

Spokes for Folks

Conceived while on an extended silent retreat, a desire to put loving our neighbors as ourselves into action was the inspiration for the Spokes for Folks bicycle giveaway program led by Beth Marquart, a 2005 ETS graduate. Beth (pictured, center, with Ricky, a member of the project team and Sandy, a bicycle recipient) formed a seven member ministry team who developed and manage this project. A total of 84 bicycles have been given away at five events, with another planned for the fall.



Each recipient attends bicycle safety training and receives a lock, helmet and a 'Spokes for Folks' shirt. People are drawn to this ministry, "At a recent giveaway the city sent a bus and gave a demonstration on how to safely put a bike on the rack installed on each city bus. They sent free transfers with the driver - who delighted in giving them to everyone who attended!" She adds that while providing bicycles to those needing basic transportation is rewarding, "The real gifts we give are the freedom, hope and respect that the bicycle symbolizes. One of our goals is to give people a hand up, not a hand out and we often wonder who is receiving more abundantly – those taking bicycles home or the members of the ministry team."