This past year was a great one for Bike Walk Indian River County. Before we charge into 2019, we want to pause and review our year, thank our many generous supporters, pat our volunteers on the back, and take some pride in our accomplishments.

**The Bike Rehab Project:** There are many people in our community who depend on bikes for transportation. One of our goals is to make sure that everyone who needs a bike has one. At the same time, we want to be good stewards of our donors’ contributions and our volunteers’ time. Bearing that in mind, this year we transitioned our Bike Rehab program to bring it into a closer partnership with United against Poverty (“UP”). People who need bikes are referred to the UP intake process where they can demonstrate that they meet basic need criteria. We hold scheduled bike safety classes monthly at UP where bikes are distributed and helmets fitted.

The adjacent photo shows why we do what we do. This young man received his bike when his Mom did her bike safety training at one of our monthly onsite bike clinics at UP. They were both fitted with helmets. Of course, his mom also received a bike so she could have the transportation she needs.

In addition to our regular clinics at UP, BWIRC has provided bikes, training and/or helmet fitting for the Crossover Mission, Oceans United, the NAACP, and Camp
Haven. Additionally, we deliver bikes to kids and adults in the Gifford area in cooperation with the IRC Sheriff’s Department and the Health Department. In 2018, we distributed 289 bikes through the Bike Rehab program!

A special thanks goes out to our Bike Rehab Project team leaders — Malcolm Allen, owner of Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks, Greg Speck who coordinates bike distribution and helmet fitting and Jake Piper who spends countless hours making sure that our rehab bikes are ready to ride. We also could not do this without the many volunteers on our Bike Rehab Mechanics Team. As of 2019, we have 58 volunteer mechanics on our call list.

**Safe Cycling Promotion:** We want people who ride bikes to be safe. One of our most significant safety outreach programs is a cooperative effort with Indian River County to provide bike safety instruction to all elementary schools students in Indian River County Schools under the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Every child is fitted with a helmet and given basic safety instruction and practice through this program. During the 2017-18 school year, 5,530 students received training under this program.

**Bike Work Stations:** Two young men who received bikes through a Crossover Mission program brought to our attention the lack of neighborhood facilities to put air in their bike tires. This inspired our Pump Us Up campaign. This year we raised enough funds to install five community bike repair stations. The first two have been installed at the Gifford Youth Achievement Center and near the bus stop at the Gifford Health Center. Three additional stations are on order and will be installed in Pocahontas Park, at the Go Line main transit hub and in Riverview Park in Sebastian.

**Road Improvements:** Many of our county roads are dangerous places to walk or ride a bike due to lack of safe bike/pedestrian infrastructure. BWIRC has been working actively with the the Florida Department of Transportation, the local Metropolitan Planning Organization, elected officials and county staff to implement changes that will make us all safer. This year new bike lanes were added to 58th Ave, County Road 512, and 17th Street at the foot of the Alma Lee Loy Bridge.
Perhaps our biggest advocacy success was persuading FDOT to expand its A1A resurfacing project to include seven foot buffered bike lanes. FDOT had originally proposed to eliminate the existing narrow bike lanes and replace them with a 4 foot paved shoulder.

Off Road Trails: Indian River County welcomed its first paved off road trail this year, the Trans Florida Central Railroad Corridor Greenway. A portion of the paved trail, including the bridge span over I 95 is now open. Eventually, the paved trail will connect Fellsmere with the Sebastian Riverfront.

Finances: We accepted $5,870 in donations this year for our general operations and ongoing projects. Additionally, our Pump Us Up campaign generated $7,025 in donations and grants, all of which will be used for the installation and maintenance of bike repair stations. As an all volunteer organization, we operate on a tight budget and are proud of what we are able to accomplish with the donations entrusted to us.

We received substantial financial support for our programs from Grand Harbor, People for Bikes, the Dyer Auto Group, the Live Like Cole Foundation, and Sunrise Rotary. Additionally, Malcolm Allen and Orchid Island Bikes and Kayaks provides a tremendous amount of in kind support, without which it would be really hard to carry out our mission. We also benefit from hundreds of volunteer hours, bicycles and bike parts have been contributed to the cause.

Your generous support has helped us carry out our mission this year, and leaves us well positioned for the next. In addition to our ongoing projects, we hope to expand the Bike Rehab program to provide lights and locks to help keep our riders safe. We continue to looks for ideas to make our community safer and more supportive of those walking or riding bikes. If you have ideas, please share them with us. We believe that we are having a significant impact on bike and pedestrian safety in our community and thank you for your continued support in this effort.
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