



Community Bike Works Receives Support From Magellan

We are proud to find collaborative opportunities with our communities during COVID-19. Over the past 25 years, Community Bike Works in Allentown has been connecting children with bikes and mentors through their “Earn a Bike” and “Junior Earn a Bike” programs. Youth earn a bike over a 12-week program that includes bike repairs, maintenance, and safety protocols. The program is also designed to help students learn teamwork.

Bikes provide youth a means of transportation and getting places. They also provide physical exercise which is important for our mental health. Community Bike Works reports that 97% of students said the program helped them learn they can do things they didn’t think they could before and 100% of students improved their social-emotional skills. Community Bike Works also distributes books to the youth through their Earn-A-Book program.

Due to COVID-19, the Drop-In program has limited capacity and some kids no longer have access to the tools needed for maintaining and repairing their bikes. Online programming includes educational video lessons, interactive assignments, and virtual classroom time each week so the students are still getting their mentorship. This helps kids stay connected to important social supports during an uncertain time. However, some students do not have the bike tools they need at home.

In August, Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania sponsored take-home kits so kids can continue their programming in a safe way. These at home kits help kids stay connected to their mentors and continue to maintain their bikes to get exercise.

For more information on Community Bike Works, visit www.CommunityBikeWorks.com or email Hannah Milagio at Hannah@communitybikeworks.org.