walk away with new sets of skills and great experiences to look back on.

Throughout my time at Youth in Focus, not only was I able to gain more knowledge about Youth in Focus and the youth they serve, but I was also able to learn more about the nonprofit sector in the Seattle/King County area.

Main Project: Community Based Asset Map

During my internship at Youth in Focus, I was able to focus my asset map project on community outreach and partner programs. As a Spring/Summer Quarter intern, I was able to focus my attention on promoting the summer and fall core programs. Previously, there hadn’t been many efforts in advertising the summer programs, and I was able to be a part of the first push at expanding the reach of students to enroll in the summer programs at Youth in Focus. I also created a Google Fusion Sheet as my Asset Map that included a map of all organizations, plotting previous partnerships and potential future partnerships.

Outreach and Partnerships

I was given the opportunity to not only research future potential partners, but also to go out into the community and engage in outreach through putting up flyers (including Seattle Public Libraries, Seattle Community Centers, etc), attending a tabling event (during GiveFest @Microsoft), attend presentations (GivingUSA (Alford Group) + Bankers’ Hours (Pacific Continental Bank)), do phone call follow-ups with potential students, and outreach through e-mails as well.

Quotation has been taken from the Youth in Focus website. Please visit www.youthinfocus.org for more information!
ROCK AND ALPINE DIRECTOR, CASCADE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE
IAN BELLows (SENIOR, GEOGRAPHY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

WHAT IS CASCADE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE? Cascade Leadership Challenge (CLC) is a Seattle-area nonprofit providing adventure travel and leadership development opportunities to youth ages 14-25. CLC is a volunteer-driven, membership based organization. Members work to develop core technical competencies in one of three outdoor disciplines (Backcountry, Rock and Alpine, and Watersports) under the mentorship of youth and adult leaders. Uniquely among youth-serving adventure travel organizations, all programs are youth-directed.

WHY ROCK CLIMBING AND MOUNTAINEERING?
• Provides a level playing field for leadership development and self-discovery
• Develops technical competencies as well as life skills like planning, communication, collaboration, and teamwork
• Fosters lasting and meaningful relationships
• Draws on the Pacific Northwest’s vibrant community of rock climbing and mountaineering enthusiasts and professionals

ROCK AND ALPINE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES
• Manage a team of volunteers while overseeing a calendar of climbing and mountaineering trips, trainings, and expeditions
• Develop program, training, and skills-development resources
• Foster collaboration with climbing community stakeholders including partner organizations, outfitters, gear manufacturers, land managers, government agencies, and prominent individuals
• Reflect regularly on successes, challenges and ways to improve

2017 LEADERSHIP PROJECT: A SUMMER OF ADVENTURE
• Worked with a core group of youth and adult leaders to develop and oversee a comprehensive school year training program
• Planned and executed a weeklong rock climbing program in the Leavenworth area in conjunction with CLC’s Camp Disaster
• Drawing on the deep knowledge of CLC’s Rock and Alpine instructor group, developed curriculums for Basic and Intermediate Mountaineering Seminars, then planned and executed four volcano climbs in four weeks (Mt. Hood, Mt. Baker, and Mt. Rainier twice)
• Served over 60 unique youth and adult climbers and mountaineers during five weeks of intensive summer programs

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: I would like to thank CLC Director Mark Steelquist, the CLC Board of Directors, and my team of youth and adult volunteer leaders for their contributions to my ongoing work with CLC’s Rock and Alpine Program. My 2017 leadership project was generously supported in part by a Jackson Munro Public Service Fellowship and the Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center at the University of Washington.
BACKGROUND

• Prison Scholar Fund works to open up access to postsecondary education for incarcerated students across the country
• My self-assigned goal was to decrease the barriers to access our core program and ultimately diversify our impact

FOCUS PROJECT

• The PSF continually receives letters from inmates asking similar questions about the process of pursuing an education from prison
• While answering these letters, I compiled a list of commonalities and began to question how we could better address these through our application (something many of the inmates had already received a copy of when they had sent us these letters)
• I conducted research on distance learning programs available to prisoners and assembled this information in an easily legible format for our application
• I added more process-based instructions aimed at inmates who have no prior experience with higher education

IMPACT

• Outlines entire process, including steps taken before the PSF
• Provides inmate with external resources and clarification on the PSF’s role in their education

REFLECTION

• In redoing the application, the PSF has begun to reflect on who we are dedicated to serving. This process has brought light to more philosophical questions of who can be positively impacted by an education in prison. Are there certain individuals that “deserve” an education more than others? Should race play a role in how we select our scholars, ie. Should we actively not select? What about the nature of the crime, ie. Sexual assault or rape?
• This process has also made me reflect on how I see myself interacting with the criminal justice system. I am actively questioning my role in reform; do I want to be working to help prevent people from being incarcerated, working with those already incarcerated, or working to abolish the prison system altogether?
• Thank you to my supervisor, Dirk Van Velzen, for his tireless support and mentorship.
• Thank you to my mentor, Marsha, and the entire UCBI team for granting me this opportunity and supporting me along the way.