

## **Donate your unused bikes to Bikes for Kids At Tour de Lyme ... *Every kid needs a bike***

The Lyme Land Trust, announced the charity *Bikes for Kids* will have volunteers on hand at this year's Tour de Lyme on May 18 at Ashlawn Farm on Bill Hill Rd in Lyme to collect used bikes. *Bikes for Kids* is a charity organization that collects, refurbishes and distributes bikes primarily to CT families and kids in need. All bikes are distributed with new cycling helmets.

*Bikes for Kids* since its founding in 1989 has collected, refurbished and distributed almost 16,000 bikes to families and kids mostly to the inner cities of New Haven, New London, Middletown and Hartford. *Bikes for Kids* efforts extend beyond CT and include deliveries to Bell Harbor, NY, Haiti and 30 mountain bikes to Tanzania.

John Pritchard, President of the Lyme Land Trust the organizer of the Tour de Lyme, said "*Bikes for Kids* is an outstanding outreach organization.

Dave Fowler, President of *Bikes for Kids*, and a former science teacher in Old Lyme's Middle School, indicated "we put people on wheels who would either be walking or not really going anywhere at all. Last year we delivered 1,368 bikes and hope to deliver more this year." The motivating factor of Bikes for Kids' Founder was "*Every kid needs a bike*".

Tour de Lyme riders can donate bikes as they arrive, people not riding in Tour de Lyme can drop bikes off between 2:00 and 4:00 on May 18.

Alternatively bike pick ups can be arranged by calling 860-395-7321.

For Additional Information Contact: Dave Fowler, 860-395-7321;  
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The Lyme Land Trust inaugurated Tour de Lyme last year as an annual bike ride to raise funds to support its mission of preserving and protecting environmentally important land in Lyme. More than 300 riders participated last year.

The Tour de Lyme is intended for all to enjoy. It is not competitive (there are no "races" or timed finishes), but rather is designed as a way to showcase and celebrate the preservation of Lyme's spectacular natural beauty. While some of the courses will be challenging, there are others intended for casual cyclists, and there is even a family ride.