



tangible 'reward' of a bike for their hard work, they also receive the intangible reward of giving back to the community," said David.

Bike Works teaches 120 students each year. Adult volunteers and staff serve as mentors for the kids, providing guidance, friendship and a strong hand to help loosen bolts. Several of the program's graduates have gone on to work as professional bike repair mechanics at other local shops. The program also has a Youth Ventures program designed to retain graduates of the program and encourage bike riding. Participants often train together for the popular STP (Seattle to Portland) ride in July.

In addition to making generous gifts locally, Bike Works also donates hundreds



of bikes each year to Ghana, Africa. Many of the recipients of these bikes are farmers, teachers and aid workers. The bikes provided are often the only form of transportation they can afford, allowing them a new-found freedom.

One recent graduate of the eight week program summed it up best when he said, "I like bikes because they get me somewhere I want to go." And Bike Works is providing the road map. **Y**

"I felt proud of myself when I earned my first bike from Bike Works...I remember that after I picked out my bike I was so excited. I could hardly wait to work on it...Going to Bike Works is something I look forward to every week."

— *Jasiah Ruby* — Program Participant, Seattle, WA

"I love my new bike. It's blue which is my favorite colour. We have ridden our bikes to lots of local villages to do plays about hygiene/sanitation and health education. The people need to learn more about these things so they do not get sick. You do good work. Can we have more bikes soon?"

— *Sara Aidor* — high school student and member of Abura Keep Fit Club, a health education and HIV/AIDS awareness group, Ghana, Africa