



Volunteer Spotlight: OC Girl Scout Troop

Seal Beach Junior Girl Scouts Troop 671 has made a tremendous impact on the success of Bikes Build Futures! The group of twelve 5th graders, who have been “scouting” together since kindergarten, have donated over 35 bikes to the organization.

They are well on their way to reaching their donation goal of 75 bikes as they solicit from neighbors, other Girl Scout leaders and troop families. As a resourceful group, the girls have passed out neighborhood flyers, sent emails to family, friends and other troops in Seal Beach and even created and submitted an article to a local news publication all in hopes of creating awareness for Bikes Build Futures.

The troop has made three different trips to deliver the bikes, and most of the girls have met Kathy Tillotson, Build Futures executive director, and seen the bike warehouse in action.

So how did Troop 671 connect with Bikes Build Futures?

At the beginning of the school year, the troop chose to become "Agents of Change" by providing volunteer service to their local community. In asking parents to be the eyes and ears for organizations they could help, they were introduced to Bikes Build Futures. They were moved just from the initial meeting and immediately began planning how they could help.

In addition to bike donations, the Troop has also donated food packs. Each girl brought specific items for the food packs and in assembly line style, packed over 50 bags, including hand-written notes of

Client Spotlight: Making a Way out of No Way

Hidden among the trees along Santiago Creek, 16-year-old “Serge” built a cabin with features of many an Orange County home — except for love and affection.

The plywood shelter was constructed on a concrete slab he poured, filtered water for drinking was pumped in, discrete cooking and heat came from a low-smoke wood kiln and a heavily locked door offered safety.

There alone, the boy had escaped from a dysfunctional family, where dad was a narcotics dealer and mom a denizen of the street.

“I was always told I was a loser who would never accomplish anything,” said Serge, his nom de guerre. “I’m my own person now. I want to be a success, the best at what I do, better than anyone who called me a loser.”

Serge, who turned 18 in July, is among 28,000 homeless young adults scraping by across Orange County. Some survive alone, moving between hidden lairs.

Others live with families in parks, makeshift shelters, under bridges or in vehicles. Many more double or triple up with friends who have a real roof overhead. There also are others on the lam from juvenile dependency programs.

Once the youths reach 18, they are legally adults who face enormous challenges like getting an education, securing a job and finding access to health care. And they have to do all of this without the guidance that a typical 18-year-old receives.

For those who have fled a tormented home, it can be a scary, if not overwhelming, scenario, often complicated by the lure of drugs and crime.

encouragement.

"The girls of Troop 671 are very proud and honored to be of service to Build Futures. The time they spend asking the community for donated bikes helps to raise the awareness for Bikes Build Futures and the homeless youth in the area. The girls, at a young age, are learning how empowering it is to help others, and how they can make an impact in their community," said troop leader Nancy Blasi, " Bikes Build Futures provides a great avenue for service as the girls understood how they can help homeless youth by delivering bikes to the shop. They are also working towards earning their Girl Scout Bronze Award, which is earned as a team for accumulating a certain number of service hours. Working with Build Futures is a major benefactor of their focus and time and we are so grateful the connection was made."

Thank you Girl Scout Troop 671 for all of your amazing support!

Serge, just one of the over 120 young adults Build Futures has served, now works as head mechanic for the Bikes Build Futures program, where he is learning life skills and providing reliable transportation to many.

The above is an excerpt from a March 5, 2012 posting from Voice of OC. To read the entire article visit, www.voiceofoc.org.

May is National Bike Month

Anyone can bike! Ride to work, to school, to shop, or to play.

Huge Bike Sale!
Friday, May 25th 4 to 7pm
Saturday, May 26th, 9:30a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Join us at Bikes Build Futures to purchase a bike or donate a bike and help support local homeless youth. The address is 2454A North Glassell Orange, CA 92865.

Get the best prices on all models of bikes including a large selection of kids' bikes, racing bikes, beach cruisers and mountain bikes. We also have kids' helmets.

All bikes have been safety checked and reconditioned and all proceeds go to creating jobs for homeless youth in our community. Bikes Build Futures helps youth take the first step to self-sufficiency by fostering confidence in their ability to find and succeed in employment and they receive a bike for transportation.

The more you bike, the better you'll feel. There's no better time to start than now! Buy a Bike, Create a Job, End Youth Homelessness!

Build Futures receives 2nd Grant from WD Foundation

A special thank you to the WD Foundation whose contributions and support provide rapid re-housing, allowing Build Futures to cover the cost of short-term housing and community support to our youth.

The WD Foundation, funded by Western Digital Corporation, provides funding to nonprofit organizations on a regional basis. The list includes charitable giving throughout California in Orange, Santa Clara and Alameda Counties and in Colorado in Boulder County. These grants are allocated by volunteer employee committees at each site on a twice-yearly basis and are selected from nonprofit applications.

Bikes Build Futures employs

Build Futures' homeless youth clients

Donate or Buy a Bike

Second Saturday of Each Month

9am to 12pm

2454A North Glassell, Orange 92865

Cross streets: Fletcher and Glassell

To enhance and support our services,
DONATE TODAY

Online giving is available at www.buildfutures.org

Make checks payable to:
Build Futures
19036 Stonehurst Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

How can you help?

Check out our [wish list](#) for donation ideas!

Build Futures offers hope to youth in crisis.

Build Futures is a 501 (c) 3 Tax Exempt Charitable Nonprofit whose mission is to help homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth ages 18 to 24 achieve their maximum potential and lead fulfilling lives within our community. For more information, visit www.buildfutures.org

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