



OPEN ROADS

COMMUNITY SUPPORTING YOUTH...



...FROM BIKE REPAIR TO SOCIAL SKILLS

KALAMAZOO, MI

OPEN ROADS BIKE PROGRAM

Open Roads is an 8-week summer or after-school program where youth meet weekly for 2 – 3 hours with a mechanical skills instructor, a social skills instructor, and a group facilitator.

Programs can be held at a location that meets your needs. Previous classes have been held at The Boys and Girls Club, The Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo YMCA, and various middle schools in Kalamazoo.

In addition to learning valuable social skills and mechanical skills, all kids earn:

A BICYCLE • A LEARNING JOURNAL
A LOCK • AN OPEN ROADS T-SHIRT
A BIKE HELMET

Our mission is to teach young people valuable social and mechanical skills in order to better prepare them for their future.



Each session includes both a social skill and a mechanical skill:

ROADS expectations –

BIKE TOOLS, PARTS AND SELECTION

Introducing yourself –

CLEANING THE BIKE

Listening –

FIXING A FLAT

Sharing something –

ADJUSTING BRAKES

Asking for help –

REPAIRING BRAKES

Expressing yourself –

UNDERSTANDING THE CHAIN

Apologizing –

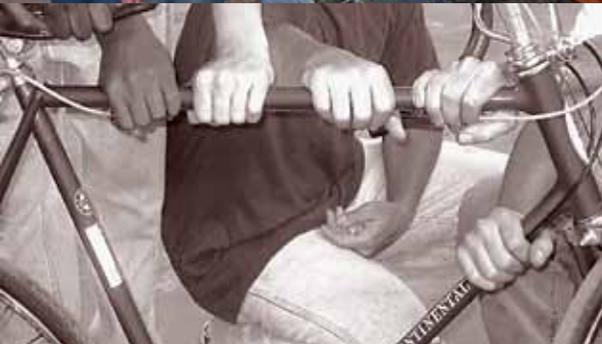
ADJUSTING THE DERAILLEUR

Skill review –

ROAD CHECK & RIDE

BIKE MECHANIC SKILLS

Participants are given a donated bike that needs repair. With guidance from facilitators, they employ new mechanical skills in order to repair the bike. Throughout this process, they are also gaining agency and ownership.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Open Roads' social component is modeled on an evidence-based program called Skillstreaming. Youth are taught one new social skill each week. Each skill is broken down into basic steps that all can learn and demonstrate.



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN CLEARY

Do you remember your first bike?

Maybe it was a 10-speed cast-off from your parents. Perhaps it was a purple banana-seat cruiser with all the bells and whistles ...

Do you remember the feeling?

The first time you could ride without wobbling side to side, the wind blowing through your hair, the freedom to go farther and faster ...

Do you remember who taught you to ride?

A parent chasing after you trying to steady the back end; an older brother doing loops around you, showing you just how easy it is; a neighbor down the street ...



Contact us:
Ethan Alexander, executive director
director@openroadsbike.org
(269) 599-5772



OPEN ROADS BUILDS COMMUNITY

FIXAPALOOZA

Join us for a weekly community event to learn more and get your hands dirty fixing bikes. This event is a great time to donate a bike, bring a bike you would like repaired, purchase a bike, work with neighborhood youth in a small group setting to fix a bike, or just come hang out and meet new people. Did we mention free pizza, too?

Check out openroadsbike.org to learn about weekly Open Roads activities in the Edison neighborhood and future events in the Eastside and Northside neighborhoods.

This report made possible by funds provided by the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation.

BANK STREET FARMERS' MARKET

We welcome the opportunity to talk to you more about our program, how to get involved, schedule bike repairs, and show you our inventory of bikes available for purchase. Who doesn't want a Schwinn Roadster to complement their fresh greens and flowers?

*Every Saturday morning
June to October, 9 am – 12 pm
Bank Street Farmers' Market*

COMMUNITY BIKE RACKS

Some of our donated bikes have seen their last days on the road, but that doesn't mean they are any less important to us. We recycle bike frames and wheels to create one-of-a-kind bike racks. They can be found at various sites downtown.

Open Roads' bike racks are located at the People's Food Co-op, on Lovell St., The Vine Neighborhood Association, and many other locations in downtown Kalamazoo.

OPEN ROADS

would like to thank everyone who made our work possible over the past four years!

FOUNDATIONS



HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Family & Children Services
The Peace House
El Sol Elementary
Maple Street Middle School
Milwood Middle School
SAMHSA/KCMHSAS
New Genesis
Kalamazoo Nature Center
Kalamazoo YMCA
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kalamazoo

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Zoo City Cycle
Pedal Bicycle
Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness
Bookbug
Brakeman Design
Water Street Coffee Joint
Ignertia/Life Story
Bronson Hospital
Peoples Food Co-op
Safe Kids Coalition
Volunteer Kalamazoo
Leadership Kalamazoo
The Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated
Bee-Line Service
Schupan & Sons Inc.
Vine Neighborhood Association
JC Offroads

While every attempt has been made to be as accurate as possible in the reporting of names, please accept our apology if we have made an error. If you would like a change in the way your name is reflected in future reports, please contact us at info@openroadsbike.org.

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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|--|------------------------------|
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THE OPEN ROADS FAMILY THANKS YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!

OUR FIDUCIARY ORGANIZATION

The IDEA Association:

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2012 OPEN ROADS STAFF

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2012 OPEN ROADS BOARD

Emily Betros, *President*
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Eric Sweet, *Board Member*
Maurice Washington, *Board Member*
Tim Wojtyniak, *Board Member*
Maggie Wise, *Board Member*
Elizabeth Dodson, *Board Member*
Brian Petersen, *Board Member*



HUNDREDS
OF VOLUNTEERS
MADE
OPEN ROADS
POSSIBLE
IN 2012!



VOLUNTEER

You don't have to be a kid in our program to get involved! Open Roads is involved in the Kalamazoo community in many ways.

The truth is, with only a big pile of bikes, none of this would be possible. We need people. You don't have to be a bike mechanic to get involved. Lots of different people push the pedals of Open Roads toward success. Here are some ways you can help:

Social Skills Volunteer

Teach someone how to listen, shake a hand, or communicate an idea. Be a role model or short-term teacher.

Mechanical Marvel

Whether you can build a bike or fix a clock, mechanical skills translate well between machines. Come show a young person how to use tools and understand parts.

If you are interested in having the Open Roads Bike Program at your school or organization, please contact Ethan Alexander, executive director.

Please visit our website for more information about programs and services provided.

DONATE & CONTRIBUTE

If your bike has been forgotten, orphaned, outgrown, or is just past its prime, we would love to give it a good home. We can accept bikes at the Kalamazoo Bank Street Farmers' Market, Fixapalooza, or by arrangement.

Your donation allows kids to:

- Earn a bike, lock, helmet, t-shirt, and learning journal
- Learn new skills
- Meet other youth in the community and have positive social interactions with adults
- Be a part of their community in a positive way

It's more than dollars. It's investing in a child.

To donate to Open Roads

please contact

info@openroadsbike.org or visit:

<http://openroadsbike.org/GetInvolved>

2012 FUN FACTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

People Served

| Categories | Individuals | Value |
|--------------|-------------|---------|
| Earn a Bike | 12 | \$1,980 |
| Fix a Bike | 107 | \$3,745 |
| Bike Sales | 35 | \$3,015 |
| Bike Repairs | 6 | \$265 |
| Totals | 160 | \$9,005 |



Event Highlights — 2012

| Name | Location | Date |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Day of Service | El Sol Elementary | April 6 |
| Art Hop | Ignertia | July 6 |
| Youth Workshop | Bookbug | July 17 |
| Kzoo Bike Expo | Expo Center | July 21 |
| Art Hop 2 | Ignertia | September 7 |
| Bronco Bash | WMU | September 7 |
| Family Day of Service | Radisson Hotel | September 11 |
| Lunch and Learn | Bronson Hospital | September 27 |

Youth Programs

- Family & Children Services
- Maple Street Magnet School
- Milwood Middle School
- Peace House



WWW.OPENROADSBIKE.ORG

- Open Roads gets first intern from Kalamazoo College! Thank you, Alexis Wright!
- 160 youth and local residents got back on bikes.
- Our first Junior Mechanic received an apprenticeship at Zoo City Bikes.



Open Roads focuses on five simple ideas:

- R** - RESPECT (Show kindness to other people in the program.)
- O** - OWN YOUR ACTIONS (If you do something great, tell someone.)
- A** - ATTITUDE COUNTS (Stay positive while working on your bike or with a partner.)
- D** - DISCIPLINE (Finish what you started.)
- S** - SAFETY (Always wear a helmet.)

WWW.OPENROADSBIKE.ORG

One of the tools that Open Roads uses is Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. This is a model of teaching youth appropriate behavior. This is how Open Roads works with kids.



Instead of telling youth what NOT to do, they are told what is expected; they are taught how it looks and sounds, and are acknowledged for demonstrating these skills. And it works.