



# HIS WHEELS INTERNATIONAL

## Bikes & Hand-Pedaled Trikes

NEWSLETTER

Providing pedal-powered transportation for the able and disabled with dignity

August 2011, Volume 6 Issue 3

### European Summer Program

For the past four years we have provided bicycles for *Christian leaders from Central and Eastern Europe* who come for a six-week study program at Wheaton College. This year we provided them with 11 bicycles. When they came to get the bikes I was able to share about the ministry and then to answer questions. I will never tire of the interest and fascination our visitors express as they see how God has used a bicycle ministry as a tool for expanding Christ's Kingdom.

At the end of the program they write about their experience. A Russian man wrote, "I want to give some place in my writing to bicycles.... First, I did not bike for about 30 years! So, for me it was a challenge to get back to the saddle. But little by little I get to use biking and my last achievement was riding to the church 12 miles away from the campus. 12 miles one way and 12 miles return by the Prairie Path. I was exhausted but happy. Not only because of the beauty of the forests and parks, but because two of my dreams have come true. I always wanted to bike with my wife and our oldest son, but was kind of too timid to do so. Also, I dreamed about coming to the US and going wherever I want all by myself. I thought for this reason I need to rent a car, but a bike is quite appropriate and absolutely free of gas expenses."

At HWI we are grateful for the opportunity to provide transportation to those in need. It is also exciting to have a small part in helping people learn to bike, regain confidence to ride again and then to enjoy the beauty in America while they ride along. What fun to know that we have helped another person fulfill one of his dreams.

When this man returned to Russia we were able to send a pedal with him so he could fix his son's bike. After reading the report, I realize the pedal would allow him to fulfill yet another dream of riding with his family.

### Back to School Sale

On August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 3PM-5PM we had a back to school bicycle sale at Grant's house. He is our bicycle coordinator and lives on President Street, which is a main road in Wheaton and just around the block from Wheaton College. Thanks to Katie, Grant's wife, who is a graphics designer, we had an attractive sign to post. Since we planned the sale to coincide with the College's fall orientation and moving-in days we posted 30 signs around the campus. We weren't sure what to expect, so we planned to run the sale for two hours on four different days. The demand was so great however, that people began arriving hours before the sale. By the end of the first day it was apparent that we needed to work extra hard the next morning tuning up bikes so we would have a few more bikes to sell that afternoon. Within 90 minutes of beginning the second day's sale, we had sold 44 bicycles and brought in \$5,000. We had to end the sale because we had sold all our functioning adult bikes.

The sale was an excellent media opportunity that allowed us to distribute HWI information to area residents along with the college students and their parents from a number of different states. We also informed students of volunteer opportunities at HWI.

One local father brought his elementary age daughter to buy a bicycle for a neighbor boy whose bike was stolen and who couldn't afford a new bike. It was touching to watch the father use this opportunity to teach his daughter about giving and receiving. He gave her ownership in that she was the one to pick out the bike she thought the boy would like.

Also during the sale one area resident, who works in the bike industry, dropped off two large packages of new cables. Since the event we have heard from some who want to join our team and others who are planning to attend our open house.

## Come and See



“Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds” (Psalm 66:5 ESV). Listed below are some of the less obvious, but equally important ways that HWI meets the needs of others.

- A professor from Wheaton College said that one of the highlights of his 2010-11 academic year was bringing his students to HWI headquarters for a class session.
- A young college age student who is facing a serious problem with drugs and the law did his community service hours through HWI. In the process he found camaraderie, counsel, and acceptance while discovering his mechanical gifting and aptitude. During our time of sharing and praying he joined in on our faith adventure as we shared our needs and then watched God provide in His amazing ways.
- Our team is made up of a caring group of friends who encourage each other through the tough, painful and lonely times in life while serving others as they fix bikes. One volunteer joined our team after losing his spouse of 55 years to cancer. Others have shared their medical, legal, and marital issues. As they share their struggles they are encouraged and recharged with new hope.

- A parent volunteer from Lincoln School helped with the distribution of bicycles to one of the school's refugee families through our Wheaton Evangelical Free Church bike partnership. But she took it one step further. She helped a bike recipient get into the church's preschool program for the upcoming school year.

## US Trike Prototype



Kevin, our amazing trike design engineer, is developing a hand-pedaled trike for a potential US market. This trike has an internal seven-speed shifter, is lightweight and has some other nifty features. With the fall school semester upon us, we plan to partner with some master's students within the Applied Health Sciences department at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC), UIC is my alma mater, and, as part of this project, they will help us do a market research feasibility study. Our trike coordinator, engineer and myself will speak to this class of 40 students on August 30, 2011.

If there were to be a US market for the trike, then we are thinking that it would provide an additional source of income to help cover at least a portion of the cost of our international hand-pedaled trikes.

*Thank you on behalf of the entire HWI team,*

*Alice Tesian  
Founder & Executive Director*

