



Share your love of cycling with someone smaller than you!



## The Trip Wire

The Official Newsletter of Trips for Kids Charlotte

Winter 2011

### TFKC LAUNCHES BIG PLANS FOR 2011

After our most amazing year yet, we've spent the last couple of months preparing for an even bigger year in 2011. Our winter Trip Wire puts you in the know on our upcoming Ride, Earn-A-Bike and Re-Cyclery plans, our two Camp Carolina scholarship winners, two amazing year-end donations, our Urban Ministries outreach program and our tribute to an awesome Trips for Kids Charlotte (TFKC) board member. As always, none of this would be possible without you!

#### MARCH 1, RE-CYCLERY EXPANDS HOURS TO FRIDAY AFTERNOON

New Hours: Monday-Thursday 5 p.m.-8 p.m. / Friday Noon-4 p.m. / Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### TFKC NAMES CAMP CAROLINA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Following a comprehensive selection process, Dominic (DJ) Ham, a seventh grader and TFKC participant through "A Better World" and his Boy Scout troop, and William (Will) Jones, a fifth grader and TFKC participant with Druid Hills Elementary, will be attending Camp Carolina, a high-adventure boys summer camp in Brevard, N.C. for three weeks this summer on full scholarships! Check out this great opportunity at [www.campcarolina.com](http://www.campcarolina.com).

Will and DJ exemplify our TFKC Values of respect, honesty, teamwork, overcoming obstacles, living a healthy and safe lifestyle and community service. Our Jack Johnson concert experience connected us to the owners of Camp Carolina, who donated these two incredible scholarships and the opportunity of a lifetime for DJ and Will. We look forward to reading about and seeing pictures of their amazing and challenging high-adventure experiences in the summer Trip Wire. Congratulations to them both!

Please e-mail us at [info@tripsforkidscharlotte.org](mailto:info@tripsforkidscharlotte.org), if you are interested in helping with some of the items they will need for camp.

### 2011 RIDE PROGRAM PEDALS OFF FEBRUARY 5

Our bikes have been overhauled by our crack Re-Cyclery team, and we are ready to hit the trails! We hope you've reviewed our [Ride Calendar](#)

and know we're planning over 50 Saturday morning rides with more kids on each ride, having added regular rides with Charlotte Community School for Girls, McClintock Middle School and Albemarle Road and Druid Hills elementary schools.

April 1-3, we head south for our annual weekend of "real" mountain biking north of Dahlonega, Ga. You made last year our biggest and best ever. We'll need you, and your friends, as we

#### Links

[Sponsors](#)

[Recyclery Hours](#)

[Recyclery Map](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

[Wish List](#)

[Buy a Used Bike](#)

[Contact Info](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

expect 2011 to be even bigger and better.

## TFKC VICE PRESIDENT/SECRETARY DEPARTING FOR SAN DIEGO



TFKC has a "working" board and Vice President/Secretary Steve Johnson has exemplified that over the past several years. Steve is a man of many talents, our go-to guy and an all around good person. He's been instrumental in the success of every aspect of our program. He will be sorely missed as he heads west to the sands of San Diego. Our loss will be TFK Temecula's gain. We wish him endless miles of sunny, safe riding.

Steve shares these parting thoughts: "Who would have thought that visiting the Charlotte Earth Day celebration seven years ago would have such a dramatic effect on my life? One of the booths there was Trips For Kids Charlotte being manned by Keith Sorenson. Being an avid cyclist, my interest immediately took off. I had to go check out the TFKC Re-Cyclery for myself.

"During my first visit, I was like a kid in a candy store. All the toys to play with; bikes needing repair; a huge parts assortment to work with and every kind of bike tool you could imagine. I was hooked.

"After a few visits, seeing those kids' eyes light up in the Earn-A-Bike Program when they accomplished a bike repair on their own was equal to the fun of tweaking the bikes. It's a great feeling of satisfaction to see the thrill they got from their accomplishments. Seeing the kids' quick improvement with their bike handling skills in the bicycle rodeos - and the joy that brought them - was quite a kick, too.

"It's been gratifying to see the growth of the Re-Cyclery as well. Going from the chaos of inventory in cardboard boxes in the dimly lit, upper part of the present space to where we are now is phenomenal. We've doubled the floor space, added great staff and volunteers, completed the mural project, and we're growing in leaps and bounds.

"Thank you to all of the staff, volunteers and sponsors. It's been a great ride and getting better

all the time."

## FOLLOW STEVE'S PATH.....TO THE RE-CYCLERY!

You must love bicycles and bicycling if you are reading this newsletter in the middle of winter. We've seen many of you out riding in this cold, crazy weather. Stop by our newly expanded and improved TFKC Re-Cyclery on your next ride. We recently doubled the size of our workshop and retail area. We have over 150 refurbished bicycles for sale, with prices starting as low as \$60 for adult-sized bikes and \$20 for small kids' bikes.

Last year was a record year for the Re-Cyclery as we more than doubled our output of refurbished bikes. We also added Mike, Ben and Aidar to our staff, upgraded our lighting and electrical system, added air conditioning to the shop area, brought on a new wholesale parts distributor and provided over 100 bikes to our Earn-A-Bike Program. We expect even greater growth in 2011.

Thank you all for your generous donations of used bikes, your time and help, and yes - even your money! Without you, our success would not be possible. Please make us your first choice when purchasing a bicycle and/or part.

Ride often, and DON'T FORGET, WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF DUSTY, NOT RUSTY, DONATED BIKES! Contact Re-Cyclery Manager Glenn Christensen at 704-910-3970.

## NEW AND IMPROVED EARN-A-BIKE CLASSROOM READY FOR 2011



We've relocated the education classroom to a larger, quieter space on the ground floor of the Re-Cyclery. It has new lighting and looks great. According to Education Program Director Weldon Weaver, "We have the space, bikes, headlights, taillights, helmets, new hands-on materials and even a fresh new roll of name-tag tape. We're ready for a great 2011."

The only thing we really need is a white board and easel. Let us know at the e-mail address below if you or someone you know would like to make a donation.

The 2011 Earn-A-Bike schedule is just getting started with kids from McClintock Middle School and Project Challenge. We have seats to fill starting in mid-March. Contact [MrWeldon@TripsForKidsCharlotte.org](mailto:MrWeldon@TripsForKidsCharlotte.org) to enroll kids or inquire about volunteer opportunities.

## TFKC RECEIVES TWO AWESOME END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS - THANKS!!!

Many thanks to the *Carolina Cycling Time Trial Association*, which generously donated \$2,000 to TFKC and offered us an opportunity to work at the Charlotte Motor Speedway during time trials to further benefit TFKC.

Our kids will also have the opportunity to ride the track prior to the trials. Cool! The time trials are: 4/20, 5/11, 6/8, 7/23, 8/17 and 9/7. Go to [info@tripsforkidscharlotte.org](mailto:info@tripsforkidscharlotte.org) for details.

Many of you know that the *Tarheel Cyclists* have recently disbanded. While we hated to hear this news, there is a wonderful silver lining for TFKC. They have donated \$5,000 from their treasury to Trips for Kids Charlotte!! We are truly grateful and are planning a worthwhile use for this donation.

## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON FITNESS RECOGNIZES TRIPS FOR KIDS AND FOUNDER MARILYN PRICE

Read more about the Community Leadership Award the council presented to TFK's Founder Marilyn Price:

<http://www.bikeradar.com/news/article/presidents-council-recognize-trips-for-kids--28904>

## TFKC PROVIDES SAFETY CLINIC AT URBAN MINISTRIES



In November, TFKC's Education Department held a bike safety clinic at Urban Ministries. The clinic included a headlight, taillight and helmet giveaway and corresponded with the end of daylight savings time, which can be a dangerous time for pedestrians and cyclists.

Our volunteers shared safety info, fixed bikes and gave away safety vests provided by Charlotte Department of Transportation and blinky lights donated by Charlotte Center City Partners. With our resources and knowledge, we feel it's important to periodically reach out to struggling adults in our community and build relationships.

In describing her experience with the clinic, TFKC lead volunteer Lynn King says, "Our neighbors were very friendly, appreciative and receptive to learning, and I know I walked away feeling like they helped me more than I helped them."

**RECYCLERY HOURS MONDAY - THURSDAY. 6 PM-8 PM, SATURDAY 10-4**

Starting March 1: New Hours: Monday-Thursday 5 p.m.-8 p.m. / Friday Noon-4 p.m. / Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m

---

**Become our FAN on FACEBOOK!** Visit our page and become a fan! With updates, photos and event listings, you'll be sure to be a part of all that we're doing plus hear such wonderful feedback from the kids, like "Phew that was fun. I smell like dirt!"



**Trips for Kids Charlotte**

Mailing Address:

4508 Esherwood Lane  
Charlotte, NC 28270

[info@tripsforkidscharlotte.org](mailto:info@tripsforkidscharlotte.org)

[www.tripsforkidscharlotte.org](http://www.tripsforkidscharlotte.org)

(704) 944-3581