



B4H set to grow

In the last few months, B4H chapters in Huron, Ontario and Kelowna have shipped containers bound for Namibia, where they will be established as Bicycle Empowerment Centres (BECs). B4H Thunder Bay is close to shipping its fourth container, while B4H Calgary shipped the first container to Uganda, which will open up a new country for partnerships. B4H Ottawa has coordinated two shipments (one from Montreal) that will both leave for Namibia in the next month. B4H Kelowna is currently planning its first shipment to Ghana. In the US, chapters in Santa Rosa, Chicago and Colorado all have upcoming shipments destined to help strengthen local economies in rural Namibia and provide mobility to disadvantaged people. The first container is about to leave Australia from the Melbourne chapter.



By the end of 2009, approximately 15,000 bicycles will have been shipped by Bicycles for Humanity, a fantastic achievement for a volunteer movement that has been running for just a few years.

Dream Tours

Ever wanted to do a bicycle tour in an exotic location but weren't sure how to go about it? Tour D'Afrique, an adventure bicycle tour company that runs the annual Tour D'Afrique bike ride from Cairo to Cape Town, will help B4H supporters design their own dream tours to Africa, which they can also use as a sponsorship vehicle to raise money for B4H. The tours can incorporate visits to B4H projects in Africa, providing a unique opportunity to meet local communities. Visit the Dream Tour site at www.tourdafrique.com/dreamtours

First BEC Network conference

Namibia now has 13 BECs established across the country, and more to open this year. With this growing network comes many challenges, like making sure each BEC has access to an ongoing supply of bikes and affordable spare parts. A conference will be held in Namibia in July to bring existing and up-coming projects together to discuss these issues and more. The Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry will participate, introducing a group purchasing scheme whereby the Ministry will capitalise bulk purchases to save each BEC costs on spare parts.

Maximum value

Many B4H Chapters are able to add value to their BEC shipments by including donated bicycle spare parts and accessories. Thunder Bay sent the entire stock of a local bike shop that closed down, Ottawa has close ties to local bike shops that supply unwanted but usable spare parts, Melbourne is shipping hundreds of new bags donated by Knog, and St Barts and Santa Rosa both bought new bike tools with surplus funds. The Whistler chapter is currently working with all the local area bike shops to collect tyres and tubes that are still in good condition to add to its shipment, keeping a large volume of waste out of landfill, and helping to keep hundreds of bikes on the road in Africa.

B4H Chapters

Canada

- Calgary, AB
- Sangudo, AB
- Kelowna, BC
- Vancouver, BC
- Vernon, BC
- Victoria, BC
- Whistler, BC
- Cambridge, ON
- Huron County, ON
- Oakville, ON
- Ottawa, ON
- St. Bart's, Brampton, ON
- Thunder Bay, ON
- Montreal, QC
- Saskatoon, SK

US

- Colorado
- Santa Rosa
- Chicago
- Clarkson

Australia

- Melbourne

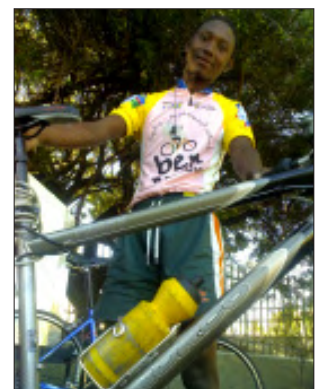
Thanks to LUSH



LUSH recently announced that it will support the establishment of a second BEC project in Namibia. LUSH have already supported a BEC shipped from B4H Ottawa and run by the King's Daughters, a group of former commercial sex workers who face enormous discrimination in finding alternate employment. The project was also supported by AusAID, and launched by the Governor General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, on a recent visit to Namibia.

Norco supports B4H

B4H Vancouver has shipped thousands of donated spare parts and frames from Norco for its two shipments to Namibia. Most of the parts are used to refurbish and maintain bikes through the network of BECs throughout the country. Martin Nghirifali built up this Norco and uses it to get to school, and as part of Team BEN Namibia, competing in local races and encouraging other young Namibians to engage in sport and go for HIV testing.



Bicycle Factory

Canadians can help Cadbury to ship 5,000 bicycles to school children in Ghana. Visit www.thebicyclefactory.ca, enter a UPC code from a Cadbury product and see it converted into a bicycle part that helps build bikes for Ghana.

