

Dear One Percent Foundation Partners,

Welcome to Bike & Build!

We're honored to be nominated for a grant from One Percent Foundation, and appreciate your taking the time to learn about Bike & Build. We invite you to explore our web site where you could read [about our mission and history](#), [meet the young adults](#) who will take part in our [2010 programming](#), or even sign up for [this summer's Capital Ride](#) event!

Bike & Build plays an important role in addressing the poverty issue in the United States by elevating the affordable housing cause – *which is a root poverty problem*, and by using a meaningful and fun service-cycling platform to transform young adults into advocates, ambassadors, and fundraisers for the housing cause.

We wanted to share a bit more about what Bike & Build does, how the organization is a match for One Percent Foundation, and ways that you could help.

What we do:

In a nutshell, Bike & Build organizes cycling trips for young adults which combine sport, adventure, personal exploration and growth with affordable housing advocacy and action.

Through our unique service-adventure platform, *we mobilize financial contributions, volunteer hours, and media and community attention for our affordable housing partners.* Here are some of the key metrics we have tracked – and a record of the growth of our organization – over Bike & Build's history.

SUMMARY OF KEY METRICS, 2003-2009						
Year	Number of Events			Participants (Total)	Aff. Housing Contributions	Volunteer Hours
	(Total)	(X-Country)	(Regional)			
2003	2	2	-	47	\$70,900	1,300
2004	3	3	-	79	\$158,975	2,750
2005	4	4	-	111	\$212,929	5,200
2006	5	5	-	153	\$310,100	6,800
2007	6	6	-	187	\$391,327	14,400
2008	8	7	1	215	\$498,328	16,555
2009	10	8	2	255	\$666,500	19,635
Total:	38	35	3	1,047	\$2,309,059	66,640

In addition to supporting partner housing organizations, *Bike & Build also empowers young people to become advocates and ambassadors of the affordable housing cause and become engaged and charitable community members.* While we do not yet have the capacity to track these outcomes, a significant number of alumni – inspired by their participation in Bike & Build – have gone on to work for housing groups or other NGOs, and a handful have even started their own non-profits.

How we're a match for OPF:

Part of our excitement about being nominated for a grant is due to the overlap in values between Bike & Build and OPF. There are a number of ways that our organizations fit together.

- Bike & Build works exclusively with young adults and strongly believes in the potential of young people to do be things – whether it’s building a house, completing a cross-country bicycle ride, or raising millions of dollars for affordable housing groups. We also believe that by making involvement in affordable housing meaningful, accessible, impactful, and fun, we can create patterns of volunteerism, benevolence, and civic engagement that will stay with our alumni throughout their lives.
- Fundraising and philanthropy are core elements of Bike & Build, and our methods mirror those used by OPF. Bike & Build participants – the young adults who take part in our program – are empowered to make decisions about which organizations receive grants, furthering engaging them in the housing cause and helping them to develop leadership and philanthropy skills.
- We’re both national, grassroots organizations. Bike & Build engages and supports people and organizations throughout the country, and we do it through grassroots action. Though we’re a national organization with a big footprint, we works with lots of local groups and our work makes real differences for the communities we partner with. Our fundraising follows this too. Bike & Build aggregates small contributions (average of about \$65) from thousands of individuals and pools these funds to make large grants to affordable housing groups.

How you could help:

First, we’d love to have your vote for the OPF grant. There are a number of initiatives on our wish-list that we’re now seeking funding for, and a grant from OPF would go a long way for us to help develop these items.

- We’d like to beef up our affordable housing curriculum, so we could better educate our community about the importance of the issue, update them on what the latest trends are, and inspire them to become involved.
- We’re building new tools to measure and track our outcomes. This will help us understand how we’re doing, and communicate our results. (Here’s a sneak-peek of a very early-stage tool that we’re building, which will map the contributions that Bike & Build has made to affordable housing organizations throughout the US. This only includes 2-years of data, but gives you a sense of the breadth of our relationships and impact: <http://bikeandbuild.org/public/mapgrants.php>.)
- We’re constantly evaluating ways to keep our participants safe while they are on the road. Cycling long distances carries an inherent risk, but we do everything we can – from safety and first aid trainings, proper maintenance of equipment, careful route selection, thoughtful rules and procedures – to minimize any risk and protect our participants.

Second, we have a number of volunteer opportunities available for those close to our Philadelphia office, or throughout the country. We’re in particular need of people skilled in design, web development, finance, and nonprofit or general business strategy and management. If you’re interested, please be in touch to explore ways to work together.

Third, come and say hi to us while we’re on the road this summer! Odds are that [our route network](#) will come close to you, and we’d love to have you meet our cyclists or perhaps build with us (depending on availability) one day this summer.

Thanks for stopping by and for your consideration in voting. We think that what you're doing with OPF is really cool, and hope you feel the same way about Bike & Build. We'd be honored and appreciative to receive an OPF grant to help us further our work.

Don't hesitate to [be in touch with us](#) for any reason!

All the best,
The Team at Bike & Build