

CENTRAL JERSEY: Boys & Girls Club touts bike exchange success

By Lauren Otis, Staff Writer

Posted: Friday, April 30, 2010 9:18 AM EDT

Russ White thought the nonprofit bike exchange he helped found in support of the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton had a stellar first year, raising more than \$40,000 for the Boys & Girls Club in 2009.

Then came its first month in 2010.

Since opening for its second season March 20, the Boys & Girls Club Bike Exchange has sold 350 bikes and raised \$10,000 for the after-school programs of the Boys & Girls Club.

The pace of bike sales is such it has put a strain on the exchange's inventory, said Mr. White, a Princeton resident who is a partner in the Yardley-based bike shop Firehouse Cycles. The success has bred a need for new bike donations and more volunteers, he said.

"We have lots of jobs for volunteers if they are interested," said Mr. White.

The group offers bike repair and other training for new volunteers, he said.

It takes donated bikes in any condition, refurbishes them and sells them at bargain prices, typically for \$65 or less. Used bikes can be donated at any bike shop in Mercer County, to Fast Signs at Route 1 South in Lawrenceville or to the Bike Exchange's shop in the Capital Plaza Shopping Center at 1500 North Olden Ave. in Ewing during open hours — Thursdays 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Mr. White said.

With several bike drives coming up on top of these donation venues — including a May 22 bike drive in Monroe Township and one June 12 at the Princeton Junction train station in West Windsor — "we are also having great success addressing the problem" of a bike shortage, Mr. White said.

For information on volunteering or donating a used bike to the Boys & Girls Club Bike Exchange, e-mail info@bikeexchangenj.org or go to the exchange's website www.bikeexchangenj.org.
lotis@centraljersey.com

Close Window