

**District Grant Report**

Rotary Club: Newport Mesa (formally Newport Beach Sunrise)  
Project Title: Rotary Bike Rodeo - Bicycle and Road Safety Clinics  
 Progress Report       Final Report

**1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?**

The Rotary Bike Rodeo is a Bicycle and Road Safety Clinic which helps to prepare children and youth to safely ride their bicycles and e-bikes in their community. Attendees visit Helmet Safety, Bike Safety, and Road & Traffic Safety stations, and then practice their safe riding skills on courses set up within the event space.

This Rotary year our Rotary Bike Rodeo project was involved in 8 events through May 25th, varying from helmet education and fitting, to full Bike Safety Clinics with local partners:

July 15, 2023 – Carnival for Kids, the Illumination Foundations annual event in Anaheim, with our partners Clinic in the Park and the Rotary Club of Anaheim. We provided helmet safety education, then fitted and gave out 43 helmets to children and youth. Interact Club President Corbin Minion (Westside Costa Mesa) set up the booth and managed the signing of waivers. He helped train the Pediatricians from the American Academy of Pediatrics on how to fit helmets.

August 05, 2023 – Newport Mesa Unified School District and HOAG Hospital Back to School Resource Fair at IKEA in Costa Mesa. This is a huge event with hundreds of attendees. We provided demonstrations on how helmets work, why you need to wear them and how to properly fit them. We discussed the difference in Force (10X) when crashing on an E-Bike going 20-28 mph vs a standard peddle bicycle at 8pmh. We trained staff from NMUSD on how to fit helmets. Those volunteers, along with members of the Rotary Club of OCLA and Clinic in the Park, helped us fit 101 kids with new bike helmets. The helmets were provided by Clinic in the Park, which is now a project of the American Academy of Pediatrics Orange County. Dr. Agran is the founder of CITP, and a member of our club.

October 28, 2023 – The Bike Rodeo which was to be part of the Ride for Rotary at UCI with the Rotary Club of Irvine was cancelled, as the permits had not been secured by the Rotary Club of Irvine for the event.

December 14, 2023 – Family Health Day at The Melinda Smith Hoag Center. Club members Paul Gwizdala, Dr. Phyllis Agran and Ross Minion fitted 70 children and youth with new helmets and provided education to the kids and their parents. Our partner Clinic in the Park sponsored the helmets, and provided booster seats, books, and life vests.

March 28, 2024 – Girls Inc at The Melinda Smith Hoag Center. This was a small event supporting Girls Inc. Ross Minion and Dr. Agran fitted 18 girls with new helmets, talked about Road Safety and selecting the right helmet for an E-Bike vs a regular bike.

April 20, 2024 – Higher Ground's Day of the Child at Lincoln Park in Anaheim with Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), the Rotary Club of Anaheim and Clinic in the Park. We provided helmet safety education to over 100 youth and provided 79 helmets to children and youth. We had several members from the Anaheim Rotary Club (including Barbara Gryglaszewski) and nursing students from Cal State Fullerton volunteering alongside Ross Minion and Dr. Agran. Barbara from the Anaheim Club worked with Higher Ground to secure adequate space for our helmet education and fitting stations well before other organizations could register. Barbara utilizes materials from our Bike Rodeo materials for other events in Anaheim.

May 02, 2024 – Woodland Elementary School in Costa Mesa. Our Club is part of the Costa Mesa Bicycle Safety Task Force, headed by Jim Shanman of Walk 'n Rollers. The City of Costa Mesa has contracted with Walk n Rollers to create an extensive bike safety training program and then to conduct a training at each NMUSD school serving Costa Mesa. The after-school event at Woodland Elementary was the pilot for this new program, which officially launches next school year. Several members of The Rotary Club of Newport Mesa are working with Jim and Walk n Rollers on this project. We were there to assist with the event at Woodland Elementary, however Jim was stuck in traffic on the 405 with the materials. They were going to cancel the event until we offered to take the lead. Along with two members of Walk n Rollers that were able to get around the freeway closure, we began with helmet safety education, ABC Bike Checks,

discussed Visibility and E-Bikes. An office from CMPD helped with the Road Safety training. A small course was set up and participants spent the next hour learning skills and practicing. Once Jim arrived with the bikes and cones the course was expanded and participants which did not have a bike of their own with them were then able to complete the course. We then fitted helmets, helped several kids learn how to ride their bike and discussed best practices with the parents. Two members of the Costa Mesa Active Transportation Committee were present for the event. We are discussing how we can expand our partnerships with the City and Walk n Rollers, options for sharing our Bike Rodeo materials with Walk n Rollers for local events so they don't have to haul them from LA, and how to get E-Bike rated helmets sponsored and provided to middle and high school students in the area.

May 04, 2024 - Circolo Irvine, Rotary Bike Rodeo with the Boy Scouts and Rotary Club of Newport-Irvine. Members of the Newport-Irvine Club and the Boy Scouts worked with the City of Irvine and the Circolo event organizers to secure space for a Rotary Bike Rodeo. The space provided was very limited, so we had to devise how to conduct a full Bike Rodeo with less than 25% of the space we would normally use. We ended up designing a 4-Phase layout using only 20 feet X 100 feet of space, where we would change the middle of the course several times for each group of participants. The Boy Scouts and their Troop Leaders took the lead on each station. They created a Passport for participants to get stamped at the Bike Inspection, Visibility, Helmet Safety and Road Safety / Agility Courses. We provided a Visibility Craft for the Boy Scout booth, trained the volunteers on each station, and provided all the materials and set-up for the Bike Rodeo. Three different Troops participated with 20+ total volunteers, and they each loved doing so and asked how they could do another. This was the second Bike Rodeo we have done with the Boy Scouts in Irvine.

May 25, 2024 – Costa Mesa Walk n Roll Festival at The Costa Mesa Senior Center. This event is organized by Walk n Rollers out of Culver City and funded by the City of Costa Mesa. Member Jim Erickson has been assisting with the planning and coordination. Our Bike Rodeo materials will be utilized, along with our new Kinetic Energy Demo for E-Bike riders. Member Mat Garcia is an engineer and will be explaining Force and Kinetic Energy. Ross Minion will lead the helmet safety education and train the volunteers on how to fit helmets.

Weekly – Bike Club at Save Our Youth in Costa Mesa. Member Jim Erickson leads a bike club at SOY. He teaches students how to maintain and repair their bicycles, rules of the road, fits them with new helmets when needed, and takes them on rides through Westside Costa Mesa.

## **2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?**

We had five members of our club participate so far, plus one Interactor and members from the Rotary Clubs of Anaheim, Newport-Irvine, and OCLA. We have at least one more event this Spring and expect one or two additional members to participate, along with 4-6 members of the Interact Club of Westside Costa Mesa.

## **3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.**

Members organize and transport materials to each event. We typically set up two to four pop-up tents for our helmet education and fitting stations. A few events only require one or two people. The larger events require several vehicles to transport the materials and 5-10 volunteers to set-up, train and man each station. Pawel (Paul) has become an expert in helmet fitting. Jim Erickson teaches Road Safety and leads kids through the courses. Mat Garcia, our Engineer, teaches about Force and Kinetic Energy, and helped create the new Kinetic Energy demo. Dr. Agran gets us Helmets from Clinic in the Park and the AAP-OC and recruits additional volunteers for events. Ross Minion designs the Bike Rodeo stations and courses. Jim and Ross are on the Costa Mesa Bicycle Safety Task Force.

## **4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?**

Over 500 children and youth have received helmet safety education, 311 helmets have been distributed, and over 200 have completed a bike safety clinic or assembly year-to-date. We expect to fit 150-200 more helmets in the next month.

## **5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?**

The expectations are reduced accidents and injuries while riding a bicycle, scooter or skateboard in the community. When worn correctly, helmets save lives. Knowing how to ride safely while following the rules of the road will reduce accidents. Increasing visibility should reduce the number of cyclists being hit by a vehicle from behind, or when lighting is less than optimal. Our efforts could save a few lives.

## **6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?**

Clinic in the Park (part of the American Academy of Pediatric Orange County) partners with us providing education and support, helmets, and joint participation at events. The Boy Scouts in Irvine coordinated and ran each station at the Circolo Irvine Bike Rodeo. Walk n Rollers leads the task force and provided our initial training on bike rodeo courses. We now assist them and lead helmet education and fitting at their local events. We have partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Anaheim, Newport-Irvine, and OCLA at events. We participate in events at The Melinda Smith Hoag Center helping local families and Girls Inc. We participate in events with Higher Ground, Bikers Against Child Abuse, the Illumination Foundation and Newport Mesa Unified School District. We usually participate at the YMCA Family Health Day but this year the date was the same as the Day of the Child event in Anaheim.

**Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!**

7. Income

|  | Amount             |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. District Grant funds approved by the District | \$ 969.00          |
| 2. Club contribution                             | \$ 1,041.57        |
| 3. Other funding (specify)                       |                    |
| <b>Total Project Income</b>                      | <b>\$ 2,010.57</b> |

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. See attached Expenses and Receipts detail | \$ 2,010.57        |
| <b>Total Project Expenditures</b>            | <b>\$ 2,010.57</b> |

We have included expenses for the storage of the Bike Rodeo materials in the final expenditures. We rent a 10X10 storage unit for \$230 a month. 50% of that space is for the Bike Rodeo materials and helmets, therefore we included 9-months of storage fees at 50% for a total of \$1,035. We have had no printing expenses this year. We purchased materials to make a couple of signs, and purchased 14 portable stands (sign holders) for our traffic and station signage. We added 12 more 28" traffic cones and one 10X10 EZ Up. To keep our storage costs from growing, we purchased 27-gallon storage bins so we could store and stack materials and helmets to the ceiling of our storage unit. They greatly help in organization and space utilization. Not included in the expenditures: We have built a new Kinetic Energy Demo (valued at ~\$600) using a combination of donated and purchased materials and labor.

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the district. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.

Certifying Signature



Date: 05/15/25

Print name, Rotary title, and club

Ross Minion, President, Rotary Club of Newport Mesa