Who We Are

About Us
Serving Madison and Dane County, Wheels for Winners is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization operating an earn-a-bike program. We provide refurbished bicycles primarily to high school and younger children who perform community service. Since 1992, our all-volunteer organization has established an outstanding record of community service through a successful formula of volunteerism, recycling unused bicycles, and encouraging responsible actions among young people.

Our Financial Supporters
We receive support from individuals, Alliant Energy Foundation, The Capital Times Kids Fund, Community Shares of Wisconsin, Dane County Bicycle Association, Dream Bikes, New Belgium Brewing, Planet Bike, Rotary Club of Madison and others.

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What is Wheels for Winners?

We are a non-profit organization whose volunteers refurbish donated bicycles in our shop. In cooperation with host organizations, we present bike to youth and adults who earn them by doing at least 15 hours of community service. We have been providing a way for young people to earn bikes through community service since 1992.

We give away 150-200 bicycles annually. Our volunteers log more than 2400 hours per year to rebuild bikes and our bike-earners provide more than 2500 hours of service in their communities.

Where are you located?

Our shop is located on the back side of 229 S. Fair Oaks Avenue on the near-east side of Madison.

What are your hours?

As an all-volunteer organization, we try to staff the shop on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:30-4:00pm and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00pm. However it is always a good idea to call first to make sure a volunteer is present to help you.

How can I earn a bike?

Any person can earn a bicycle by completing at least 15-hours of community service.

“There’s real satisfaction in seeing their eyes light up when they’ve earned their bike” - Fred Appleton (long-time volunteer)

What do I get?

A bicycle, helmet, lock and bicycle registration sticker, if you live in Madison, Wisconsin. You also learn the value of community service, self-reliance, responsible bike ownership, the joys of sustainable transportation, physical fitness, and fun!

How do I sign up?

Complete an application and liability waiver form, complete your community service, and bring the completed forms to the Wheels for Winners shop. You can pick up the application and waiver form at our shop or download it from our website.

Our Community Partners

We have partnered with many organizations through the years to create bike earning opportunities for those performing community service:

Madison community centers such as Atwood, Bayview, East Madison, Goodman, Vera Court and Wexford Ridge

Neighborhood organizations such as Centro Hispano, Operation Fresh Start, Project Bootstrap and YWCA/YMCA

School programs such as Madison-based efforts affiliated with Lincoln, Falk, Franklin/Randall Elementary Schools; Jefferson and Spring Harbor Middle Schools; Lafollette High School.