

## Taking on the Mountain

by Christine Calagna (abridged version)

“Whoa, man, did you see that?!”

Matt slams on his brakes and jumps off his bike in hot pursuit of the first lizard of the day. Minutes ago he had been instructed on the rules of the trail and the importance of avoiding sudden stops by trip leader Maria Hudnut, who cannot help but smile at Matt’s reckless enthusiasm. His friend Rick scurries over the side of the trail, and soon emerges with the lizard in hand.

The boys are from Edgewood Children’s Center, a home for abused children in the San Francisco Bay area, and they are on one of the few escapes they make out of the city and the heartbreaking realities of their lives. The kids are only a half hour car

ride from home, but the hundreds of acres of open space serve as a reminder that they have entered a world vastly different from their own.

At 10am the guides meet the kids at the trailhead under the towering beauty of the redwood trees. Maria gathers the group together for a rundown on trail etiquette and an overview of the day’s ride. She is professional and commands respect from the boys as she briefs them on biking skills, environmental impact, and safety.

Eight years ago director Marilyn Price started Trips for Kids in her garage. The program has grown to include two Re-Cyclery thrift shops for bikes and gear. The sites provide bicycle maintenance instruction and the chance for kids to work in the repair shop and eventually earn their own bikes.

Back on the mountain, 12-year-old Rick is struggling with a steep section of the fire road.



Leading the pack...our director Marilyn Price

John Burgess

**“the seeds of some valuable lessons have taken hold”**

Becky, his volunteer guide, helps him push his bike up the hill while trying to coax a few words from the quiet boy. Matt’s bursts of energy are increasingly

interspersed with stops for rest, water and lizard chasing. As he nears the top, he gathers up his resolve

and stands on the pedals, victoriously crossing the trailhead gate while the group cheers him on.

Soon it is time to head back down the mountain. The kids need constant coaching as they tackle the descent. Rick surprises everyone with his confidence and skill. “I loved going fast down the hill,” he shyly reports at the closing circle, eyes downcast but a slow grin breaking across his face. His warm smile and pride of accomplishment remind everyone what the ride has really been about.

These boys have personal challenges ahead of them and a single day on the mountain probably won’t change the course of their lives, but perhaps the seeds of some valuable lessons have taken hold today—love for the outdoors, respect for the environment, the satisfaction of meeting physical challenges and, of course, the pure joy of catching lizards.

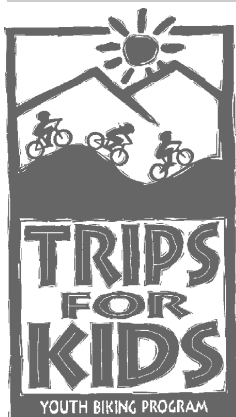
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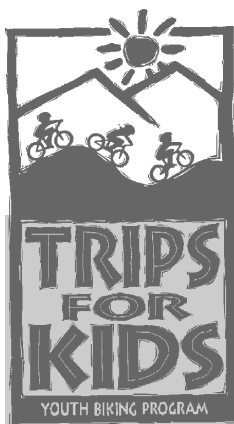
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## news...



MARY PECKINS

*Computer education in action*

### Earn-a-Computer Program

Our earn-a-computer program is finally getting off the ground thanks to Dave Garoutte, founder of the Bicycle Trails Council of Marin. His many hours of assembling and repairing donated equipment has resulted in over a dozen computers ready for the kids to earn. The kids at 610 4th Street use a Filemaker database system to log in their hours and computers are available at both Re-Cyclery locations for kids to practice their writing and word-processing skills.

We need more funding for this exciting program to expand. Anyone connected to the computer industry with leads on grants or donations through high tech companies, please give us a call at 415.381.2941.

### Art Program News

Images of children riding up Mount Tamalpais and kids working on bikes adorn the wall in the rear of our shop at 610 4th Street. The new mural was painted by children enrolled in our Bike Art program. The kids did an excellent job designing the artwork under the guidance of Laura Smith, a professional San Francisco muralist.

The next art project for our talented team will be to design and paint the TFK van. The van is used to transport bikes from the shop to the trailhead for weekly mountain biking rides. Both projects were sponsored by the Richard T. Busby Foundation, an organization dedicated to benefiting inner city youth in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### Team TFK hits the BMX Track

**T**rips for Kids has added a BMX racing team to our program for inner city youth. In collaboration with the Marin County Sheriff's Department and with a grant from the Youth Leadership Institute, Team TFK, a multi-racial BMX bike team, was formed earlier this year.

To qualify for the team and remain an active member, a child must regularly attend workshops at Re-Cyclery, our bike thrift shop and training center, and consistently demonstrate cooperation, responsibility and teamwork. Coach Will Cockrell focuses on a variety of skills when he works with the team, not just competitive riding. He says, "The idea that we can integrate healthy work habits, self-discipline and responsibility, which are practical, real life skills, with something the kids truly enjoy, benefits these kids the most and helps our whole program."

The 12 member Team TFK, formed in January 1997, is also an official Boy Scout troop. They practice during the week and on weekends at their track and compete once a month at the Napa Valley BMX course.



*Team TFK at the races*

JONATHAN P. HUGHES

**Trips for Kids Newsletter**  
published by  
Trips for Kids

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## TFK Purchases 4th Street Building

Last December, Trips for Kids took a huge step and purchased the building that houses our bicycle thrift shop at 610 4th street in San Rafael. A Bicycle Transportation Center will be established at this site containing a bicycle library and museum, administrative offices and a center for bicycle advocacy.

## Swap is Biggest Ever

Our 6th annual bike swap, held in June, was the most successful to date. Thousands of people came to buy bikes, parts, and accessories at bargain-basement prices. Swappers brought their super-chromed megabuck titanium frames, cob-webbed ten-speeds, and vintage 50's beach cruisers to sell and trade, donating 20% of their proceeds to Trips for Kids. The event, which is Trips for Kids biggest fund-raiser, raised \$48,000—that's \$10,000 more than last year! Three cheers to all the volunteers that made it happen!

*This year's Bike Swap, Northern California's largest*



MARSHAM JOHNSON

## In The Spotlight...

Trips for Kids has recently been featured on television news programs and in various local and national publications.

### League of American Bicyclists

Two page article  
July/August 1997

### KTVU Channel

Mornings on 2  
May 1997

### Bike Magazine

Full page article  
April 1997

### Marin 31

Interview with Assemblywoman Kerri Mazzoni  
March 1997

### Bay TV

February 1997

### NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw

Schwarzkopf's America  
Marilyn and "The General" take a ride in Telluride  
August 1996

### KPIX Channel 5

July 1996

### Bicycling Magazine

Local Heroes  
Marilyn Price recognized for her work with TFK  
March 1996

### Sports Illustrated

Full page article  
September 1995



## who we are...

Until 1997, Trips for Kids was a non-profit project of the Bicycle Trails Council of Marin (BTCM). Many thanks to BTCM for their support over the past 8 years. We have reorganized and are now an autonomous non-profit organization. We welcome our new board...

### Board of Directors

#### President

Marilyn Price

#### Secretary

Leon Baumgarten  
Real Estate

#### Treasurer

Dick Chinlund  
Accountant

Gary Fisher  
Gary Fisher Bicycles

Patricia Gallery  
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Jerry Pompili  
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Andrew Wurtele  
Private Investor

## TFK Ride Program

The Trips for Kids weekly mountain biking program offers San Francisco Bay Area inner city kids outdoor adventures and a chance to experience the natural areas of Marin County. Some of the children that come on our rides have never before left their home city. Many have never crossed the Golden Gate Bridge.

Our goal is to provide these kids an opportunity to experience themselves and their surroundings in positive new ways, and to develop healthy interests and habits through outdoor activities. Our trips give them a chance to connect with nature, develop personal skills through teamwork and cooperation, and build self esteem through bicycle skills development and goal achievement.

## Mission

The Trips for Kids youth biking program is a San Francisco Bay Area non-profit volunteer organization that provides mountain biking outings, environmental education, job training and after-school tutoring for low income youth. Using bikes as the vehicle, our goal is to combine lessons in personal responsibility, achievement and environmental awareness through development of practical skills and the simple act of having fun.



Taking a break on the trail

## Re-Cyclery

**A** classroom disguised as a bike shop, Re-Cyclery provides the low income youth of Marin County an alternative to the streets; a place to spend their free time on weekends and after school. At the heart of Re-Cyclery is our Earn-a-Bike job training program through which kids can earn credits toward the "purchase" of a bicycle, parts and accessories. The curriculum includes courses covering bicycle maintenance, repair and safety and focuses on a hands-on approach to learning. Environmental awareness and the principals of "reduce, reuse and recycle" underlie all aspects of this model program.



*Hard at work at Re-Cycery*

## the kids...

### Who We Served in 1996

Trips for Kids had another banner year in 1996. We led 583 children on 95 rides. The number of kids enrolled in Re-Cyclery's Earn-a-Bike program was 106 with an average daily attendance of 19 children.

It's not called "Re-Cyclery" for nothing... TFK donated 13 truckloads of bikes and parts to San Quentin Prison for repair and distribution to other charities. All other unused equipment was given to other organizations or recycled as scrap metal. TFK also held 33 mobile bike repair classes at off-site locations and 17 Green Cyclers Environmental Classes at several Bay Area agencies.

None of this would be possible without the more than 300 Trips for Kids volunteers who give their time to help out on the rides and in Re-Cyclery. Thank you!

### Awards

#### **Bike Magazine**

One of the 25 Most Important Women in Mountain Biking  
Marilyn Price  
July 1997

#### **Volunteer Center of Marin**

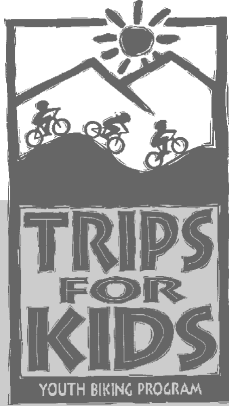
Volunteer of the Year  
Marilyn Price  
1996

#### **IMBA**

#### **(International Mountain Biking Association)**

Pacific Award  
September 1996

# thanks...



The work of Trips for Kids is only possible with your continued support. The following friends of Trips for Kids have generously donated to make the program a success. Many thanks!

## Non Bike Related Sponsors

Acme Bread, Berkeley  
Alvarado Inn, Novato  
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Marin Computer Resource Center, San Rafael  
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## financial contributors

### Corporations and Foundations

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Ed & Marcia Nute  
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Joyce Tom  
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Andrew Wurtele

### Affiliated Organizations

Bicycle Trails Council of Marin  
Sierra Club Inner City Outings

# bike industry sponsors

## National Manufacturers & Distributors

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ATI                      | Ibis                   |
| Andiamo                  | IMBA                   |
| Answer Products          | Kelly Custom Frames    |
| Avocet                   | LeMond Bicycles        |
| Backroads                | Lone Peak Designs      |
| Basic Bicycle Products   | Marin Mountain Bikes   |
| Bell Sports              | Master Lock            |
| Bellwether               | Merry Sales            |
| Bianchi                  | Mongoose Bicycles      |
| Bicycling Magazine       | Mountain Bike Magazine |
| Bike-alog                | NIKE                   |
| Blackburn Designs        | Oakley                 |
| Bolle                    | Otis Guy Cycles        |
| Bontragger Cycles        | Park Tool Company      |
| Bruce Gordon Cycles      | Pearl Izumi            |
| Bushwhacker USA          | PowerBar               |
| BYKaboose                | Profile                |
| BTU Stoker               | Rema Tip Top           |
| Cannondale Corp          | Ritchey Design         |
| Caramba Cycles           | Rock Shox              |
| Cat Eye                  | SIDI                   |
| Chums                    | Sachs                  |
| Clif Bar                 | Salsa                  |
| Cook Brothers Racing     | Schwinn                |
| Croakies                 | Service Cycle          |
| Dahon California, Inc.   | Slime                  |
| Dia-Compe                | Specialized            |
| Diamond Back             | SunRace USA            |
| Expressline              | Sun Rims               |
| Finish Line Technologies | Timbuk2 Designs        |
| Gary Fisher Bicycles     | Trek Bicycle Corp      |
| Giant Bicycle, Inc.      | Tri-Flo                |
| Giro Sport Design        | Torque Bar             |
| Gore RideOn Cables       | Vredestun Tires        |
| Grab On Products         | White Lightning        |
| Grip Shift               | Wilderness Trail Bikes |
| GT Bicycles              | Winner International   |
| GU                       | Yakima                 |
| Haro Bicycle Corp.       | Yeti Cycles            |

## Bay Area Bike Shop Donors

A Round World, Oakland  
 American Bicycle Rental, San Francisco  
 Any Mountain Ltd., Corte Madera  
 Balboa Bicycles, San Francisco  
 Bicycle Connection, Moraga  
 Bicycle Factory, Petaluma  
 Bicycle Outfitter, Los Gatos  
 Bicycle Outlet, Concord  
 Bicycle Trader, San Francisco  
 Cyclery in Half Moon Bay  
 Bike Nook, San Francisco  
 Bike Threads, Los Gatos  
 California Pedaler, Danville  
 Chain Reaction, Redwood City  
 Contra Costa Schwinn Cyclery, Pleasant Hill  
 Fixed Gear, San Francisco  
 Fog City Cycles, San Francisco  
 Fresh Air Bicycles, San Francisco  
 Hank & Frank, Hayward  
 Lincoln Cyclery, San Francisco  
 Livermore Cyclery, Livermore  
 Lombardi Sports, San Francisco  
 Marina Cyclery, San Francisco  
 Mike's Bikes, San Rafael  
 Mill Valley Cycleworks, Mill Valley  
 Missing Link, Berkeley  
 Mt. Tam Cyclery, San Anselmo  
 Noe Valley Cyclery, San Francisco  
 The Off Ramp, Santa Clara  
 Open Road Bicycles, San Francisco  
 Pacific Bicycle, San Francisco Bay Area  
 Palisades Mountain Sport, Calistoga  
 Palo Alto Bicycles, Palo Alto  
 Pedaler, El Sobrante  
 Performance Bicycle Shop, San Rafael  
 Planeaway, Tiburon  
 Sharp Bicycles, Richmond  
 Start to Finish, San Francisco Bay Area  
 Sausalito Cyclery, Sausalito  
 Trailhead Rentals, Olema  
 Velo Bicycle Shop, San Carlos  
 Village Peddler, Larkspur  
 Wheel Escapes, Sausalito  
 Windsurf Bicycle Warehouse, So. San Francisco

## Wish List

Trips for Kids is in need of the following items:

VCR

desk-top copiers

cash register

general office supplies

Mac (SI or later model)

IBM (486 or later model)

laser printers (Mac or IBM)

software:  
 Microsoft Office  
 PageMaker  
 QuarkXpress  
 educational

internet service provider

long extension ladder

microwave oven

bicycle books

bicycle memorabilia

shop vacuum

single line phones

## you can help...

Help spread the word by including something about Trips for Kids in your company newsletter. Volunteers can encourage their employers to contribute to Trips for Kids. Cash donations, new or used bikes, parts and accessories are always needed and are tax deductible. Also, anyone making a donation to the United Way can request that their matching funds be donated to Trips for Kids.

**call Trips for Kids at  
 415.381.2941**



MARILYN PRICE

*Trips for Kids new staff members in front of our new mural:  
John Mason, David Tacey, Sherry Shannon, Chris Davis, and Byron Delcomb  
Welcome Aboard!*

## Re-Cyclery

610 4th Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415.458.2986

Tues-Thur 5PM-6PM  
Sat-Sun 10AM-4PM

135 Alto Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415.455.8876

Tues-Thur 5PM-6PM  
Sat 12PM-4PM

marilyn\_price@marinfo.org  
<http://www.webcom.com/tfk>

## how you can help...

### Volunteers needed

**T**rips for Kids is always looking for volunteers to lead rides on weekends. Rides are conducted every Saturday and Sunday in Marin County.

Volunteers are also needed to help at Re-Cyclery to help with bike mechanics, computer education, art projects, homework tutoring, and retail sales on weekends and after school.

**to volunteer call 415.459.7637**

**Trips for Kids**  
c/o Marilyn Price  
138 Sunnyside  
Mill Valley, CA 94941

