

Bikes for the World collection set May 16

FOR THE CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CUMBERLAND — April is Earth Month and the staff and volunteers at Bikes for the World celebrate by saving thousand of bikes from landfills.

The annual Cumberland collection is set for May 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at Canal Place.

Volunteers will be collecting used repairable bikes and sewing machines. A donation of \$10 per bike is requested to help defray the cost of shipping.

The repairable bikes go to partnering agencies that recycle and upcycle them. One agency in Burkino Faso, West Africa — Children’s Light — focuses on the needs of women and children. Some health care workers make home visits by bike. Providing affordable, repaired bikes improves access to health care and school proving that increased mobility improves lives one bike at a time.

Many bikes that are donated are used for training. When bikes are received by the partnering agency, they are first reassembled and refurbished. One such program, The Village Bicycle Project in Ghana, emphasizes the importance of learning the skills of bike repair and basic mechanics.

As more and more people get access to bikes, through Bikes for the World, the need for trained bike mechanics increases. Small-scale entrepreneurship and networking can move individuals and communities towards economic stability.

For more information on the Cumberland Bikes for the World collection, contact Pamela McCormick at 301606- 4734.



Bikes for the World volunteer Anita Harpold loads bikes to take to the annual collection, which is set for May 16 at Canal Place.

Submitted photo