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COMMUNITY BICYCLE CENTER

Providing Opportunities for Youth to Grow Since 2001



March 14, 2019

Cheryl Fournier
Finance Director/Treasurer
City of Biddeford

VIA EMAIL: cheryl.fournier@biddefordmaine.org

Dear Cheryl,

On Granite Street, there's a place where Biddeford kids go after school every day to play, learn and grow. In this place, they feel safe and supported. They feel like they belong. Drawing from that connection, the sky's the limit on what they can discover about themselves, about their community and about their world.

The CBC, part of the Biddeford community since 2001, believes that every child has his or her own struggles, strengths and sparks that need nourishment through human connection. CBC programs provide kids with a framework for personal growth that develops the self-confidence and tools they need to explore and experience all that life offers them – *inside and outside*. The CBC's staff, volunteers, and peer-to-peer mentors use bicycling-related and other activities to engage youth and ensure they thrive as they learn what's "out there" and what they'll need to be a part of it. The CBC's mission extends beyond keeping youth off the streets. We work to teach them how to contribute on them, through appropriate engagement and contribution.

CBC youth are working toward four specific development targets: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) competencies, Healthy Living (physical fitness, outdoor recreation and mind/body health), Social Responsibility (civic engagement and service learning – including juvenile justice hours for young adults involved in the justice system and referred by the court), and Job Readiness (developing soft and technical job skills). All programs include mentorship and intentional relationship-building, the cornerstone of the CBC. Programs include daily drop-in time ("Earn-a-Bike" and supervised, unstructured play), STEM Bike Mechanics, Trek Across Maine, Kids Bike Factory, Trek2Connect (T2C -- an expeditionary aspirations program funded by the Lerner Foundation), Bike Doctor, Outdoor Adventures, and CBC summer camp(s).

CBC programs are particularly effective in engaging at-risk youth; so much so, we are in our third year of partnership with the Biddeford Schools. Through this partnership, the CBC helps move at-risk youth in the Alternative Pathways Center toward graduation, helps engage high-risk middle school youth (Proactive Education Program), and helps youth with disabilities to develop fine motor skills in a socially engaging environment.

All CBC programs cost nothing for participants; our funding comes from the generosity of individuals and others, like the City of Biddeford, that are invested in the future of Biddeford youth. This year, we are requesting \$5,000 from the City of Biddeford for program support. Specifically, City funds will cover (see next page):

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 783
Biddeford, ME 04005

Program Location
45 Granite Street
Biddeford, ME 04005

Website & Phone
www.communitybike.net
(207) 282-9700

- \$2,000 for healthy snacks (each participant receives a snack each afternoon – this amount covers 50% of the total cost for snacks for 600 youth)
- \$2,400 for program staff (this is 2% of the total cost for 3.0 full-time FTEs dedicated exclusively to direct service, youth programming)
- \$600 for gas to permit transport of youth to/from outreach activities (e.g. WinterFest, bike rodeos, etc.), field trips (e.g. to local businesses for exposure to different industries and job readiness trips, events like a SeaDogs game scheduled for August), and transport home when needed

In 2018, the CBC served nearly 520 youth, primarily between the ages of 8 and 18. The vast majority of those youth live in Biddeford. In 2019, we anticipate closer to 600 youth as our numbers have increased by 20% already this year. Should you approve this request, we would be honored to share with our youth and families agreed-upon messaging so they know their City leadership supports them in their engagement with the CBC. (I've intentionally chosen the snacks as one of the partially City-sponsored aspects of our programming – there is no faster way to gain our kids' attention than through food! ☺)

Please take a few minutes to review the two short video clips linked below of our middle school “Kids Bike Factory” STEM and job readiness program. These kids are learning workplace behavior (e.g. be on time, take responsibility for your actions, apply a good work ethic throughout your “shift,” appropriately resolve conflicts, problem-solving, how to strike a balance between enjoying your work and completing a task). As they move through the program, their responsibilities and expectations increase. By the time they move into the high school program, youth are earning a small stipend while learning very real skills like resume-writing, interviewing and how to translate the skills they have learned at KBF into various jobs. Your support will help keep programs like KBF vibrant and growing for even more Biddeford kids. [Download Attachment](#) [Download Attachment](#)

Thank you for your assistance on this request, Cheryl. Like the Biddeford community, CBC kids are just scratching the surface of their potential. Now, they need people to believe in them as they are learning to believe in themselves. The combination will be unstoppable.

Very truly yours,

Melissa Cilley

Interim Executive/Strategic Consultant



A sample of afterschool activities: working on a bike to keep, working with a mentor and free play.