

# Charleston Bicycles for Humanity

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THE CITADEL

KRAUSE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS

## BACKGROUND

- Bicycles for Humanity (B4H) CHARLESTON is a local chapter of a global grassroots movement, that provides the gift of mobility delivered by a bicycle to many in developing countries in Africa
- In addition to delivering bicycles, many B4H groups work with the local people to develop the skills to manage the bike programs and to ensure that the community realizes maximum value from the gifts of mobility that bicycles provide.
- B4H raises funds, collect bicycles and ship them to community-based organizations in developing countries. Bicycles are delivered in shipping containers that remain in the country and become community bicycle workshops called Bicycle Empowerment Centers.

## ISSUES

- A bicycle solves the problem of mobility and helps empower people to change their life.
- The mobility a bicycle provides allows people to travel greater distances in a shorter length of time and transport much more weight.



## OUTPUTS

Over 300 bikes have been prepped in just 5 sessions, with only 400 needed to fill a container. Without the cadets the school could only fill one container a year, but with cadets there is a potential to do two or three.

In just 4 sessions we have provided 35 hours of service

The school's high school students apply to The Citadel at relatively low rates although almost all of them attend a 4-year college or university, so working side-by-side with them has given cadets the opportunity to answer their questions about the school and connect it to their passions.

Because this is a company project for F-Troop it has allowed cadets of all four classes to serve together outside of campus and has provided unique opportunities for freshmen to develop working relationships with upperclassmen.

## IMPACTS

- The productivity of the local B4H chapter has been greatly improved and a new and promising relationship between The Citadel and a local school has been established
- The project has created a new way for F-Troop cadets to serve and grow together informally and outside the barracks



## CONCLUSION

- There are plenty of unexpected ways for cadets to make a difference in the community. Few could have imagined the impact just taking wheels and pedals off of a few bicycles for an afternoon.
- This model of assigning a company ownership of a project and allowing it to grow within that group has already been successful and should continue to be implemented
- Porter Gaud administrators have expressed interest in expanding the relationship with the Citadel to include visits to our campus and cadet involvement in other activities on theirs

**5x** Riding a bicycle increases a person's carrying capacity by 5 times.

**4x** In the same time, an individual can ride 4X the distance as someone walking.

**3 hrs** For every ten miles traveled, a bicycle saves 3 hours of valuable time.

Source: www.bicycles-for-humanity.org

## SERVICE

- Cadets from F-Troop spent two hours each Wednesday afternoon at Porter Gaud Middle School in James Island preparing bicycles for shipment
- We would take off the front wheel and pedals, then zip-tie them flat to the frame of the bicycle. This helps more bikes fit in the limited space of a single shipping container
- This was the first time cadets have worked directly with the Porter Gaud School, located just 2.5 miles from our campus



B4H sent over 155,000 bikes to the developing world

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

The Krause Center for Leadership & Ethics

Charleston Bicycles for Humanity

Porter Gaud

