



Trips for Kids Marin Digest

Trips for Kids Marin Newsletter | Fall 2020 | tripsforkidsmarin.org

Program to Profession

Eli Barajas, an Earn-A-Bike graduate, reflects on his time with EAB as a new bike mechanic.

Eli Barajas had his first cycling experience with Trips for Kids Marin when he was 8 years old. It was the start of a new love and passion for Eli. Today, he describes biking as, "a massive thing in my life, that I couldn't get rid of if I wanted to." Eli has graduated from all levels of our Earn-A-Bike (EAB) program, and untils EAB classes shifted online, Eli was even assisting as a mentor and bilingual translator for the introductory EAB classes. He recently landed a job as a bike mechanic at Bicycle BruStop in Novato, a bicycle shop that doubles as a cafe. We asked Eli about his experience with Earn-A-Bike and how it helps him in his new job.



E-A-B graduate Eli Barajas helps another student clean a bike.

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Warm Welcome

In August, TFKM welcomed Christina Fisher as the newest member of our Board of Directors.

Energetic, positive, brimming with insightful questions, industry knowledge, and philanthropic spirit, Christina Fisher is a dynamo of a board director. We at Trips for Kids Marin (TFKM) are thrilled to have her on board. Currently, Christina is the Brand Engagement Specialist for Autodesk Inc. where she oversees brand experience programs for customers and employees, but she uses much of her free time to give back.



Christina Fisher

Besides her new role at TFKM, she is also a 'Food Rescuer' with extrafood.org and mentor for 10,000 Degrees, a program that helps students from low-income backgrounds get to and through college. Christina says her spirit for volunteering was fostered early in her life, "I've been volunteering since I was a kid. So within our family, if you can help, you help and if you can't help, then you can connect that person with somebody who can help."

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Letter from the Executive Director

Trips for Kids Marin Community,

For over three decades, Trips for Kids Marin has been focused on serving youth who have been historically marginalized from biking due to their socioeconomic status, gender, and/or race. Even in the face of covid, we continue to work tirelessly to get kids out biking. Our goals have always been threefold: to increase self-esteem, inspire healthy lifestyles, and connect kids to the natural world. Never has this work been more important than it is today, especially as the marginalized communities we serve are disproportionately impacted by challenges like COVID-19.

With your generous support we have adapted to serve kids remotely through virtual programs such as our; four week long Earn-a-Bike program, “Learn it, Fix it, Shred it!” program, and “Off Screen, On Trail”. Through these programs we have been able to reach hundreds of kids during a time when covid has limited their ability to connect and made recreation more challenging.

We have been thoughtfully cautious when it comes to in person programs and have prioritized safety above all else. With this guiding philosophy, we have been able to support some of the most vulnerable in our community through our Mobile program and, most recently, our Rides program. We continue to work with county and city officials and are ready to begin additional in person/outdoor programs as allowed.

With all that is going on in our country and local community, many of us feel uncertainty, frustration, and maybe even a little scared. We recognize that these feelings can be magnified within kids. We are dedicated to making sure kids get to counteract those feelings by experiencing the freedom, joy, exhilaration, and FUN of being outside on a bike! Thank you for helping us to do this important work.

Bec Detrich

Bec Detrich,
Executive Director

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Left: Eli (left) and another EAB student. Right: RJ, the EAB Program Manager, and Eli work on a bike.

Program to Profession - Continued from page 1

You have completed all levels of our Earn-A-Bike program and were helping teach the beginner EAB course before COVID-19. What keeps you coming back?

"It was showing other kids how fun bikes are. They are really complex, but yet really easy to understand. I just wanted to show that to other kids. Biking is a really big passion in my life and if it wasn't for Trips for Kids Marin, I would never have known about it. In wanting to come back, it was that feeling of friendship that I had with everyone - that - and the love of biking."

What was the most important thing you learned in the Earn-A-Bike program?

"The most important thing I learned through all those classes doesn't actually involve biking. It's a lesson I learned through RJ, [the EAB program manager], at the shop of quieting down, taking note of everything, and not talking like I know everything. That is a problem that I know I have and that I have dealt with. He's taught me to listen more and not try to be part of the conversation. Just listen to what people are saying. That is one of the biggest things that has stuck with me."

How does that translate to your work as a bike mechanic?

"Since I am the newest person working there, I take out the trash, cut up cardboard, and build bikes out of the boxes. With learning to be quiet and listen more, when I build bikes the head mechanic will come up to me and tell me what needs to be better. Instead of arguing with them over it, I have learned to be quiet and accept the information and continue."

What piece of advice would you give to a new student starting their first Earn-A-Bike class?

"Its really hard and really challenging, but there is a lot waiting for you at the end and it is worth it."



Left: Paul Kundrat and Tim Fleming riding. Right: Vintage Endurance PTC jerseys with the TFKM logo.

An Enduring Commitment

A chat with Endurance PTC Owners Paul Kundrat and Tim Fleming on their recent donation.

In June of 2020, Endurance Performance Training Center (PTC) donated 10% of their revenues for the month to Trips for Kids Marin. All of us at TFKM were stunned and deeply grateful. Endurance PTC and TFKM have long been close partners. The bond started many years ago with a small donation bin and the relationship has only grown since then, but this donation was of a different magnitude. We spoke with Paul and Tim, the owners of Endurance PTC, to learn more.

Coul you take a moment to describe the motivation behind your recent commiment to TFKM?

Paul: "In light of the BLM movement, spurred in large part by the egrigious murder of George Floyd, we felt compelled to do something beyond our usual support. Communities of color are so often overlooked and are the target of larger systemic racism. It's these communities TFKM largely represents. Continuing support of organizations with missions like TFKM is vitally important."

Tim: "We wanted to convey to our community that we fully support and embrace equality in all forms and we thought what better way to put our feelings into something a little more concrete. We think TFKM is the perfect manifestation of all the things socially we want to strive for."

Partnerships are vital to our work. If you would like to make a deeper connection with TFKM, please contact Atashi Chakravarty, Development Director at atashi@tripsforkidsmarin.org.

Warm Welcome - *Continued from page 1*

True to her family mantra, Christina has already been supporting our development team with helpful insight and feedback and she can't wait hop in on rides with the kids once it becomes safe to do so. However, as many of our supporters at TFKM routinely find, volunteering is often a gift to both sides. "I find that volunteering helps me feel more planted, more part of the community that I am in," says Christina. Well, we hope Christina will stay planted in the Trips for Kids Marin community for a long, long time.

