

BICYCLES EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

BICYCLES FOR HUMANITY MELBOURNE (B4H)

CCF Victoria plays a significant role in the community, leveraging our position as the peak industry body for Civil Construction to support a range of charities and community benefitting initiatives. This time we would like to introduce "Bicycles for Humanity Melbourne (B4H)".

Bicycles for Humanity (B4H) is a grassroots movement powered by the people. No overheads. No profits. Just a simple coming together of likeminded volunteers sharing the belief that a bicycle can make a difference. Since the first shipping container travelled from Canada to Namibia in 2005, word has continued to spread seeing another 50+ chapters founded globally, including B4H Melbourne – being the first Australian chapter founded in 2008.

In 2018, they celebrated 10 years, shipping 21 containers loaded to Africa, with a total of 10,000 bicycles given a new life. In March 2020, they shipped their 25th container, bringing a total of bicycles shipped to 12,000.

Globally, B4H volunteers have collected money, bicycles and tools to ship to developing countries, primarily sub-Saharan Africa. The bicycles which would otherwise go to landfill, provide locals with access to education, basic resources and healthcare, while tools and shipping containers have become pivotal enterprises where locals are empowered as trained mechanics through initiatives with their partners at the Bicycle Empowerment Network Namibia (BENN). Many of the bicycles have been donated to health care workers, enabling them to access and support the large regional population with greater ease.

Together the movement has helped economic growth through job creation, provided a sense of community and



camaraderie, and empowered individuals with access to much needed transport. The team have powered the cause by raising funds through virtual cycling fundraisers, the sale of t-shirts/gift cards, as well as being supported by individual fundraisers.

The sustainable movement continues to expand their support network. With the workshops being impacted by COVID19, B4H Melbourne is working with BENN to create 70 new jobs providing delivery services and helping reduce transmission risk through improving awareness and hygiene in low income communities. They are also supporting a program to track the impact of donated bicycles and gain data related to Sustainable Development Goals.

How do they do it?

The team at B4H collects bicycle donations from individuals and organisations, which are in usable or fixable condition. Financial donations are used to purchase and send shipping containers, which are loaded with bicycles, to communities through initiatives run by BENN, with up to 500 bicycles (being their current record) loaded into a single container at a time.

What started over 10 years ago as a movement shipping simple transport (the



bicycle) to developing countries, B4H has seen massive progress in meeting basic human needs.

Through sustainable resourcing and volunteer efforts, Bicycles for Humanity Melbourne are empowering communities to thrive and survive.

Overtime, bicycle donations have gone beyond necessity in developing communities, lifting community spirit through social groups, clubs and farming programs. In the western world the bicycle is a lifestyle choice, in developing countries it offers new opportunities, hope, health and a future.

Join the Movement

If you are inspired by the global B4H story and are interested in finding out how you can support the cause, please visit www.bicyclesforhumanity.com to discover more. B4H are always looking for new volunteers to join their family and help out both on a regular basis and at monthly Packing Days.

Donate Today

If you have an old bicycle that needs a new home, rather than letting it grow rust in the garage or find its way to a landfill, drop it off at any of the Bicycle Superstores in Melbourne and the B4H crew will collect it and ensure it enjoys a new life. (NB Collections are on hold at this time, please see website for more details)

As a 100% volunteer grassroots movement, Bicycles for Humanity Melbourne is a non-profit with no overheads. Meaning all donations go to making a real difference to communities in need. Donating to Bicycle for Humanity is tax deductible. Donate today: bicyclesforhumanity.com/donate/donate-your-money/

Partner

- Bicycle Empowerment Network Namibia bennamibia.org/
- Empowering communities with basic transport in the form of a bicycle and developing sustainable economic opportunities through training locals in

