The bike industry still suffers from supply chain issues, and prices on bikes and parts have continued to rise as the pandemic surges on. This disproportionately affects people who rely on bikes as their primary mode of transportation. We’re able to offset the increasing costs by offering low income commuter discounts.

We have long-time customers at the shop who utilize LICs. Individually, they’ve told me that the CCC had saved their life – not just because we make sure their bikes are taken care of, but because we provide a safe space for them to relax and make an effort to form genuine connections. Our staff does much, much more than just repair bikes for our community and it’s incredibly rewarding to hear that we are able to make a difference.

– Geo, Mechanic

In the spring of 2021, the STEM program supported students and school staff by providing them with bikes for transportation and summer recreation. By fall, we returned to Helensview School for bike class 3 days a week. This support was paramount to students’ mental health, attendance rate and ability to earn credits towards graduation. This year, we are back at Rosemary Anderson High School and we started a new partnership with Alliance High School at Meek. We had 25 students sign up for the Meek class, and are excited about this new collaboration!

– Riley, STEM Program Supervisor

The Hub has always been an essential resource to the New Columbia community: it’s a place to play, learn and receive free mechanic service & supplies. Since the pandemic, people are ready to come outside and they’re ready for change – like trying new things and exercising more! What I keep hearing is that people want to get back to riding. Willie, one of my elders, said “I can’t wait to get these knees back.” Part of Willie’s journey to get his health back is by biking! Because we’ve had Nina at the hub, a lot of younger folks are volunteering. They see her as an example and want to do the same. They want to learn!

– Natty, Community Engagement Coordinator

My favorite part of last year was when we started linking our Bike Drive resources with our Repair Hub in New Columbia. Working in this community, we see a lot of bikes that are beyond repairing. Instead of just delivering bad news that their bike is broken, we turned that into a positive by bringing them a new bike!

The return of in person volunteer nights is exciting because Bike Drives cannot happen without volunteers cleaning & repairing each bike. We’re scaling up our capacity back to pre-pandemic levels and forming relationships with new community partners to expand the mission of kids on bikes.

– Jonathan, Program Mechanic

Our emergency program Food Pantry Delivery by Bike would not have been possible without ABC. Members assembled food packages each week. The program delivered 7,510 unique deliveries to households facing food insecurity! This year, ABC is looking forward to a lot more community events! Just to name a few, they will be facilitating: Learn to Ride workshops, forming a walking group and Sunday Parkways group rides with Bike Loud.

“Bikes have changed a lot for me. I am familiar with more places, including places I never thought I’d go. I also like it because it is simply enjoyable for me. We felt good helping out, including my daughter.”

– Isabel, ABC Member

In early 2021, we offered a virtual Bike Club at Cesar Chavez School where students attended 8 classes via Zoom to learn bike handling skills, traffic safety, form friendships, and earn a bike at the end. Fall of 2021, we were back in person. Our presence in East Portland has led to exploration of new bike infrastructure such as the Glisan protected bike lane in front of Menlo Park Elementary. At Parkrose, we have been able to make it to Gateway Green a handful of times!

During the 2021 camp season, we cultivated a partnership with Rose CDC. Since then, we’ve supported Rose CDC families with several bike-related events and youth programming: racing clinics with OBRA, mountain biking clinics with NWTA, a spring break camp, ongoing fleet maintenance & repair, and several Learn to Ride events for beginner riders.

– Nat, Training & Evaluation Supervisor
As we move forward into the next year, we look forward to being together.

Over the last two years, every person has had their own unique experience with this pandemic. Sadly, those facing the greatest barriers in society are disproportionately impacted by health and economic disasters. As a non-profit dedicated to serving our community, it has been exceptionally difficult to care for both community and staff, balancing all times conflicting concerns. Each time we closed the shop for a COVID-19 concern, or had to cancel programs to safely manage an exposure, protecting the health of our community meant we couldn’t provide services.

As the pandemic progressed, we learned more about what was safe to do. Getting vaccinated allowed us to welcome back summer camp campers again, and resume our open every person after school bike shop and STEM education programs.

What else did we learn? Community is resilient. We learned that people really need to be together and having an activity like a bike ride or volunteer opportunity does just that. We’ve heard from the youth we serve and the teachers we work with that biking gives them something to look forward to. Biking provided a fun and healthy alternative to stem breathing spaces on public transport. And even with many social activities were put on hold, bicycles provided the much needed joy every person deserves.

In the next year, we are excited to celebrate with you at well-loved events such as Transportation Trips, Bike Scavenger Hunt, and Cycle Oregon. We have a full summer of Community Camps planned, as well as afterschool Bike Clubs in the fall. We’re also excited to bring back our salvage sale day, rebranded as Metal Mondays.

Alongside all of this, we are engaged in a Metro sponsored study which looks at barriers to bicycling in East Portland with a focus on the barriers experienced by youth from various partner communities. Together we can build that future we all want. One where ALL people can access bicycles and bicycle education and experience. Together we can build that future we all want. One where ALL people can access bicycles and bicycle education and experience.