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TOPLINE FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION HOSTED BIKE DRIVE TO BENEFIT YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

St. Paul teens learn real world job skills through generous bike drive donations

MAPLE GROVE, MINN. — November 1, 2023— [TopLine Financial Credit Union](#), a Twin Cities-based member-owned [financial services cooperative](#), hosted a bike donation drive with all donations benefiting Keystone Community Services' Youth Social Enterprise Program, Express Bike Shop. TopLine members, employees and community members dropped off their bikes and bike parts to help local youth. As the drive wrapped up, TopLine collected a total of 186 bikes.

The bicycle donations supported [Express Bike Shop](#) that specializes in refurbished bicycles and is also a youth employment program under the Keystone Community Services non-profit umbrella. The bike shop thrives in large part from the generosity of donors. Bicycle donations are needed to provide the inventory for youth to refurbish and sell, and supports the 200-hour apprenticeship program giving youth real-world entrepreneurship experience running a bike shop.

[Keystone's Youth Apprenticeship Employment Program](#), is a youth directed social enterprise, serving as a learning lab for young people entering the workplace, with all revenue reinvested back into the program. This youth development and entrepreneurial training program teaches young people real world job skills and provides employment opportunities as paid apprentices.

Youth who participate in the program gain a valuable “first job” experience that emphasizes work readiness skills and an entrepreneurial spirit in a fun, engaging and team-building format. The multi-session curriculum consists of mini-lessons, group challenges and off-site field studies to reinforce concepts. Each apprentice is required to work 200-plus hours and at the end of the program becomes certified in bicycle repair and small business skills.

“We are grateful for all of our generous bike donors who dropped off their unused bike to support a local St. Paul community’s non-profit youth employment program,” says Mick Olson, TopLine President and CEO. “It’s great to see these bike donations help teens and young adults develop critical work-readiness skills to prepare them for their futures as a 100% of profits made from selling the bikes are reinvested back into the youth apprenticeship program.”

“On behalf of Keystone Community Services and Express Bike Shop, thank you to all TopLine members who donated bikes and in turn supported our youth employment programs! We are so grateful for TopLine’s partnership for hosting such a successful bike drive event that provides youth career-readiness opportunities and work experience,” says Adero Riser Cobb, President of Keystone Community Services.

[Express Bike Shop](#) is a full-service bike shop specializing in refurbished bikes, repair and new and used components. The bike shop, located at 1158 Selby Ave in St. Paul, accepts bike donations of all kinds and uses these donations to train young people on how to fix and refurbish bikes for resale. Plus, youth gain valuable experience operating a small business, like daily shop responsibilities including assisting customers, preparing the bank deposit, and ordering and stocking items in the retail area, as well as completing a Bicycle Repair Certification. Since 1955, over 400 young people have successfully completed a paid apprenticeship at Express Bike Shop. Visit www.exbike.com to learn more.

[TopLine Financial Credit Union](#), a Twin Cities-based credit union, is Minnesota’s 11th largest credit union, with assets of more than \$794 million and serves over 50,000 members. Established in 1935, the not-for-profit financial cooperative offers a complete line of financial services from its

five [branch locations](#) — in Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, Plymouth and in St. Paul's Como Park — as well as by phone, [mobile app](#) and online at www.TopLinecu.com. Membership is available to anyone who lives, works, worships, attends school or volunteers in Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington and Wright counties in Minnesota and their immediate family members. TopLine has been recognized as a [National Standard Top Workplace](#) for the 6 out of 7 years and has been named [Twin Cities Business 2023 Best of Business Reader's Choice Poll](#) finalist in two categories: Credit Union and Mortgage Lender. Visit us on our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). To learn more about the credit union's [foundation](#), visit www.TopLinecu.com/Foundation.

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